Multiline editing in VSCode

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Is it possible to enable multiline editing like in Sublimetext?

Eg. press [Ctrl] to place additional cursor carets and being able to write/delete on multiple places in the document at one time.

★

122

visual-studio-code

	edited Mar 3 at 10:35	asked May 4 '15 at 18:55
	NIMISHAN	AfBu
	974 1 13 23	**2,074** 3 9 7

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2   In many mac apps (e.g. TextEdit) I can also Option-drag the mouse to select a box. Is this available in VS Code? – Simon Woodside Apr 5 '17 at 4:15

Related post here. – RBT Oct 21 '17 at 3:00

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2   From April 2018 (version 1.23), we can use middle mouse button to select multiple columns. code.visualstudio.com/updates/… – blueray May 28 '18 at 3:19

For anyone looking for the name of this command in the keyboard shortcuts section, it's: `editor.action.insertCursorAtEndOfEachLineSelected` – enzoborgfrantz May 13 at 10:54 ✎

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20 Answers

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On Windows, you hold [Ctrl]+[Alt] while pressing the up [↑] or down [↓] arrow keys to add cursors. On Mac and Linux, the equivalents are [⌥ Opt]+[⌘ Cmd]+[↑]/[↓] and [Shift]+[Alt]+[↑]/[↓], respectively.

Note that third party software may interfere with these shortcuts, preventing them from working as intended (particularly Intel's HD Graphics software on Windows: see comments for more details).

```
File  Edit  View  Goto  Help

    • Untitled-1
    1  <!doctype html>
    2  <head>
    3      <title>Hello World!</title>
    4  </head>
    5  <body>
    6      |
    7  </body>
```
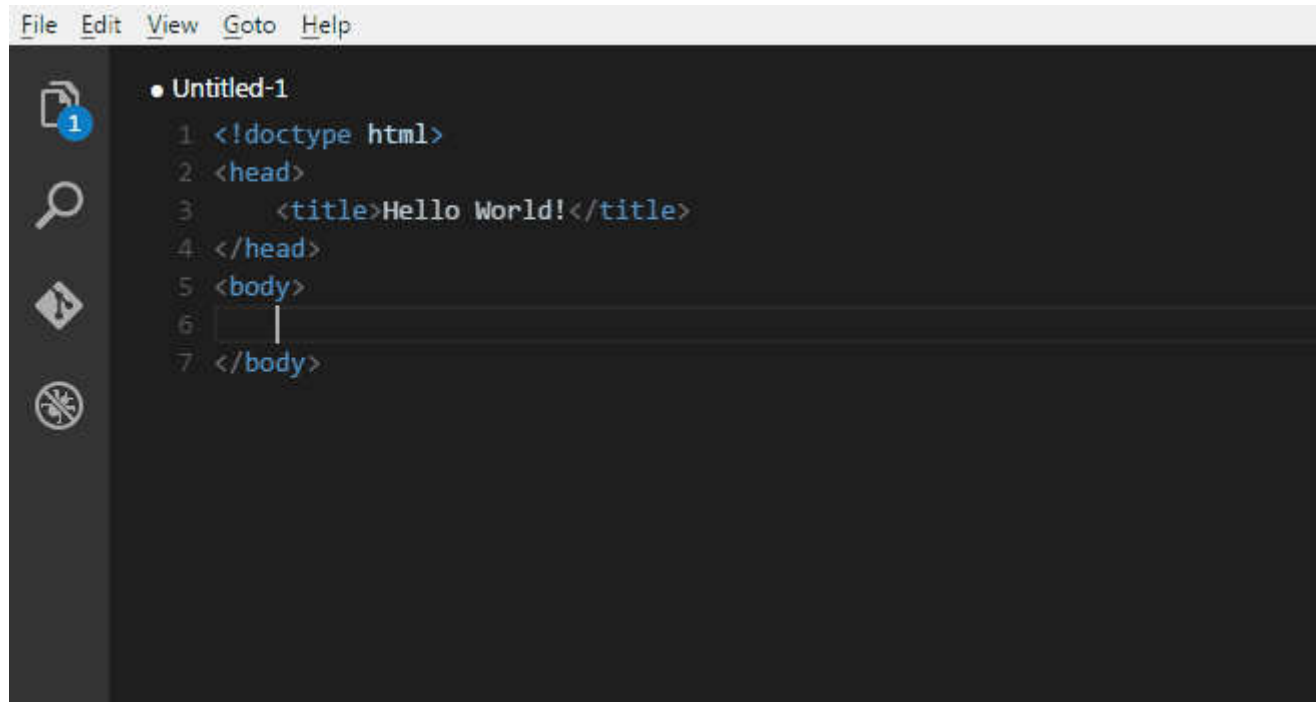
Or, as Isidor Nikolic points out, you can hold [Alt] and left click to place cursors arbitrarily.

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```
3          <title>Hello World!</title>
4      </head>
5      <body>
6          <ul>
7              <li>The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.</li>
8              <li>The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.</li>
9              <li>The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.</li>
10             <li>The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.</li>
11             <li>The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.</li>
12         </ul>
13     </body>
```

You can view and edit keyboard shortcuts via:

File → Preferences → Keyboard Shortcuts

Documentation:

https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/customization/keybindings

Official VSCode Keyboard shortcut cheatsheets:

https://code.visualstudio.com/shortcuts/keyboard-shortcuts-windows.pdf
https://code.visualstudio.com/shortcuts/keyboard-shortcuts-macos.pdf
https://code.visualstudio.com/shortcuts/keyboard-shortcuts-linux.pdf

edited Sep 6 '18 at 1:31   answered May 4 '15 at 21:05

                                               Nacimota
                                               10.1k   4   31   39

125   On windows, the first option just flips my screen. :-/ – Kristoffer la Cour Apr 14 '16 at 7:20

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9   @AlexC the shortcuts are **not** out of date; download the latest build and look at the configuration yourself. If you're finding that the shortcuts listed are
        flipping your screen, I'd wager it's because you have an Intel GPU and are running the Intel software for it which intercepts these shortcuts by default.
        Open the HD Graphics software and disable or rebind hotkeys if it bothers you, but *do not edit my post to add incorrect information*. The shortcuts
        listed are accurate, and I am not going to list every piece of 3rd party software that may or may not interfere with them. – Nacimota Feb 25 '17 at 8:26

Solved using just two steps!

97   1. `Ctrl + F`

        2. `Alt + Enter`

        it's equal to sublime text `Alt + F3`
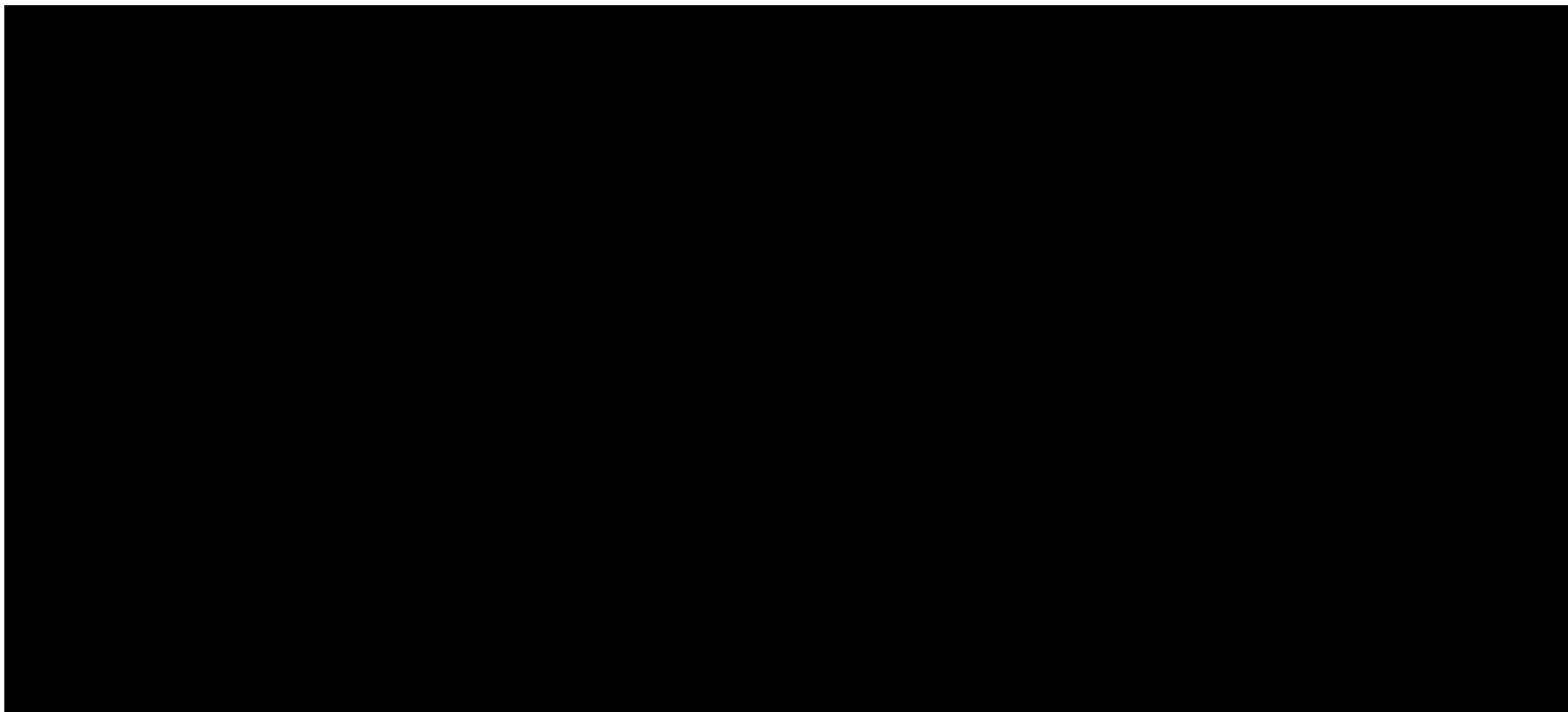
edited Nov 8 '17 at 18:01   answered Jul 24 '17 at 9:52

Jon   user8202629
5,183   5   33   52

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13   The same effect gives you hitting ctrl+F2 – ksopyla Nov 2 '17 at 10:49

2   Can we select all lines at a time containing that keyword ? Sublime text had it Ctrl + F > Alt + F3 > Ctrl + L – Anirban Feb 27 '18 at 21:21

Very useful, thank you – Jeff S. Jun 17 at 9:10

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6   And you can use Alt+Shift+click to select two lines and every line in between. — Steven Liekens Sep 30 '16 at 13:56

4   Question is, how to edit its Key Binding (What is `Alt + Click` 's name?) — David Refoua May 15 '17 at 22:06 ✏

Box Selecting

48

Windows : [shift] + [alt] + [Mouse Left Button]

macOS : [shift] + [option] + [Click]

Contrary as mentioned here https://stackoverflow.com/questions/30384442/does-visual-studio-code-have-box-select-multi-line-edit/36650448#36650448

edited May 23 '17 at 12:34   answered Jan 17 '17 at 17:26

Community ♦   user4023394
1   1

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use CTRL+D to use multi word edit of same words in windows and linux. use CMD + D for Mac.

19

edited Nov 19 '18 at 17:53   answered Jan 30 '18 at 5:39

                                        Krishnaraj R
                                        405   3   8

Command + D on mac :smile: — Sandip Subedi Nov 15 '18 at 21:59

As @Krishnaraj said, Ctrl + D work. Actually both VSCode and Sublime support this. Make sure apply Ctrl + D on all later occurrence without releasing ctrl. Yeah, you still need manually select, it just help you free your mouse. MacOS Command + D — Oscar Zhang Apr 24 at 2:39

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P.S. Modifier "follow link" from this moment will be `alt`

On Mac it is:

16

`option` + `command` while pressing the up `↑` or down `↓` arrow keys

(Windows 10 pro x64) Here have some ways!

12

1. `alt` + `click`
2. `alt` + `ctrl` + `up` / `down`
3. keybindings : `ctrl` + `click` (??? it doesn't work!)

answered Dec 4 '16 at 22:25

xgqfrms
2,814 21 26

marketplace.visualstudio.com/… – xgqfrms Dec 4 '16 at 22:25

meta.stackexchange.com/questions/1777/… – xgqfrms Dec 4 '16 at 22:29

I wanted to select multiple line and hit "something" to have a cursor for each select lines (similar to `Ctrl` - `Shift` - `L` in Sublime Text). This action in VS Code is called "Add Cursors to Line Ends".

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2. Simply hit `Alt` - `Shift` - `I` .

You now have one cursor per selected line.

edited Dec 27 '18 at 1:11	answered Apr 18 '18 at 13:40
bizi **2,261** 1 20 22	Maxime **5,725** 2 40 48

Didnt work for me :(– Manza Jun 20 '18 at 23:33

1   @Manza In VS Code, you it's `ALT-SHIFT-I` (like `i` not `L`). The font doesn't help to see correctly. I use this command multiple times per day on both Mac and Windows and just tested once again with the latest version of VS Code : 1.24.1 and I assure you it works. Maybe you have a plugin causing conflict ? – Maxime Jun 21 '18 at 12:37

wow yeah, that do the trick, thank you so much, i was still flipping between sublime becuase of this feature, is the soooo handy – Manza Jun 22 '18 at 1:32 ✎

for me it's CTRL-SHIFT-L (windows) – specimen Jan 3 at 14:04

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I am using the vscodevim extension, so I'm not sure if this is a common problem. But, I was having the issue where Ctrl+Alt+UpArrow flipped my screen upside down.

Looking at the VSCode Basics (Idk if they changed this in a recent update), it says to use:

`Ctrl` + `Alt` + `Shift` + (`Up` / `down`)

Hope this helps!

edited Feb 28 '18 at 11:26	answered Feb 17 '17 at 17:24
Lyes CHIOUKH **2,478** 6 20 45	Andrew **91** 1 3

1   Ctrl + Alt + [Arrow Key] is a common keyboard shortcut for screen rotation, certainly with Intel graphics drivers and / or associated software. I imagine it

[As of April 2018 (version 1.23)](#) you can now also use the middle mouse button to multiline select / box select.

8

edited Feb 14 at 2:19   answered May 8 '18 at 16:09

Gama11   Jemmeh
14.3k   6   28   52   **368**   5   12

Thanks for that, it is a time save are there an option for key board? like highlight and then ctrl + l in sublime? – Manza Jun 20 '18 at 23:32

That's a slightly different feature, but you're probably looking for ctrl+ i. [code.visualstudio.com/docs/getstarted/keybindings](#) – Jemmeh Jun 21 '18 at 20:56

Step 1:

5

Select the word to be replaced

Step 2:

`Ctrl` + `F` this will select it's multiple occurrences

Step 3:

`Alt` + `Enter` this will set cursor at all the found occurrences

Step 4:

Just start typing the new word

answered Jul 19 '18 at 15:49

1   @Andres Thanks! This did solve my issue at Windows, the other solutions flip my screen. – Tarik Hacialiogullari Nov 30 '18 at 4:05 🖉

I think it depends on your VSCODE version.

Mine is Linux version vscode 1.7.2

```
{ "key": "ctrl+shift+up",         "command": "editor.action.insertCursorAbove",
                                   "when": "editorTextFocus" },
{ "key": "shift+alt+up",          "command": "editor.action.insertCursorAbove",
                                   "when": "editorTextFocus" },
{ "key": "ctrl+shift+down",       "command": "editor.action.insertCursorBelow",
                                   "when": "editorTextFocus" },
{ "key": "shift+alt+down",        "command": "editor.action.insertCursorBelow",
                                   "when": "editorTextFocus" }
```

The point is the shortcuts are not same in all machines, so you should check your configuration. Go to menu:

> File → Preferences → Keyboard Shortcuts

Search for `editor.action.insertCursorAbove` and `editor.action.insertCursorBelow` and see your current configurations. You may change them if they conflict with operating system's shortcut keys.

answered Dec 9 '16 at 4:40

Han
2,520   2   16   31

Adding the SHIFT + ALT + UP/DOWN to my user settings worked on Windows 10 – SteveC Feb 4 at 9:47

In the latest release of VS Code, you can now drag the cursor while holding Option (Alt on Windows) to select the same column on multiple rows

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From the VS Code Release Notes 1.32.0:

In the following video, the selection begins as a regular selection and then Alt is pressed and held until the mouse button is released:

```
302
303    define(KeyCodes.F1, 'F1');
304    define(KeyCodes.F2, 'F2');
305    define(KeyCodes.F3, 'F3');
306    define(KeyCodes.F4, 'F4');
307    define(KeyCodes.F5, 'F5');
308    define(KeyCodes.F6, 'F6');
309    define(KeyCodes.F7, 'F7');
310    define(KeyCodes.F8, 'F8');
311    define(KeyCodes.F9, 'F9');
312    define(KeyCodes.F10, 'F10');
313    define(KeyCodes.F11, 'F11');
314    define(KeyCodes.F12, 'F12');
315    define(KeyCodes.F13, 'F13');
316    define(KeyCodes.F14, 'F14');
317    define(KeyCodes.F15, 'F15');
318    define(KeyCodes.F16, 'F16');
319    define(KeyCodes.F17, 'F17');
320    define(KeyCodes.F18, 'F18');
321    define(KeyCodes.F19, 'F19');
322
```

answered Mar 13 at 20:48

Tyler Becks
83   6

edited Mar 13 at 20:50   answered Sep 12 '18 at 19:57

TylerH   **Dnyneshwar**
16.3k   10   56   71   **450**   5   8

If you'r using Linux, there's a possibility of a conflict with Alt + Click, which is the default for "moving window".

1   You can go to Settings > window behavior > window behavior > actions tab

Just remove Alt + left (hold) and it will work).

This is the best way, because you don't need to hold two + keys to do such a simple task.

answered Jan 4 '18 at 12:19

Marcelo Agimóvel
726   1   8   17

In **vs code** just press *alt* and move your cursor to edit place.

1   edited Mar 9 '18 at 7:08   answered Mar 8 '18 at 11:06

DingLi   **Robin**
570   7   17   **660**   4   15

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2   This answer seems incomplete – Spangen Mar 8 '18 at 11:15

My settings: Windows 8.1 64bits, VSCode Version 1.33.1

1   Problem: Conflict with keyboard shortcuts of Intel HD Graphics 4000

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Rui M.
21   3

In Windows 7 you can right click the desktop, select graphics options -> hotkeys -> disable. – Moritz Roessler May 18 at 14:11

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I am using sublime keymap and the keybinding provided by the top answer did not seem to work :(Could be some conflicts between VS code and sublime keymaps.

The keybinding recommended by @Han works for me (much appreciated!):

- Enter multiline cursor mode with Ctrl + Shift + Up / Down
- Exit with Esc

[Sidenote] Below is a small example of using Emmet together with the multiline cursor(enabled and disabled with these key bindings listed above):

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```html
      <div class="item item2">Item 02</div>
      <div class="item item3">Item 03</div>
      <div class="item item4">Item 04</div>
   </div>

   <style>
      .container {
         display: grid;
         grid-gap: 20px;
         border: 10px solid var(--yellow);
         grid-template-columns: repeat(auto-fill, 150px);
      }
   </style>
</body>

</html>
```

edited Dec 25 '18 at 20:36   answered Dec 25 '18 at 18:46

Shan Dou
980   11   13

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protected by eyllanesc Jun 21 '18 at 20:00

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