

VS Code - The First Step

What is VSCode (Visual Studio Code)

It is an IDE (Integrated Development Environment) for you to do (almost) anything with it.

1. File Explorer
2. Text Editor
3. Git/GitHub Access Tool
4. Terminal
5. ... Anything with VSCode Extensions.

1. Installation & Setup

Download & Install

1. Go to code.visualstudio.com
2. Download for your OS (Windows/Mac/Linux)
3. Run the installer with default settings

First Launch

- Open VS Code from Start Menu (Windows) or Applications (Mac)
- You'll see the Welcome screen with helpful getting-started guides

2. Opening Your Project

Method 1: File Menu

File → Open Folder → Select your project directory

Method 2: Drag & Drop

- Simply drag your project folder into the VS Code window

Method 3 (Optional): Terminal/Command Line

Read the Optional section if you want to use a command line tool
code .

```
# Navigate to your project folder  
cd /path/to/your/project  
# Open current directory in VS Code  
code .
```

3. Command Palette - Your Best Friend

Shortcut: `Ctrl+Shift+P` (Windows/Linux) or `Cmd+Shift+P` (Mac)

For Mac users, always use `Cmd` for `Ctrl`.

What is it?


- Central hub for ALL VS Code commands
- Type what you want to do, VS Code finds it

Examples:

```
> Open Settings  
> Git: Clone  
> Markdown: Open Preview  
> Python: Run Python File
```

4. Essential Extensions

How to Install Extensions

1. Click Extensions icon in sidebar () or press `Ctrl+Shift+X`
2. Search for extension name
3. Click "Install"

5. Usage and Tips

Shortcuts are easy to use, but you can always use Command Palette (view -> Command Palette) and give a command name to get the same results.

1. File Explorer Tips

- `Ctrl+P` - Quick file open
- `Ctrl+Shift+E` - Focus on Explorer
- Right-click for context menus

2. Integrated Terminal

- `Ctrl+`` - Toggle terminal
- `Ctrl+Shift+``` - New terminal
- Multiple terminals supported

3. Split Editor

- `Ctrl+\` - Split editor
- `Ctrl+1,2,3` - Focus different editor groups
- Drag tabs to rearrange

4. Essential Keyboard Shortcuts

Action	Windows/Linux	Mac
Command Palette	Ctrl+Shift+P	Cmd+Shift+P
Quick Open	Ctrl+P	Cmd+P
Toggle Terminal	Ctrl+`	Cmd+`
Save	Ctrl+S	Cmd+S
Find	Ctrl+F	Cmd+F
Replace	Ctrl+H	Cmd+Alt+F
Comment Line	Ctrl+/*	Cmd+/*

5. Common Beginner Mistakes to Avoid

 **Don't:** Open individual files instead of the project folder

 **Do:** Always use "Open Folder" for projects

- This is an important concept when you use VSCode.
- VSCode is an IDE, not an editor.

✗ **Don't:** Ignore the red squiggly lines (errors)

✓ **Do:** Hover over them to see what's wrong

✗ **Don't:** Forget to save your work

✓ **Do:** Use `Ctrl+S` frequently or enable auto-save

When a file is not saved, VSCode displays a circle mark; you should make sure it is a cross mark, meaning the file is saved.

not saved ->

A screenshot of a VS Code tab for a file named '1_vsc.md'. The text '3, U' is visible. To the right of the text is a solid black circle icon, indicating the file has not been saved.

saved ->

A screenshot of a VS Code tab for a file named '1_vsc.md'. The text '3, U' is visible. To the right of the text is a white 'X' icon inside a square, indicating the file has been saved.

(Optional) VSCode code CLI

What is "code" CLI?

The code command opens Visual Studio Code from the terminal, allowing you to launch files, folders, or projects with optional customization flags.

Installation & Setup

- On Windows and Mac, installing VSCode usually adds the `code` command automatically.
- On Mac/Linux, you may need to run `Shell Command: Install 'code' command in PATH` from VSCode's Command Palette to enable it.

Adding code to PATH (Windows)

On Windows, you should add `code` to your PATH environment.

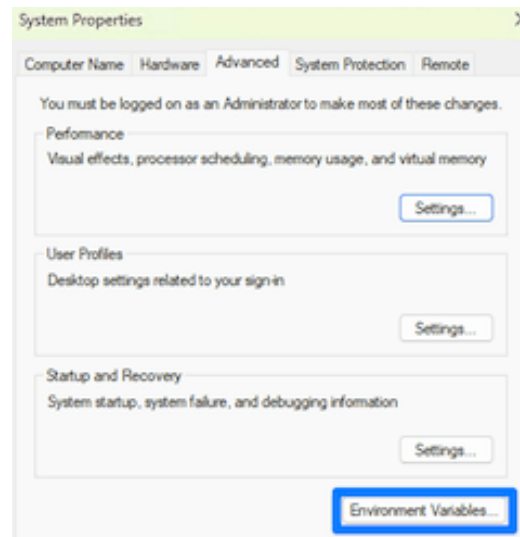
1. In Terminal, run `where code` to find the location of `code`.

```
C:\Users\smcho>where code
C:\Users\smcho\AppData\Local\Programs\Microsoft VS Code\bin\code
C:\Users\smcho\AppData\Local\Programs\Microsoft VS Code\bin\code.cmd
C:\Users\smcho>code
```

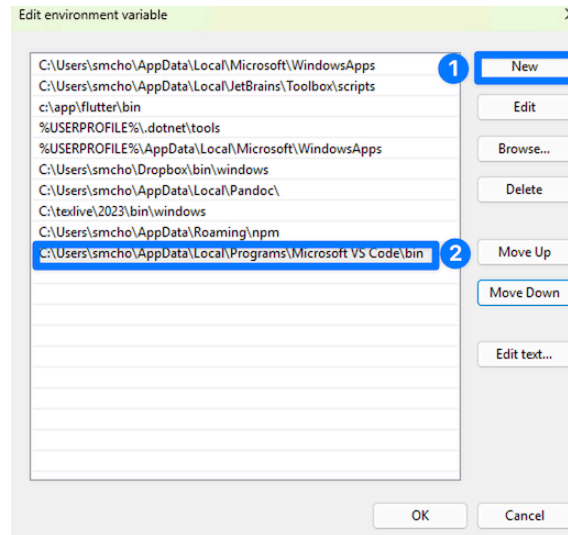

2. Open View advanced system settings and Environment Variables .



View advanced system settings



3. Add the path to the dialog box.



Use code on Terminal

When the `code` program is in your path, you can open VSCode using the command line.

- This example shows how we can open the `ASE` directory using `code` on a command line.

```
code ASE230
```