

# How do you format code in Visual Studio Code (VSCode)

What is the equivalent of `Ctrl + K + F` and `Ctrl + K + D` on Windows in Visual Studio for formatting, or "beautifying" code in the Visual Studio Code editor?

990

[code-formatting](#) [visual-studio-code](#)

433

edited Sep 10 '16 at 17:07



Stacked

3,818 3 46 59

asked Apr 30 '15 at 16:43



Brandon Clapp

36.2k 5 15 24

locked by [Samuel Liew](#) ♦ Apr 11 '18 at 3:41

This question's answers are a collaborative effort: if you see something that can be improved, just edit the answer to improve it! *No additional answers can be added here*

Read more about locked posts [here](#).

47 For all those desperately trying to **format XML** (which seems not possible out of the box currently) you can achieve this by installing an extension. I have found [XML Tools](#) to get the job done just fine. *Disclaimer: I am not the author nor related to this project...* – [informatik01](#) Jun 1 '16 at 21:32

While VSCode has much fewer menu options than VS (new trend?), it has extensive info and tutorials under the HELP menu, which may have answered this question. – [Roland](#) Feb 17 '17 at 9:23

For all those struggling to get the formatting work even after trying the valid combinations in Visual Studio Code, don't forget to select the appropriate programming language type, it is at the bottom right in visual studio code window next to that smiley. Once you do that I found it works out of the box and you don't need any additional plugin to format code. – [Mr.Hunt](#) Nov 16 '17 at 6:04

## 29 Answers

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3012

- On Mac `Shift + Option + F`
- On Ubuntu `Ctrl + Shift + I`



Alternatively, you can find the shortcut, as well as other shortcuts, through the search functionality provided in the editor with `ctrl + Shift + P` (or `Command + Shift + P` on Mac), and then searching for **format document**.

edited Feb 28 at 8:53

answered Apr 30 '15 at 16:43



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115



Brandon Clapp

36.2k 5 15 24

- 20 Also note that the code Language has to be correct. ie Format Code won't be available if plain text is selected but switching to JSON (for example) will format the selected text happily. (as happy as a text editor can be anyway) – [Stephen Price](#) Oct 2 '15 at 2:03
- 3 @JoSmo: On Ubuntu, I opened File > Preferences > Keyboard Shortcuts. There is an item for { "key": "ctrl+shift+i", "command": "editor.action.format", "when": "editorTextFocus" }. The command "ctrl+shift+i" works for me. – [Asheesh](#) Jan 5 '16 at 5:08
- 18 Also, apparently the file has to be saved to disk first. I had a chunk of HTML+Javascript where it couldn't format the JS, so I pasted it to a temporary window and set the language, but this didn't help either until it was saved. – [Jonas](#) Apr 6 '16 at 12:55
- 6 For the people saying it doesn't work on a Mac, this looks like a conflict between the shortcut and the OS X text input system for accented characters which depends on your configured locale and keyboard settings: [github.com/Microsoft/vscode/issues/8914#issuecomment-245947844](https://github.com/Microsoft/vscode/issues/8914#issuecomment-245947844) – [Chris Adams](#) Sep 9 '16 at 15:31
- 5 This doesn't work for me on VS Code latest version and win 10 does this assume having a certain extension installed? – [ApexFred](#) Oct 5 '17 at 18:35

415

### Code Formatting Shortcut:

Visual Studio Code on Windows - `Shift + Alt + F`Visual Studio Code on MacOS - `Shift + Option + F`Visual Studio Code on Ubuntu - `Ctrl + Shift + I`

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If you want to auto format your content while saving, add the below code snippet in the work space settings of Visual Studio Code.

Menu *File* → *Preferences* → *Workspace Settings*

```
{
  // Controls if the editor should automatically format the line after typing
  "beautify.onSave": true,

  // You can auto format any files based on the file extensions type.
  "beautify.JSfiles": [
    "js",
    "json",
    "jsbeautifyrc",
    "jshintrc",
    "ts"
  ]
}
```

Note: now you can auto format TypeScript files. Check my update.

edited Apr 24 at 16:26



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered May 25 '16 at 6:25



Bharathi Devarasu

5,481 1 13 18

Also works for another language with this: [Beautify Extension](#) – equiman Aug 19 '16 at 12:47

3 not sure why it's different in CentOS, but it's Shift + Alt + I – [a11smiles](#) Jan 24 '17 at 15:59

2 beautify.onSave is not valid with the eslint extention installed – [Ben Petersen](#) May 31 '17 at 17:36

On ubuntu mate 17.04 it Shift + Alt + I too – [Pini Cheyni](#) Sep 13 '17 at 10:10

2 @ClintEastwood try using prettier.singleQuote: true in your vs code settings. – [Enn](#) May 22 '18 at 6:29

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Or Visual Studio like:

```
{ "key": "ctrl+k ctrl+d", "command": "editor.action.formatDocument" }
```

edited Feb 28 at 8:54



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered May 1 '15 at 13:49



hardkoded

6,850 2 21 29

22 In Windows, replace cmd with ctrl - don't just blindly copy and paste like I did! – [Jens Ehrich](#) Sep 11 '15 at 16:52

2 "editor.action.format" is working again. It now formats the whole document if nothing is selected, else formats the selection. – [Red Riding Hood](#) Dec 10 '16 at 15:28

The right key combination is + + .

112

edited Feb 28 at 8:57



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Jul 9 '15 at 10:57



César

1,221 1 8 7

2 When you just **copy&paste** code from clipboard to a **new tab**, then nothing happens. Solution: **Save** the code to a file with a related **file extension** (e.g. \*.json). Then it works. I suppose the reason is that the beautifier knows the language from the extension and doesn't do an autodetect based on the code. – [Beauty](#) Sep 27 '16 at 16:16

This shortcut works for MAC. In Windows it formats the code. – [C. Dămcu](#) May 16 at 10:19

88

1. Right click the file
2. Select *Format Document* ( + + ) from menu box.

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```

<(isFavourite: boolean): void {
  RuleFavourite) {
    ite: dm.RuleFavourite = {
      is.props.meetingExclusionRule.id,
      e: isFavourite
    }
    RuleFavourite(ruleFavourite);

  tionIconButton(): JSX.Element {
    tctionButton
    .otherCardEditing || this.props.isEditMode ? styles.disabled : styles.enabled
  }
}

```

edited Apr 24 at 17:15

answered Feb 13 '18 at 10:34



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115



Siddarth Kanted

3,085 20 15

5 For Linux the keyboard shortcuts are Ctrl + Shift + I – [Lucas](#) May 27 at 7:34

## For Fedora

59

1. Click File → Preferences → Keyboard shortcuts .
2. Under Default Keyboard Shortcuts , search ( + ) for editor.action.format .

Mine read "key": "ctrl+shift+i"

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```
{ "key": "cmd+k cmd+d", "command": "editor.action.format" }
```

Or Visual Studio like:

```
{ "key": "ctrl+k ctrl+d", "command": "editor.action.format" }
```

Please note: `cmd` key is only for Macs. For Windows and Fedora (Windows keyboard) use `ctrl`

## EDIT:

As per Visual Code version 1.28.2 this is what I found.

`editor.action.format` no longer exists. It has now been replaced by `editor.action.formatDocument` and `editor.action.formatSelection`.

Type `editor.action.format` in the search box to view existing shortcuts.

To change the key combinations follow these steps:

1. Click `editor.action.formatDocument` or `editor.action.formatSelection`
2. A pen like icon appears to the left - click it.
3. A pop-up appears. Press the desired key combination and press enter.

edited Feb 18 at 5:14

answered Aug 5 '16 at 5:26



abyshukla

701 5 5

---

With this command,in my TypeScript files, single quote becomes double quote. How to solve that? – [DioBrando](#) Jan 16 at 14:20

Can't seem to locate this in the new settings garbage UI. – [Oliver Dixon](#) Feb 10 at 16:57

---



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edited Feb 28 at 8:57

answered Sep 11 '15 at 8:36



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115



Niklas Rosencrantz

8,043 55 153 332

- 
- 4 Doesn't work on win/vscode 1.17.1 – [Malako](#) Oct 17 '17 at 14:52

@Malako It seemed indeed to be a different shortcut for different platforms and different programming languages. I have updated my answer to improve the details. – [Niklas Rosencrantz](#) Nov 12 '17 at 21:13

---



Visual Studio Code **1.6.1** supports "Format On Save" which will automatically pick up relevant installed formatter extensions and format the whole document on each save.

55

Enable "Format On Save" by setting



```
"editor.formatOnSave": true
```

And there are available keyboard shortcuts (Visual Studio Code **1.7** and above):

**Format the whole document:** `Shift + Alt + F`

**Format Selection only:** `Ctrl + K`, `Ctrl + F`

edited Apr 24 at 16:56

answered Oct 28 '16 at 7:26



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115



Dariusz

7,874 5 42 63

---

I suggest EsLint extension for VS Code [marketplace.visualstudio.com/...](#) – [Dariusz](#) May 20 '18 at 21:51

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On Ubuntu it's `Ctrl + Shift + I`.

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5 I guess it depends on the language. `CTRL + SHIFT + I` works for JavaScript but not for PHP, for example. – [Jamie Carl](#) Mar 18 '16 at 0:05

Just right-click on the text and select "Format code".

27

Visual Studio Code uses `js-beautify` internally, but it lacks the ability to modify the style you wish to use. The extension "beautify" lets you add settings.

edited Apr 24 at 16:55



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Sep 30 '16 at 11:15



Gerfried

3,943 19 36

1 Sure, I am using Windows and it works as described - it might depend on VScode version (please update!) and on file extension. Please test with HTML. – [Gerfried](#) Oct 27 '16 at 7:26

1 This is the extension: [marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=HookyQR.beautify](https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=HookyQR.beautify). – [Highmastdon](#) May 3 '17 at 13:54

For some reason `Alt + Shift + F` didn't work for me on Mac Visual Studio Code 1.3.1, and actually the command "Format Document" don't worked at all. But command *Formatter* worked very well.

24

So you can use `Command + Shift + P` and type *Formatter* or make your own shortcut in menu *File → Preferences → Keyboard Shortcuts* → `Command + K` `Command + S` then type *Formatter* and add your shortcut.

See an example:

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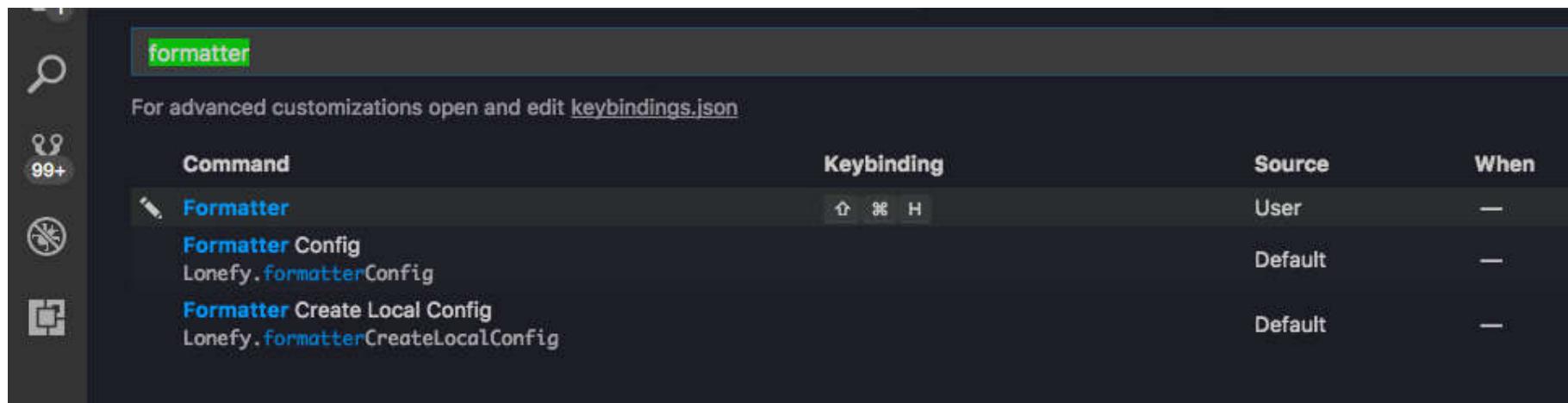
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The screenshot shows the VSCode interface with the search bar at the top containing the text "formatter". Below the search bar is a message: "For advanced customizations open and edit [keybindings.json](#)". A table lists keybindings for the "Formatter" command:

Command	Keybinding	Source	When
<code>Formatter</code>	<code>⇧ ⌘ ⌘ F</code>	User	—
<code>Formatter Config</code>		Default	—
<code>Lonefy.formatterConfig</code>		Default	—
<code>Formatter Create Local Config</code>		Default	—
<code>Lonefy.formatterCreateLocalConfig</code>		Default	—

edited Apr 24 at 17:07



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Jun 30 '17 at 8:28



Aleksander Tymczenko

241 2 2

- 
- 1 On Mac does shift+option+f work? – [Niklas Rosencrantz](#) Nov 12 '17 at 21:14

Shift + Alt + F does the job just fine in 1.17.2 and above.

22

edited Apr 24 at 17:08



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Oct 19 '17 at 10:40



Piotrek Hryciuk

595 6 19

- 
- 1 It's amazing how they would change this shortcut... – [zaitzman](#) Oct 19 '17 at 23:01

This works on 1.19.1 on OSX – [Wrenbjor](#) Dec 27 '17 at 16:35

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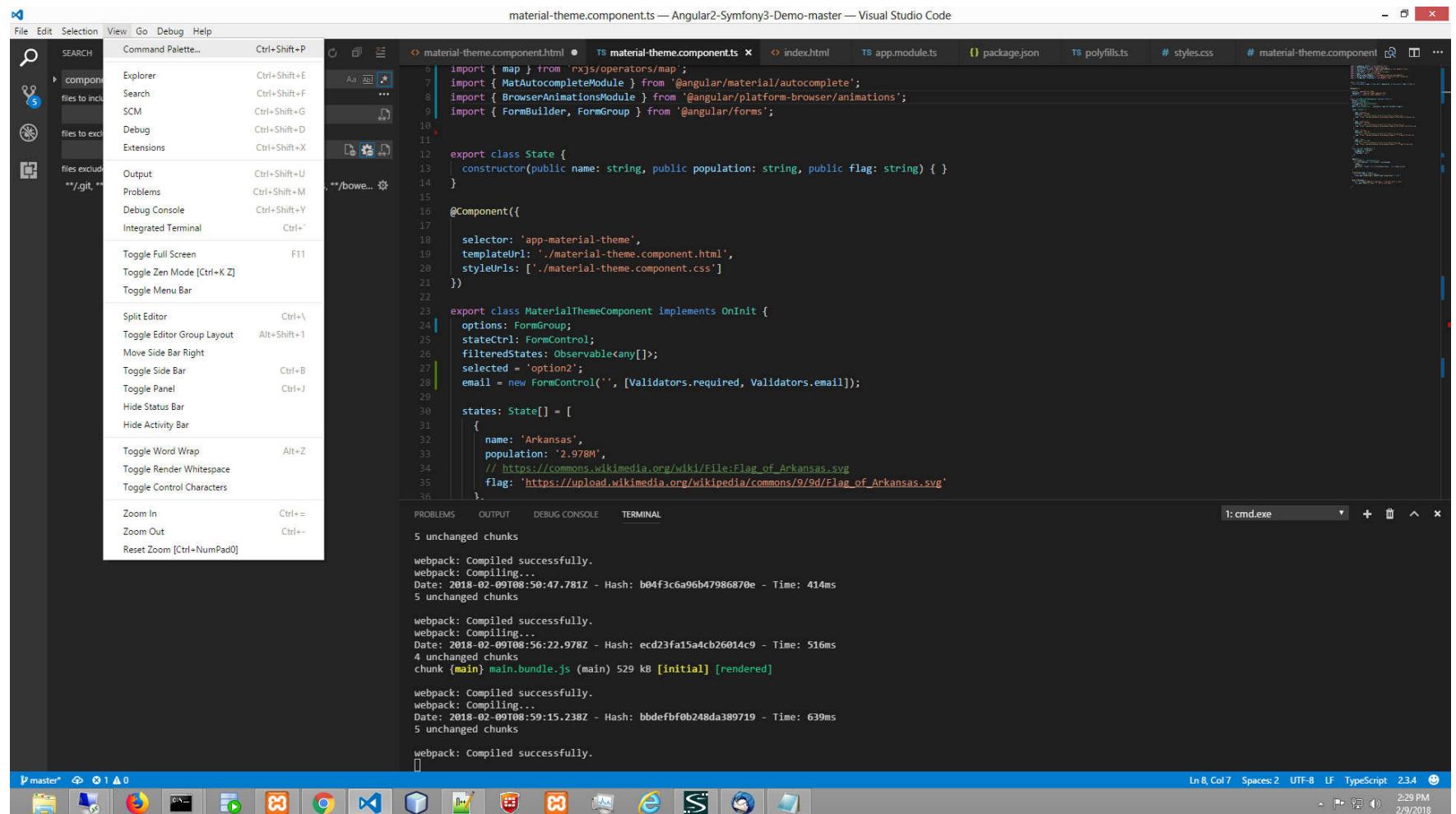


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**1. Click on View on the top menu bar, and then click on Command Palette.**



**2. Then a textbox would appear where we need type Format**

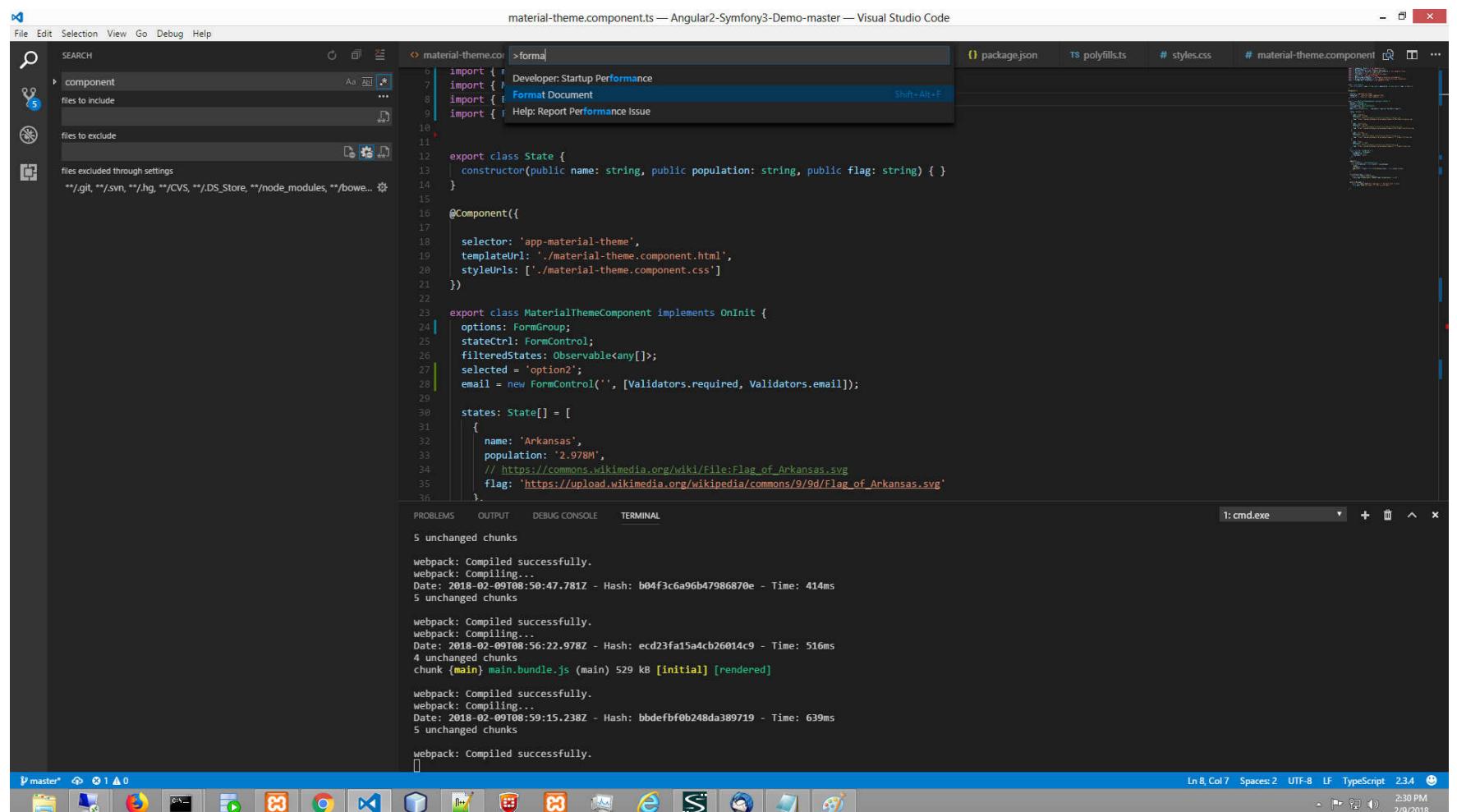
Shift + Alt + F

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edited Apr 24 at 17:14



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Feb 9 '18 at 9:03



afeef

871 11 23

▲ The format shortcut in C# didn't work for me until I installed [Mono](#) for Mac OS X, [DNVM](#) and [DNX](#).

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14.2k 19 88 115



3,336 8 30 55

In order to format C# one needs to install extensions. Normally omnisharp should work. However, there is a bug in omnisharp. Until the bug fixed we have to use Leopotam.cssharpfixformat extension. It overrides omnisharp. After installing C# FixFormat extension I can format documents again. – Oncel Umut TURER Dec 8 '17 at 8:57



In Visual Studio Code, `Shift + Alt + F` is doing what `Ctrl + K + D` is doing in Visual Studio.

17



edited Apr 24 at 16:23



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Jun 28 '15 at 16:42



Burk

1,908 13 20



On Mac, `Shift + Alt + F` works for me.

14



You can always check the key bindings in the menu:

Menu *File* → *Preferences* → *Keyboard Shortcuts* and filter by keyword 'format'.

edited Apr 24 at 17:10



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Jan 8 '18 at 10:06



Lukasz Czerwinski

5,539 7 34 50



While changing the default behavior for Visual Studio Code requires an extension, you may override the default behavior in the workspace or user level. It works for most of the supported languages (I can guarantee HTML, JavaScript, and C#).

13



## Workspace level

### Benefits

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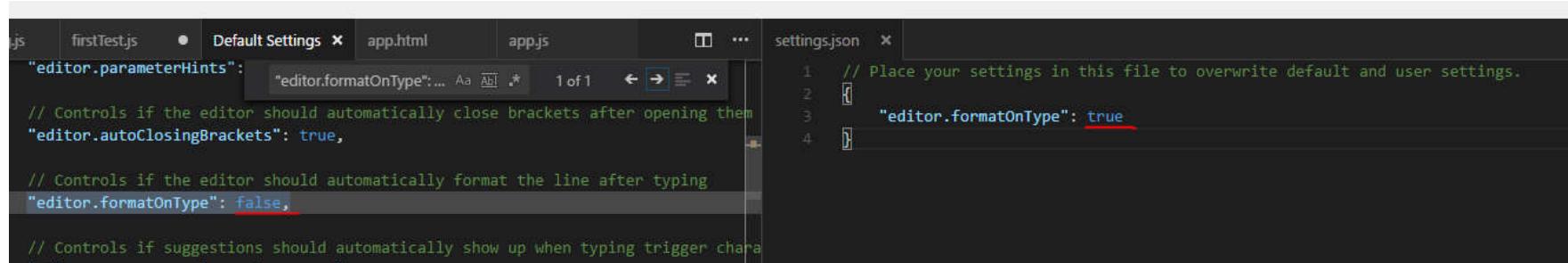
Google

Facebook

- `.vscode/settings.json` is created in the project root folder

## How To?

1. Go to: Menu *File* → *Preferences* → *Workspace Settings*
2. Add and save `"editor.formatOnType": true` to `settings.json` (which overrides default behavior for the project you work on by creating `.vscode/settings.json` file).



```
js      firstTestjs  •  Default Settings x  app.html  app.js  ...  settings.json x
"editor.parameterHints": true
// Controls if the editor should automatically close brackets after opening them
"editor.autoClosingBrackets": true,
// Controls if the editor should automatically format the line after typing
"editor.formatOnType": false,
// Controls if suggestions should automatically show up when typing trigger char
"editor.suggestOnTriggerChar": true,
```

The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface with multiple tabs open: `js`, `firstTestjs`, `Default Settings`, `app.html`, `app.js`, and `settings.json`. The `settings.json` tab is active, displaying configuration options. A specific line, `"editor.formatOnType": false,`, is highlighted with a red underline, indicating it is being modified. The code also includes comments explaining the purpose of each setting.

## User environment level

### Benefits

- Does not require extension
- Personal development environment tweaking to rule them all (`settings:[]`)

### Outcomes

- User's `settings.json` is modified (see location by operating system below)

## How To?

1. Go to: menu *File* → *Preferences* → *User Settings*
2. Add or change the value of `"editor.formatOnType": false` to `"editor.formatOnType": true` in the user `settings.json`

Your Visual Studio Code user's `settings.json` location is:

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- Linux: `$HOME/.config/Code/User/settings.json` The workspace setting file is located under the `.vscode` folder in your project.

More details may be found [here](#).

edited Apr 24 at 16:50



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Sep 8 '16 at 8:13



Saturn Technologies

1,761 2 20 34

 Default this key was not working for me on HTML, CSS, and JavaScript documents.

8

After searching, I found the popular plugin [JS-CSS-HTML Formatter](#) with **133,796 installs**.



After installation just reload the windows and hit `Ctrl + Shift + F`, and it worked!

edited Apr 24 at 17:00



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Jan 9 '17 at 18:16



mumair

1,749 19 34

 Menu `File → Preferences → Settings`

8

`"editor.formatOnType": true`



When you enter the semicolon, it's going to be formatted.

edited Apr 24 at 17:12



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Feb 1 '18 at 6:52



M Fatih Koca

151 2 4

oddly enough, i have found the behavior of this setting can be different than `shift+alt+f` in certain situations. don't know why though! – [JzInqXc9Dg](#)  
Feb 21 '18 at 21:24

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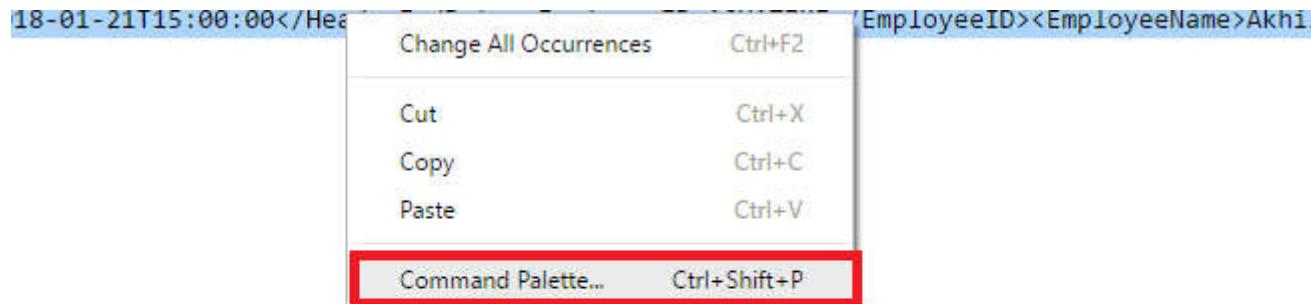
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Select the text, right click on the selection, and select the option "command palette":



A new window opens. Search for "format" and select the option which has formatting as per the requirement.

edited Apr 24 at 17:11



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Jan 18 '18 at 7:47



Akhil Ghatiki

403 6 14

Just install [Visual Studio Keymap](#) by Microsoft. Problem Solved. :p

6

answered Jan 23 '17 at 15:41



Rudy

366 4 8

In Mac. use ⌘ + ⌂ and then ⌘ + F.

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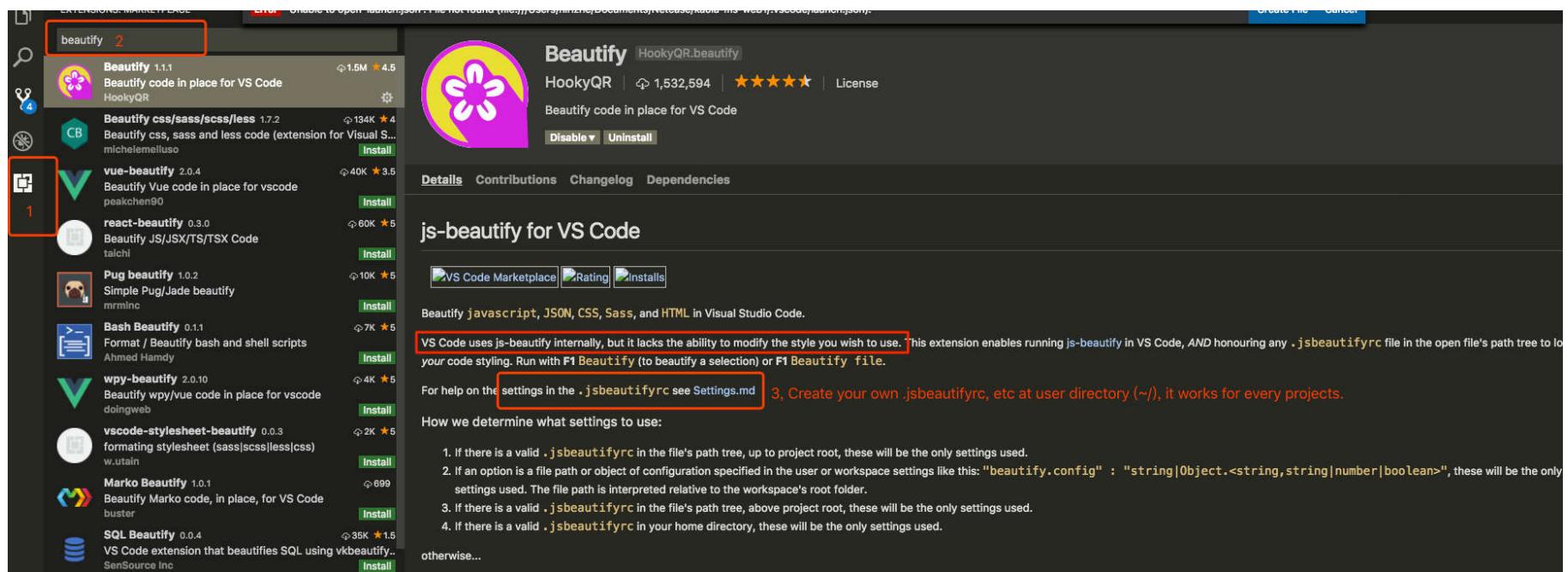
G Google

Facebook

5

If you want to custom the style of format-document, you should use **Beautify** extention.

Refer to this screenshot:



answered Nov 1 '17 at 9:35

 **Jerry Ni**  
451 4 7

5

For those that want to customize what JavaScript files to format, you can use the `any` extension on the `jsfiles` property. The same applies to HTML.

{

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This will enable beautify on save for TypeScript, and you can add in XML to the HTML option.

edited Jun 1 at 13:13



Gama11

14.3k 6 28 52

answered Sep 3 '16 at 21:54



Rick

6,571 2 34 35

You have to install the appropriate plug-in first (i.e., XML, C#, etc.).

4

Formatting won't become available until you've installed the relevant plugin, and saved the file with an appropriate extension.

edited Apr 24 at 16:53



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Sep 8 '16 at 20:34



Nigel Feasey

Beautify asks you if it doesn't know which formatter to use, allowing one to style cshtml. – [Cees Timmerman](#) Nov 7 '18 at 12:17

Simplest way I use in Visual Studio Code (Ubuntu) is:

4

Select the text which you want to format with the mouse.

▼

Right click and choose "Format selection".

edited Apr 24 at 17:02



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered May 24 '17 at 9:07



Ashutosh Jha

5,408 4 27 50

Not this one. Use this:

»

Menu *File* → *Preferences* → *Workspace Settings*, `"editor.formatOnType": true`

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2 Not this one what? Are you referring to another answer? If yes, which one? – [Peter Mortensen](#) Apr 24 at 16:29

Visual Studio Code on Linux:

1

`Ctrl` + `[` to unindent block of code and

▼

`Ctrl` + `]` to make a mass indentation

edited Apr 24 at 16:54



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Sep 20 '16 at 14:43



Hvitis

19 6

Use extension...

0

Enables auto formatting of the code when you save a file.

▼

Launch Visual Studio Code and *Quick Open* (`Ctrl` + `P`), paste the following command, and press `Enter`.

ext install format-on-save

<https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=gyuha.format-on-save>

edited Apr 24 at 16:31



Peter Mortensen

14.2k 19 88 115

answered Aug 17 '16 at 7:44



Gyuha Shin

73 4

2 link is dead- extension 404? – [jordan.baucke](#) Nov 14 '17 at 2:33

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