Open files always in a new tab

Asked 3 years, 3 months ago Active 27 days ago Viewed 247k times

1055

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?

199

visual-studio-code

edited Jul 19 at 16:36
Alexander Abakumov
5,944 5 51 82

asked Aug 2 '16 at 6:43
MBushveld
6,566 7 25 48

8 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

16 Answers

1977

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.

To open a file for editing (i.e. don't open in Preview Mode), double-click on the file in the sidebar, or single-click it in the sidebar then double click the title of its Preview Mode tab.

If you want to disable Preview Mode all together, you can do so by setting `"workbench.editor.enablePreview": false` in your settings file. You can also use the `"workbench.editor.enablePreviewFromQuickOpen"` option to disable it only from the quick open menu.

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 — **33.3k** 4 24 36

answered Aug 2 '16 at 14:22 — Brynden Bielefeld — **21.2k** 1 10 19

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

3 Thanks... I hated this preview feature! – Aitor Aug 6 at 12:34

152

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 — **2,848** 6 23 47

answered Jan 4 '17 at 9:45 — jontem — **3,300** 1 15 16

107

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

answered Aug 1 '17 at 7:33

Aliaxander
1,441 3 12 36

jialin wang
1,722 1 8 5

35

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
22.8k 8 47 54

20

For anyone who don't want to disabled **Preview Mode**.

As I read whole of comments and I found what I preferred that is the shortcut key to pin the opened file from **Quick Open/Ctrl+P** or 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
437 7 13

16

> ⚡ 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.

edited Oct 9 '18 at 20:54

answered May 18 '18 at 12:27

Ahmad Awais

15k 3 51 44

14

> 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

1,159 16 31

11

Menu *File* → *Preferences* → *User Settings*: add this line "workbench.editor.enablePreviewFromQuickOpen": false

edited Dec 15 '18 at 17:54

Peter Mortensen
14.6k 19 89 118

answered Apr 26 '18 at 13:50

samivic
331 3 5

10

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
16.4k 6 34 54

answered Nov 15 '18 at 0:35

Suman Acharya
101 1 2

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

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

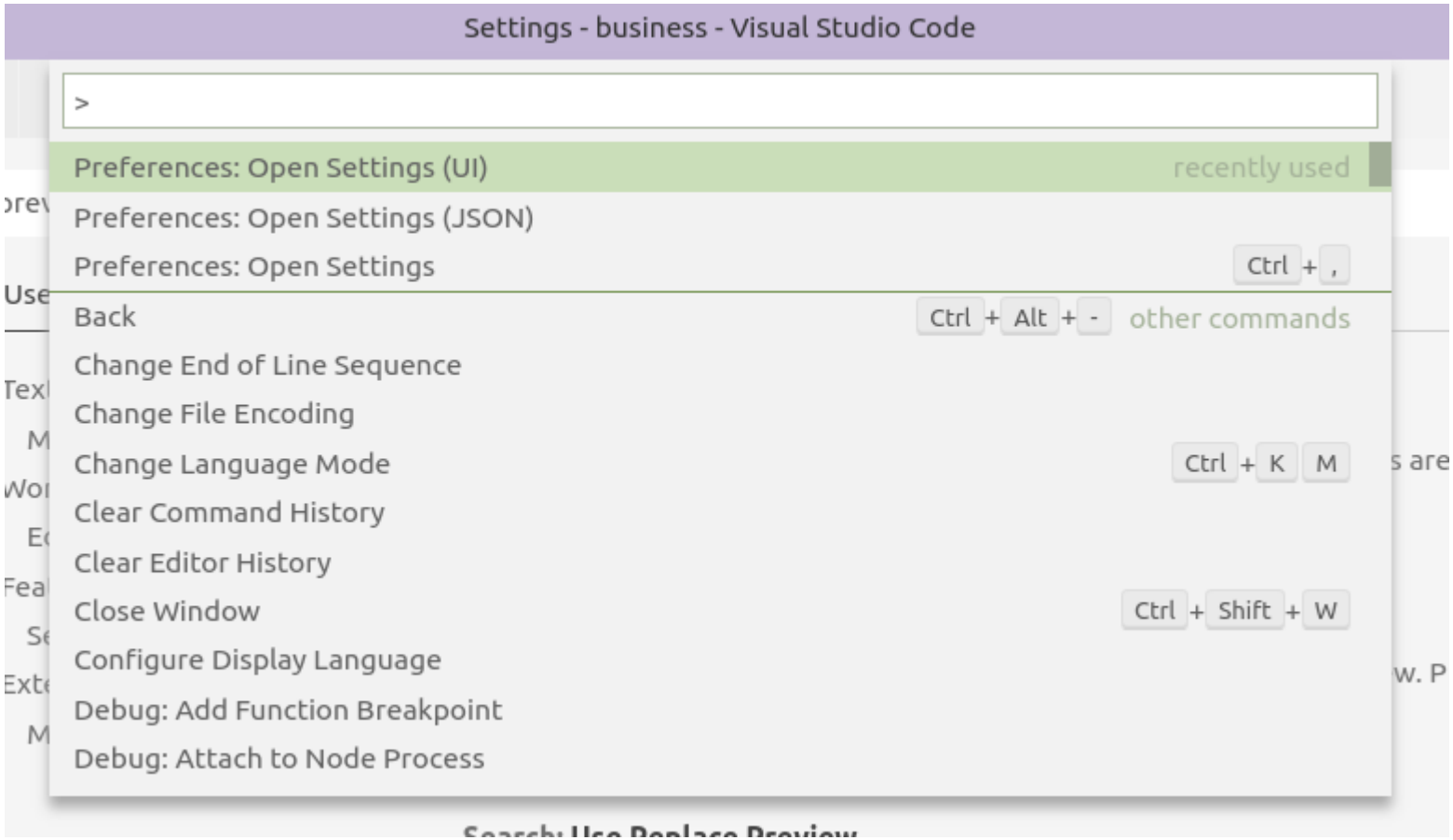
- **workbench.editor.enablePreview:** set this to globally enable or disable preview editors
- **workbench.editor.enablePreviewFromQuickOpen:** set this to enable or disable preview editors when opened from Quick Open
- **workbench.editor.showTabs:** finally one will need to set this otherwise, there 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

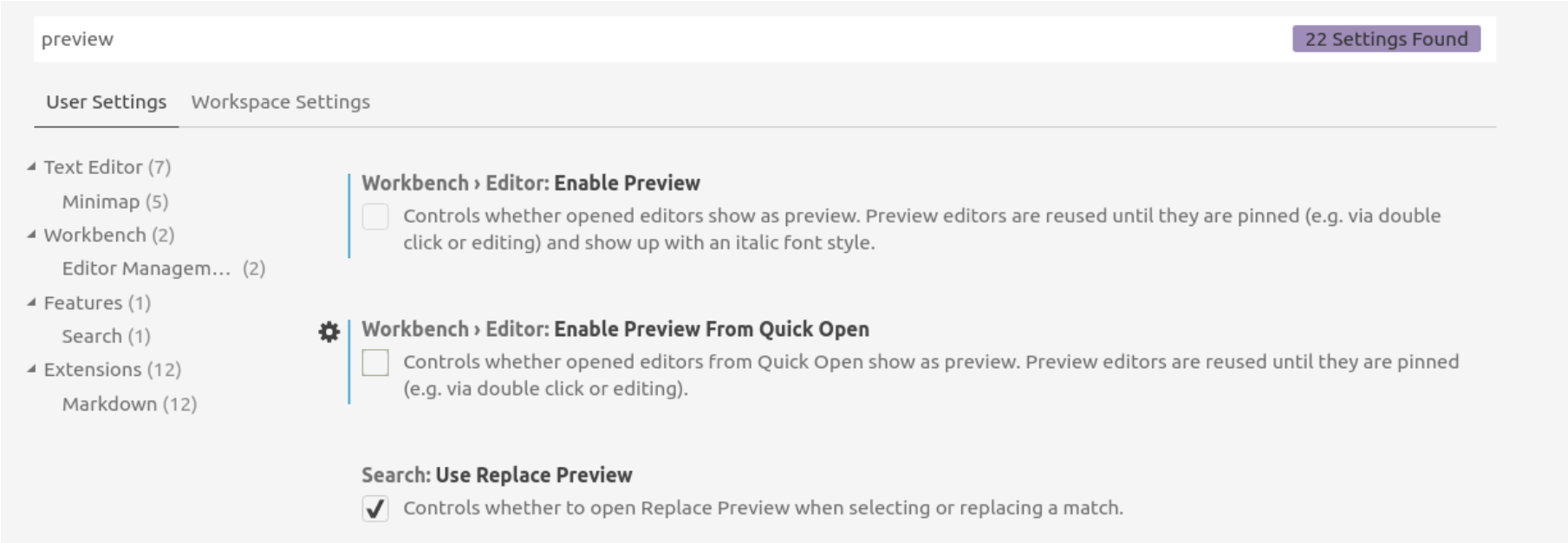
akhouri
489 1 9 18

You can do it via GUI

5



Search for **preview**



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

answered Dec 27 '18 at 5:52

illusionist
5,771 1 35 51

3

enabling using GUI

go to `Code -> Preferences -> Settings -> User -> Window -> New Window`

here **Open Files In New Window** under drop down list select "on" that's it.

my VS Code version 1.38.1

edited Oct 15 at 7:04

inquisitive
2,266 3 16 47

answered Oct 3 at 5:25

Sai Gopi N
5,493 36 28

I was having an issue where "Go to definition..." was continually opening in same file window (was frustrating as would have to re-find my starting point). This seemed to fix things for me mostly (initial "Go to definition..." now opens in new file window). – twknab Nov 4 at 19:52

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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.

edited Jan 4 at 12:07

answered Jan 4 at 11:31

Paul Schwartzberg

31 2

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

Zhenya

3,140 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

59 9

0

One simple solution is, instead of making changes in settings of vscode, whenever you open a file through a reference,you will see that the file is in preview mode(the name of file is in italic) and in the sidebar you will see that same preview file in focus just double tap it and it will be pinned on the tab,so that it wont get replaced by another file in preview mode.

answered Aug 6 at 6:59

maheshmnj
1,176 11 19

protected by Aniket Thakur Jan 14 at 7:51

Thank you for your interest in this question. Because it has attracted low-quality or spam answers that had to be removed, posting an answer now requires 10 reputation on this site (the association bonus does not count).

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