How to change indentation in Visual Studio Code?

Asked 3 years, 8 months ago   Active 3 days ago   Viewed 159k times

▲

221

▼

★

30

For every typescript file visual studio code uses an auto indentation of 8 spaces. This is a bit too much for my taste but I can't find where to change it.

Maybe it's available as a setting but under a different name as I can't find anything related to indentation.

formatting   visual-studio-code

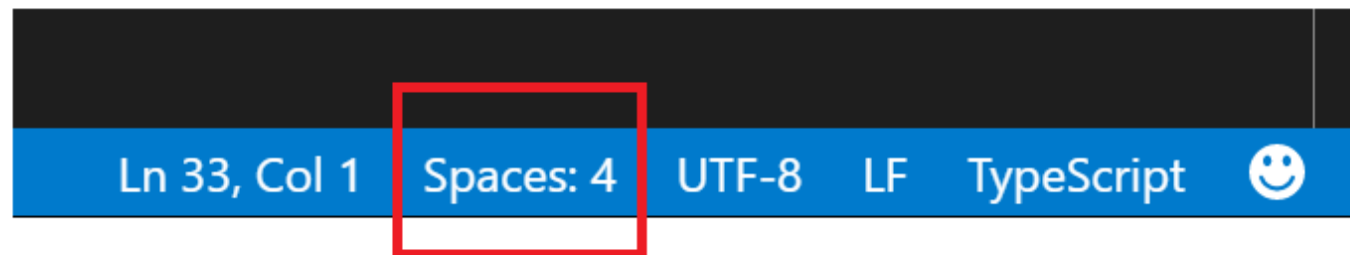edited Apr 19 '18 at 14:17   asked Dec 9 '15 at 8:40

[ILIF] Flip   [HMR img] HMR
2,481   2   21   47   15.1k   11   41   103

9 Answers

▲

411

▼

✓

In the toolbar in the bottom right corner you will see a item that looks like the following:

After clicking on it you will get the option to indent using either spaces or tabs. After selecting your indent type you will then have the option to change how big an indent is. In the case of the example above, indentation is set to 4 space characters per indent. If tab is selected as your indentation character then you will see **Tab Size** instead of **Spaces**

If you want to have this apply to all files and not on an idividual file basis, override the `editor.tabSize` and `editor.insertSpaces` settings in either **User Settings** or **Workspace Settings** depending on your needs

edited Sep 8 '16 at 16:48   answered Jul 24 '16 at 21:20

elliot-j
4,453   1   14   14

The image link is broken. – user848765 Dec 18 '17 at 11:58

@yildizm85 the image is working without issue for me. The image was a direct upload to SO so if its broken it may be an issue on their end. – elliot-j Dec 20 '17 at 5:48

27   Changing `editor.tabSpaces` does *not* change the spacing in all files. It only changes it for future-created files. There's still no solution for fixing all files in one action. – Jacob Stamm Apr 28 '18 at 23:51

3   wow. mind blown. sometimes things are just hiding in plain sight – pingo Jun 21 '18 at 19:34

1   This is super unintuitive. I already have indentation set to use spaces. Why do I need to click on the spaces option to get to a second, hidden menu to set the number of spaces? Every other editor I've used is one click on the indentation details in the status bar and there's a number of spaces option. In VS Code I need to look this up on Stack Overflow because the menu I want is hidden behind an option I'm not trying to change. – ian.pvd Jun 27 at 20:49

82

To change the indentation **based on programming language**:

1. Open the Command Palette (Ctrl + Shift + P)

2. *Preferences: Configure language specific settings...* (command id: `workbench.action.configureLanguageBasedSettings`)

3. Select programming language (for example TypeScript)

4. Add this code:

```
"[typescript]": {
    "editor.tabSize": 2
}
```

edited Jul 25 at 15:05   answered Aug 14 '17 at 9:43

Martin Schneider
5,546   1   38   48

How (where) does one use the command id? I don't see "Configure Language Specific Settings" under File-Preferences. – Alan Baljeu Apr 27 at 14:49

@AlanBaljeu you can use the command id for keyboard shortcuts, extensions, etc. So, you may go to *File > Preferences > Keyboard Shortcuts*, paste the ID to the input and assign for example Ctrl + K Ctrl + L to the command. – Martin Schneider Apr 28 at 14:12

You might also want to set the `editor.detectIndentation` to false, in addition to Elliot-J's answer.

48   VSCode will overwrite your `editor.tabSize` and `editor.insertSpaces` settings per file if it detects that a file has a different tab or spaces indentation pattern. You can run into this issue if you add existing files to your project, or if you add files using code generators like Angular Cli. The above setting prevents VSCode from doing this.

answered Aug 24 '17 at 22:30

RMuesi
1,267   17   22

Code Formatting Shortcut:

28   VSCode on Windows - Shift + Alt + F

VSCode on MacOS - Shift + Option + F

VSCode on Ubuntu - Ctrl + Shift + I

You can also customize this shortcut using preference setting if needed.

column selection with keyboard ` Ctrl + Shift + Alt + Arrow `

edited Dec 27 '18 at 9:41   answered Jul 31 '18 at 7:36

Suiatha Giriiala

`Shift + Alt + F` changed all the indents in my file from 8 spaces to my default 4 spaces. Just what I was looking for :) – Harry12345 Aug 27 at 15:34

15

In my case "EditorConfig for VS Code" extention is overriding VSCode settings. If you have it installed, then check .editorconfig file in the root folder of the project.

Here is an example config. The "indent_size" sets the number of spaces for a tab.

```
# editorconfig.org
root = true

[*]
indent_style = space
indent_size = 4
end_of_line = lf
charset = utf-8
trim_trailing_whitespace = true
insert_final_newline = true

[*.md]
trim_trailing_whitespace = false
```

edited Aug 20 '18 at 12:55   answered May 10 '18 at 10:32

Grazerbeam   Aviw
155   1   10   **610**   6   11

4

Problem: The accepted answer does not actually fix the indentation in the current document.

Solution: Run `Format Document` to re-process the document according to current (new) settings.

Problem: The HTML docs in my projects are of type "Django HTML" not "HTML" and there is no formatter available.

Solution: Switch them to syntax "HTML", format them, then switch back to "Django HTML."

Problem: The HTML formatter doesn't know how to handle Django template tags and undoes much of my carefully applied nesting.

Solution: Install the Indent 4-2 extension, which performs indentation strictly, without regard to the current language syntax (which is

I wanted to change the indentation of my *existing* HTML file from 4 spaces to 2 spaces.

2

I clicked the 'Spaces: 4' button in the status bar and changed them to two in the next dialog box.

I use 'vim' extension. I don't how to re-indent without vim

To re-indent my current file, I used this:

```
gg

=

G
```

To set all existing files and new files to space identation to 2 just put it in your settingns.json (in the root of json):

1

```
"[typescript]": {
        "editor.defaultFormatter": "vscode.typescript-language-features",
        "editor.tabSize": 2,
        "editor.insertSpaces": true,
        "editor.detectIndentation":false
}
```

you can add the language type of the configuration:

```
"[javascript]": {
```

```
    "editor.detectIndentation":false
  }
```

answered Aug 30 at 14:21

Reculos Gerbi Neto
15   5

These days I use prettier.js and the js plugin as it takes care about spacing and other re aligning long lines as well as most anything else. –   HMR Aug 30 at 17:30 ✎

Adding on: yes, you can use the bottom-right UI to configure the space settings. But if you have existing code that's not formatted to the new spacing, then you can right-click anywhere within the file and click **Format Document**. Took me a while to figure this out until I stumbled on this issue.

0

Format Document menu

answered Oct 15 '18 at 16:53

Wompinalong
33   7