VS Code - Search for text in all files in a directory

Asked 3 years, 3 months ago   Active 1 month ago   Viewed 211k times

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Is there a way to search for text in all files in a directory using VS Code?

I.e., if I type "find this" in my search, it will search through all the files in the current directory and return the files that matched. Basically like if I did a grep. My coworker told me Sublime has something like this.

visual-studio-code

★

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edited Mar 12 at 1:16	asked Jul 25 '16 at 16:25
Gama11	user2465134
16.4k 6 34 54	**2,059** 4 19 32

11 Answers

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308

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You can do **Edit**, **Find in Files** (or [Ctrl] + [Shift] + [F] - default key binding, [Cmd] + [Shift] + [F] on MacOS) to search the Currently open Folder.

There is an ellipsis on the dialog where you can include/exclude files, and options in the search box for matching case/word and using Regex.

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edited Jan 24 at 20:41	answered Jul 25 '16 at 21:15
Justin Rice	DaveShaw
349 3 10	**43k** 14 95 128

3   Once you have a match, you Ctrl (Mac: 'Cmd') click on a keyword in the Search Results to open that file for side-by-side editing, jumping to that location in the file. – bitsand Dec 13 '16 at 16:25 ✎

33   The problem is that when you have an directory open in Visual Studio Code, with dozens of subdirectories, you often want to search in a single directory. Find in files isn't at all about doing that. (This is a useful answer to a completely different question, of course.) . @JesperWilfing 's answer (right click on folder, find in folder) is better. – James Moore Sep 5 '17 at 16:25

1   Is there anything like in Notepad++, where you can just specify the directory to search in, without having to open it? – Empus Apr 7 '18 at 11:24

4   This doesn't answer the question. How do you search only within given a folder? – Zaqx Jun 14 '18 at 18:16

2   Based upon another answer, if you right click on a folder and choose "Find in folder... (Shift+Alt+F)", you'll see the format required for searching a particular directory. It looks like you start at the workspace root. e.g. my workspace is `WebInterface` , and my folder include was `./WebInterface/cli/src/[folder]` – Tyler StandishMan Mar 29 at 20:32

In VS Code...

202

1. Go to Explorer (Ctrl + Shift + E)

2. Right click on your favorite folder

3. Select "Find in folder"

The search query will be prefilled with the path under "files to include".

edited Apr 27 '17 at 13:03   answered Apr 27 '17 at 7:48

Keshan Nageswaran   Jesper Wilfing
6,255   3   17   36   **3,956**   2   17   23

19   This should be the accepted answer. I was able to knock this out the first time with multiple child folders in a parent folder, with over dozens of files that needed a string to be replaced. Many thanks! – klewis Mar 1 '18 at 20:53 ✏

1   Agree with @blackhawk. Thank you for actually answering the question asked. – Zaqx Jun 14 '18 at 18:18

      "Find in folder" doesn't work on automatically ignored folders like `node_modules` which is sometimes needed for JavaScript developers. "VS Code excludes some folders by default to reduce the number of search results that you are not interested in. Open settings to change these rules under the files.exclude and search.exclude section." from code.visualstudio.com/docs/editor/... – Șerban Ghiță Mar 21 at 13:43 ✏

      Also kinda tricky if repo root isn't the actual project root, in which case VSCode always defaults to searching entire repo, but there's no way to restrict it to the current project (the folder open in VSCode) – Svend Apr 15 at 8:39

      the accepted answer didn't work for me (not sure if I'm doing something wrong). This worked - thanks. – java-addict301 Oct 9 at 13:46

Ctrl + P (Win, Linux), Cmd + P (Mac) – Quick open, Go to file

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answered Oct 15 '17 at 23:34

Hamza Zymawy

4   This only matches on filenames, not text inside the files. – LearnOPhile Jun 26 '18 at 7:41

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Press ⎡Ctrl⎤ + ⎡Shift⎤ + ⎡F⎤

click on 3 dots under search box.

type your query in search box

type **./FOLDERNAME** in **files to include** box and click ⎡Enter⎤

Alternative way to this is, Right click on folder and select **Find in Folder**

answered Jan 10 at 11:05

Sajeer Babu
191   1   11

I have been looking for this feature forever in VSCode, and it has been right under my nose the whole time. – nocarrier Apr 26 at 20:17

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This action is not bound to a key by default, to bind it do this:

1. File > Preferences > Keyboard Shortcuts (⎡Ctrl+K⎤ , ⎡Ctrl+S⎤)

2. Search for "find folder"

3. Press the + icon on the left of "filesExplorer.findInFolder" search result

4. Enter your desired key combination

answered Jan 9 '18 at 10:47

fotcorn
151 1 7

Thank you, ctrl+shift+f was working just like a alt+tab.. – Erdogan Sep 24 at 14:17

I think these **official guide** should work for your case.

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> VS Code allows you to quickly search over all files in the currently-opened folder. Press Ctrl+Shift+F and enter in your search term. Search results are grouped into files containing the search term, with an indication of the hits in each file and its location. Expand a file to see a preview of all of the hits within that file. Then single-click on one of the hits to view it in the editor.

edited May 25 '17 at 8:12   answered Jul 25 '16 at 21:08

Sampath   Milan Leškanič
35.9k 23 166 271   **869** 7 10

A simple answer is to click the magnifying glass on the left side bar

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answered Jul 18 '17 at 20:27

user2465134
2,059 4 19 32

If you have a directory open in VSCode, and want to search a subdirectory, then either:

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- `ctrl` - `shift` - `F` then in the `files to include` field enter the path with a leading `./` ,

or

- `ctrl` - `shift` - `E` to open the Explorer, right click the directory you want to search, and select the `Find in Folder...` option.

answered Jan 24 at 0:14

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1. Enter Search Keyword in search (CTRL + SHIFT + F)

2. Exclude unwanted folder's/files by using exclude option (!)

    ex: !Folder/File*

3. Hit Enter

Search results gives you desired result

answered Apr 22 '18 at 9:51

Shiva Prasad Adirala
182   9

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To add to the above, if you want to search within the selected folder, right click on the folder and click "Find in Folder" or default key binding:

| Alt | + | Shift | + | F |

As already mentioned, to search all folders in your project, click Edit > "Find in Files" or:

| Ctrl | + | Shift | + | F |

answered Jun 28 at 11:40

Blueberry
1,659   2   13   27

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Search across files - Press `Ctrl+Shift+F`

Find - Press `Ctrl+F`

Find and Replace - `Ctrl+H`

For basic editing options follow this link - https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/editor/codebasics

> Note : For mac the Ctrl represents the command button

answered Sep 12 at 17:58

D   Dipan Mandal
41   3