Open files always in a new tab in Visual Studio Code

903

164

I am using Visual Studio Code 1.3.1 with the newly introduced tabs.

When I click on files, the first file will open in a tab. If I do not make any changes to this file, the second clicked file will open in the same tab.

How can I avoid this and make Visual Studio Code always open a new tab?

visual-studio-code

edited Jun 26 at 15:42
George Stocker ♦
46.5k 29 157 220

asked Aug 2 '16 at 6:43
MBushveld
5,748 7 23 42

7 See stackoverflow.com/questions/45945820/… Alt-Enter added this functionality as of v1.19 in December 2017. – Mark Dec 15 '17 at 22:33

4 if you double click and open the file form left panel, it will not be replaced by other tabs – Shameera Anuranga Aug 21 '18 at 14:50

14 Answers

1730

When you [single-]click a file in the left sidebar's file browser or open it from the quick open menu (Ctrl-P, type the file name, Enter), Visual Studio Code opens it in what's called "Preview Mode", which allows you to quickly **view** files.

Preview Mode tabs are not kept open. As soon as you go to open another file from the sidebar, the existing Preview Mode tab (if one exists) is used. You can determine if a tab is in Preview Mode, by looking at its title in the tab bar. If the title is *italic*, the tab is in preview mode.

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Before you can disable Preview Mode, you'll need to open your Settings File.

Pro Tip: You can use the Command Palette to open your settings file, just enter " `Preferences: Open User Settings` "!

Once you've opened your settings file (*your* settings file should be located on the right), add the `"workbench.editor.enablePreview"` property, and set its value to `false` .

You can learn more about Visual Studio Code's "Preview Mode", here.

edited Mar 13 at 19:12

Michael Ratanapintha
32.6k 4 23 36

answered Aug 2 '16 at 14:22

Brynden Bielefeld
18.6k 1 9 18

1 are there any options to set "open preview" to, say, shift+click, and normal opening to single click? – YakovL Jan 16 at 11:20

can i change `double-click` to `ctrl+click` ? – mo sean Feb 5 at 16:12

5 worth noting, that you can disable `preview mode` in the tab, by double-click on it. – dimpiax Feb 11 at 22:41

hi, I'm using vscode, trying to understand if it's a valid option instead of my current ide. May I ask to someone who uses it since more time, what's the point of the preview mode? thanks – Benz Benz May 20 at 23:13

`Command Palette` is the winner. – Subrata Sarkar May 24 at 11:42

137

If you don't want to disable *preview mode* you can explicitly tell *vscode* to keep a specific tab open. As mentioned above a tab heading with italic text is in *preview mode*.

To get a tab out of *preview mode* you can either right click on the tab and choose `keep open` or use the shortcut `cmd` + `k` `enter` that is mapped to the command `workbench.action.keepEditor`

edited Feb 28 '18 at 11:38

Lyes CHIOUKH
2,488 6 20 45

answered Jan 4 '17 at 9:45

jontem
3,110 1 15 16

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2 I want `Ctrl+Click`. Double-click does not do what I want. If I do not already have a preview tab open, then the first click creates a new tab *and* adds a line to the *Open Editors* section of the *Explorer*. Because of this, when my second click lands, it lands on the file directly above the one I am trying to open!!! Even if I move *Open Editors* below the file list, if I do have a preview tab open, what was being previewed is completely replaced by what I have just opened. – Mike Oct 4 '18 at 3:31

Just because this tripped me up: Press `cmd + k`. **Let go of `cmd + k`**. *Then* press `enter`. (I held down `cmd` the whole time.) – GreeKatrina Mar 29 at 15:42

Simply press spacebar and then backspace.That will do. – VivekDev Apr 18 at 5:01

91

I came up with the same problem, and open *setting.json* file, add the following:

```
"workbench.editor.enablePreview": false
```

edited Aug 1 '17 at 11:53

Aliaxander
1,441 3 12 34

answered Aug 1 '17 at 7:33

jialin wang
1,424 7 5

5 You also want workbench.editor.enablePreviewFromQuickOpen – James Moore Aug 15 '17 at 22:38

1 @JamesMoore after my setting ,it's ok,and I don't know enablePreviewFromQuickOpen is for what. – jialin wang Aug 17 '17 at 6:53

1 @JamesMoore You hit the spot! This in the one I needed, I want preview when I click a file but real open from Ctrl + P- Just like in Sublime text – Jepzen Nov 11 '17 at 9:23

32

Use `workbench.editor.enablePreview: false` to disable Preview mode completely.

Use `workbench.editor.enablePreviewFromQuickOpen: false` to disable Preview mode for the files open from quick open menu.

answered Sep 29 '17 at 23:28

Fatih
22.3k 8 45 54

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16

that's mean to keep the opened file to the editor, and **yes** also don't need to switch your hand to the mouse to double-click on files list.

Thanks to @jontem and @MattLBeck.

Call `save` command with `Ctrl+S` (`cmd+s`) is the easiest way to reach what I preferred.

And if you found out you do this to keep opened file to editor quite frequently, yes I preferred you should setting the option `"workbench.editor.enablePreview": false` or `"workbench.editor.enablePreviewFromQuickOpen": false` as others mentioned before.

edited Nov 19 '18 at 1:31

answered May 18 '18 at 10:40

Natta Wang

367 5 13

14

> Actually, VSCode shows you the preview of a file.

You can disable the preview with this:

```
"workbench.editor.enablePreview": false,
```

Basically just add these two settings and you're good to go.

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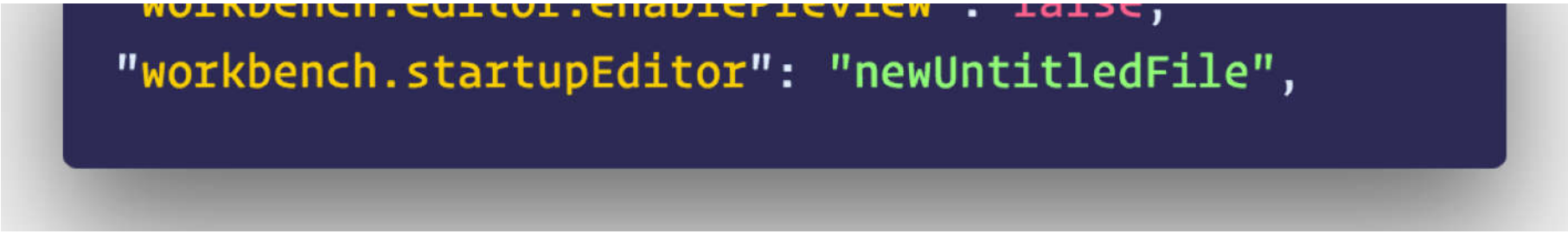

edited Oct 9 '18 at 20:54

answered May 18 '18 at 12:27

Ahmad Awais

12.9k 2 47 43

13

> Watch for filename in ***italic***

Note that, the file name on the tab is formatted in ***italic*** if it has been opened in `Preview Mode`.

> Quickly take a file out of Preview Mode

To keep the file always available in VSCode editor (that is, to take it out of `Preview Mode` into normal mode), you can **double-click** on the tab. Then, you will notice the name becomes non-italic.

> Feature or bug?

I believe Preview Mode is helpful especially when you have limited screen space and need to check many files.

edited Nov 30 '18 at 7:39

answered Sep 8 '17 at 3:41

hktang

1,074 16 31

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2 You can also double-click the file in the file browser / explorer pane. – csum Jan 23 '18 at 22:44

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10

Peter Mortensen
14.2k 19 88 115

samivic
311 3 5

8

Open in new Tab Solution:

1. Open the command palette by: Cmd + Shift + K
2. Open settings file by: *Preferences: Open Settings (JSON)*
3. Under user setting, enable Tabs by: `"workbench.editor.showTabs": true`

edited Feb 14 at 1:35

Gama11
14.4k 6 28 52

answered Nov 15 '18 at 0:35

Suman Acharya
81 1 1

CMD + Shift + P opens the Command Palette now. (CTRL on Win). Ref: code.visualstudio.com/docs/getstarted/... – rmcsharry May 9 at 10:20

5

Essentially, there are three settings that one has to update (Preference >> settings):

- **workbench.editor.enablePreview:** set this to globally enable or disable preview editors
- **workbench.editor.enablePreviewFromQuickOpen:** set this to enable or disable preview editors when opened from Quick Open
- **workbench.editor.showTabs:** finally one will need to set this otherwise, there will be no tabs displayed and you will just be wondering why setting/unsetting the above two did not work

answered Mar 7 at 6:16

akhouri
459 1 9 18

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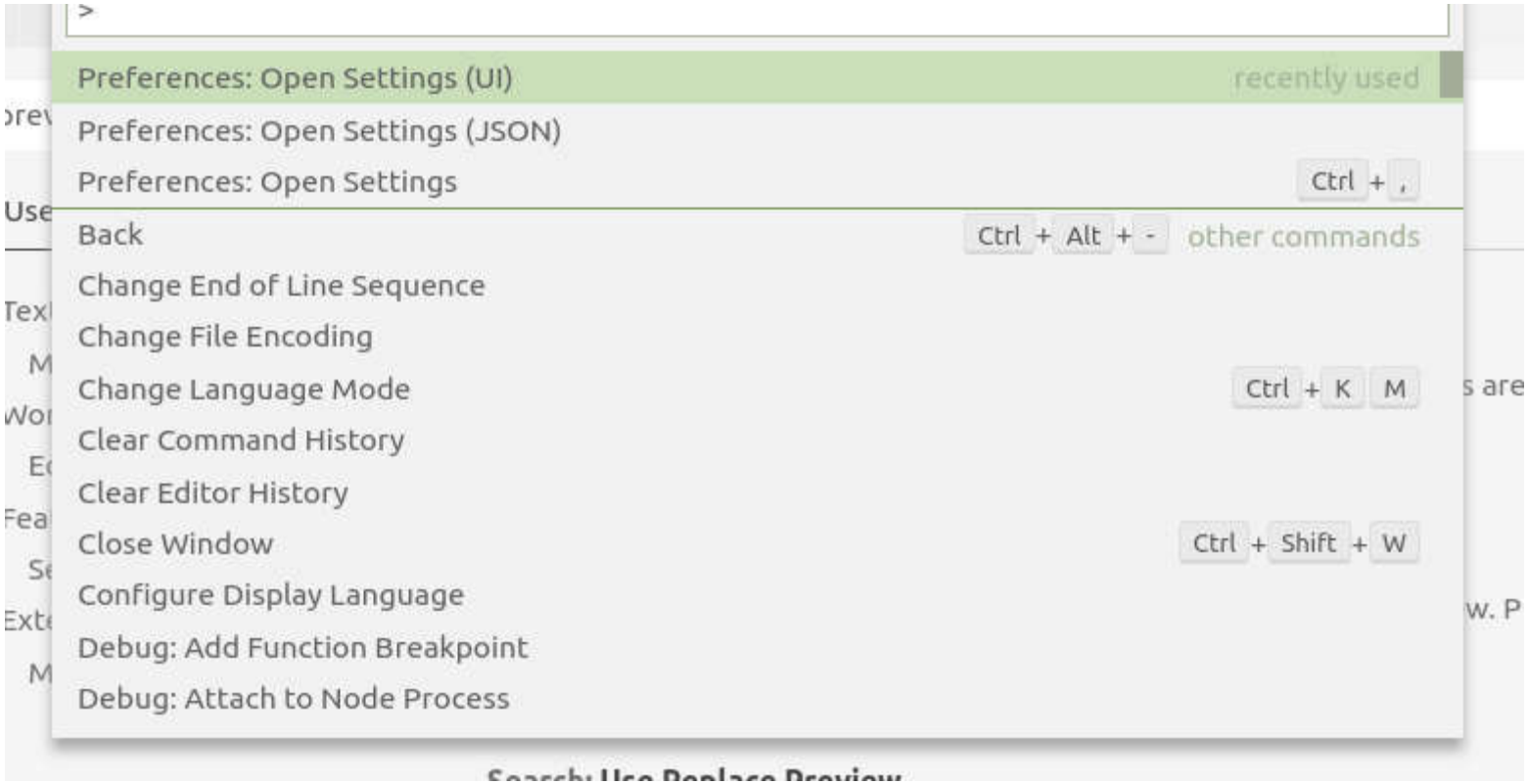

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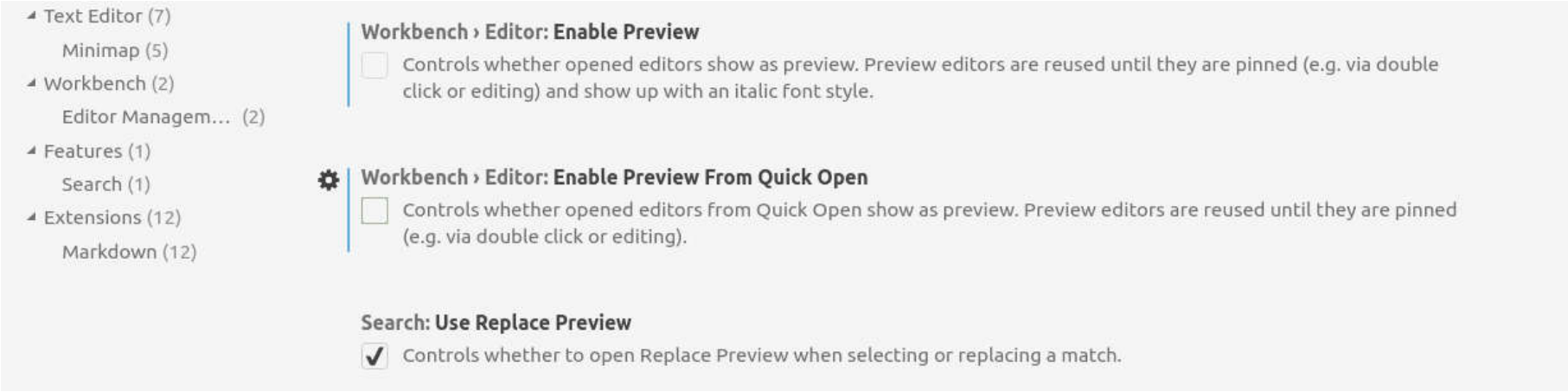

uncheck the options `Enable Preview` and `Enable Preview from Quick Open`

answered Dec 27 '18 at 5:52

illusionist
5,437 1 31 50

2

As hktang above indicates:

one **Click** opens the file in preview mode (header text in italics)

Double click the same file, it goes out of preview-mode (header text changes from italic to normal font)

I think this is a "comprimise" feature allowing users, to "navigate" both worlds; preview and none-preview.

- All you do is click the file to open it in the right panel.
- Then immediately double click it to keep it there.
- Or - just treble click. File opens in none preview mode.

HTH Paul S.

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1

In my case, I also had to set `workbench.editor.showTabs` property to true (in addition to `workbench.editor.enablePreview`)

I'm not sure how it got changed to false. Maybe, I've accidentally set it to false using some shortcut.

answered Oct 22 '18 at 19:39

levgen
2,940 5 22 38

0

This is so confusing. All developers I asked didn't appreciate this default behavior.

I use `cmd + P` to open project files.

answered Aug 2 '18 at 13:59

Kamil Dzieniszewski
39 9

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protected by Aniket Thakur Jan 14 at 7:51

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