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Change highlight text color in Visual Studio Code

Asked 3 years, 6 months ago   Active 3 months ago   Viewed 38k times

Right now, it is a faint gray overlay, which is hard to see. Any way to change the default color?

70

22

```
main.js app
1   System.register(['angular2/platform/browser', './app.component'], function(exports_1, context_1) {
2       "use strict";
3       var __moduleName = context_1 && context_1.id;
4       var browser_1, app_component_1;
5       return {
6           setters:[
7               function (browser_1_1) {
8                   browser_1 = browser_1_1;
9               },
10              function (app_component_1_1) {
11                  app_component_1 = app_component_1_1;
12              }],
13          execute: function() {
14              browser_1.bootstrap(app_component_1.AppComponent);
15          }
16      }
17  });
18  //# sourceMappingURL=main.js.map
```

visual-studio-code

asked Mar 10 '16 at 20:17

Tools --> Options, in general: Fonts and Colors – Austin T French Mar 10 '16 at 20:23

7   Visual Studio Code, not VS 2013, 2015, etc. – duyn9uyen Mar 10 '16 at 20:27

8 Answers

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Update See @Jakub Zawiślak's answer for VScode 1.12+

Old answer

Visual Studio Code calls this selection highlighting and unfortunately, I don't think the color is customizable currently. Themes can control the 'selection' color, but the 'selection highlight' color is hardcoded.

See this issue tracking a possible solution: https://github.com/Microsoft/vscode/issues/1636

(As a side note, you can toggle this feature or/off with the `editor.selectionHighlight` setting.)

edited Jul 17 '17 at 16:52   answered Mar 10 '16 at 23:33

Matt Bierner
19k   2   55   99

3   ***Obsolete***. – Alex Jul 17 '17 at 16:04

3   Updated to reference Jakub Zawiślak's answer for modern versions of VSCode – Matt Bierner Jul 17 '17 at 16:53

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192

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Add the following lines into "Editor: Token Color Customizations" setting, inside settings.json file.

```
"workbench.colorCustomizations": {
    "editor.selectionBackground": "#135564",
    "editor.selectionHighlightBackground": "#135564"
```

See Theme Color Reference for more options

edited Apr 9 at 1:16   answered Apr 25 '17 at 8:45

eduardosufan   **Jakub Zawiślak**
373   1   5   27   2,327   2   11   13

9   this answer should be marked as the solution. – karolyi Aug 22 '17 at 14:47

3   Is there any way to change the text color? Otherwise you have to find a background color that maintains readability when paired with every single color in your color scheme. This is one of two issues that unfortunately keep me from using VS Code... – Bruno Ely Oct 5 '17 at 20:11 ✎

    Maybe this will help you - Customize a Color Theme – Jakub Zawiślak Oct 5 '17 at 20:31

3   @BrunoBEly If you open `"workbench.colorCustomizations": {}` then start typing `"editor.selection`, the autocomplete menu will suggest all possible keys and their explanation, including the selection foreground. – Tobia Nov 2 '17 at 14:59

1   @Tobia thanks for the tip! I found it, but am probably doing something wrong. I set both background and foreground to red, but only background seems to work (I'm using VS Code 1.18.0) – Bruno Ely Nov 15 '17 at 20:00

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If anyone finds this and, like me, was unable to get the above config working try doing this.

1. go to file > Preferences > settings

2. type in the search *Editor token color customizations*

3. under the *Editor token color customizations* header

4. click on edit in settings.json

5. on the right hand column select user settings

6. paste this into the json object

Be sure to replace the #'s with colors you want to see.

```
"workbench.colorCustomizations": {
    "editor.lineHighlightBackground": "#<color1>",
    "editor.selectionBackground": "#<color2>",
    "editor.wordHighlightBackground": "#<color3>",
    "editorCursor.foreground": "#<color4>"
```

editor.lineHighlightBackground - when you click on a line this is the color the line background will be.

"editor.selectionBackground" - This is the background of matched selections elsewhere in the buffer. Think of a variable named foo and it's used all over a file. You then highlight that text and all the other foos on the page will be this color.

"editor.wordHighlightBackground" - This is the color of selected text if the default highlight word on click does not take effect. I've only seen this value make a difference if you click on a word that does not auto-select.

editorCursor.foreground - this is the color of your cursor.

edited Apr 9 at 9:37   answered Dec 14 '18 at 8:35

Risadinha   **FujiRoyale**
10.4k   2   60   70   **268**   3   16

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2   This should be the answer. These are the settings used in VSCode version 1.3+ – MaylorTaylor May 1 at 15:33

     editor.lineHighlightBackground doesn't seem to be there anymore, and I think that they're saying it was intentionally removed: github.com/dracula/visual-studio-code/issues/68 – havlock Jul 4 at 7:27

     that very well could be. – FujiRoyale Jul 16 at 19:00

1   Thanks, been trying to find this for days, no one ever mentioned wordHighlightBackground! – Ryan Weiss Aug 15 at 20:15

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The above answers cover the `Selected text` and `areas with same content as selection`, but they miss the `Current Search Match` and `Other Search Matches` -- *which have the exact same problem*.

```
"workbench.colorCustomizations": {
    "editor.findMatchBackground": "#00cc44a8", //Current SEARCH MATCH
    "editor.findMatchHighlightBackground": "#ff7b00a1" //Other SEARCH MATCHES
}
```

Example of a typical settings file, post mod:

```
{
    "git.enableSmartCommit": true
```

```
    "explorer.confirmDelete": false,
    "code-runner.saveFileBeforeRun": true,
    "code-runner.saveAllFilesBeforeRun": true,

    "workbench.activityBar.visible": true,
    "files.trimTrailingWhitespace": true,
    "telemetry.enableTelemetry": false,
    "workbench.colorCustomizations": {
        "editor.selectionBackground": "#e788ff7c", //Currently SELECTED text
        "editor.selectionHighlightBackground": "#ff00005b", //Same content as
selection
        "editor.findMatchBackground": "#00cc44a8", //Current SEARCH MATCH
        "editor.findMatchHighlightBackground": "#ff7b00a1" //Other SEARCH MATCHES
    }
}
```

Where to find the settings.json file:

```
Depending on your platform, the user settings file is located here:

Windows %APPDATA%\Code\User\settings.json
macOS $HOME/Library/Application Support/Code/User/settings.json
Linux $HOME/.config/Code/User/settings.json
```

ALTERNATE method to open the settings.json file:

1. Ctrl + , (comma) to open Settings

2. Workbench

3. Settings Editor

4. In the search box at top, paste-in `workbench.colorCustomizations`

5. On the left, click `Workbench` and then `Appearance`

6. Click the link to right: `Edit in settings.json`

References:

https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/getstarted/settings

answered Apr 26 at 22:33

cssyphus
24.8k　11　65　84

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you can change it with your favorite color by:

Steps

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1. Open visual code

2. Goto file menu

3. Preferences -> Settings

after open settings you will update your setting on your right side column, copy and paste this code inside the main brackets `{ ... }`

```
"workbench.colorCustomizations": {
    "editor.selectionBackground": "#f00", // red color hexadecimal code
    "editor.selectionHighlightBackground": "#fff" // white hex code
},
```

edited Oct 11 '18 at 8:16

giovannipds
782　1　9　21

answered Mar 10 '18 at 22:53

Rizo
1,548　8　15

Can't put `red` or `white` as values. – giovannipds Oct 1 '18 at 15:22

1　giovannipds, its just name to show, that you can add any color Name, its not value – Rizo Oct 2 '18 at 21:54

1　That's code, so it's wrong. `red` and `white` are web colors, so that can confuses people.. – giovannipds Oct 5 '18 at 19:04

1　ok, I will replace color name with code, thanks – Rizo Oct 10 '18 at 7:47

I tried to help, see if it's ok for you. – giovannipds Oct 10 '18 at 23:45

As I have tested, setting **border color** makes it easier to read than setting background color, which is what Sublime Text does.

For example, add these lines in `settings.json` :

4

```
"workbench.colorCustomizations": {
    "editor.selectionHighlightBorder": "#FFFA",
},
```

Selected words will be displayed like this:

```
"workbench.commandPalette.preserveInput": true,
"workbench.editor.highlightModifiedTabs": true,
"workbench.iconTheme": "vscode-simpler-icons",
"workbench.colorCustomizations": {
    "editor.selectionHighlightBorder": □"#FFFA",
    // "editor.selectionBackground": "#771835",
    // "editor.wordHighlightBackground": "#771835",
    // "editor.lineHighlightBackground": "#220815",
    // "editorCursor.foreground": "#F12360"
},
"terminal.integrated.copyOnSelection": true,
"terminal.integrated.cursorBlinking": true,
"terminal.integrated.cursorStyle": "line",
```

answered Jun 17 at 5:46

henry zhu
71   4

If anyone found themselves reading @Fujikoyale's answer as none of the others worked, and wondered why his/hers also didn't work, but as it was more recent wondered why, I followed their answer, and had (with v1.18 of vscode) this as a `user settings` setup:

3

```
{
    // Is git enabled
    "git.enabled": true,
    // Path to the git executable
    "git.path":
  "C:\\Users\\t606964\\AppData\\Local\\Programs\\Git\\mingw64\\bin\\git.exe",
    "workbench.startupEditor": "newUntitledFile",
    // other settings
    //
    "editor.fontSize": 12,
    "editor.tabSize": 2,
    "git.confirmSync": false,
    "workbench.colorTheme": "Monokai",
    "editor.fontWeight": "bold",
    "editor.formatOnSave": true,
    "editor.formatOnPaste": true,
    "workbench.iconTheme": "vscode-icons",
    "explorer.confirmDelete": false,
    "files.autoSave": "off",
    "workbench.colorCustomizations": {
        "editor.lineHighlightBackground": "#f00",
        "editor.selectionBackground": "#0f0",
        "editor.wordHighlightBackground": "#00f",
        "editorCursor.foreground": "#ff0"
    }
}
```

Note the indentation and commas and removal of double quotes from their answer (which I had to play with to get it right, which wasn't that clear from the answer). There should be no need to restart vscode, but it may be worth going to `File > Autosave` and see if you start getting primary colour highlights. And then choose better colours for your highlights.

You can also make this work in `workspace settings` by pasting

```
"workbench.colorCustomizations": {
    "editor.lineHighlightBackground": "#f00",
    "editor.selectionBackground": "#0f0",
    "editor.wordHighlightBackground": "#00f",
    "editorCursor.foreground": "#ff0"
}
```

answered Jan 8 at 14:32

volvox

1,575   13   42   72

Steps for change highlight default color

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1. Open Visual Studio Code.

2. Then press `Ctrl+k,t` .

3. Dropdown dialogue will appear, select your choice from the dropdown list.

answered Jan 23 at 10:42

anil shrestha

60   6

this will show up the list of available themes, not just the highlight color by the way. – maksbd19 Jun 24 at 9:22