Intro to Javascript: Set-Up Guide

Welcome to your Introduction to Javascript! In this guide, you will learn how to set up and install the platforms and tools needed for this course. This includes a code editor (otherwise known as an IDE) and any packages needed. At CFG, we recommend the usage of **Visual Studio Code**, as it is industry standard and has a range of plug-ins and extensions you can go onto use throughout your career as a developer. However, you can also build with IDEs such as **Atom** or **WebStorm**. For the purpose of this class, we will be using VSC.

How to Install VSC:

Visual Studio Code on Mac: https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/setup/mac

1) Download Visual Studio Code for macOS.
2) Open the browser's download list and locate the downloaded app or archive.
3) If archive, extract the archive contents. Use double-click for some browsers or select the 'magnifying glass' icon with Safari.
4) Drag the app to the **Applications** folder, making it available in the macOS Launchpad.
5) Open VS Code from the **Applications** folder, by double clicking the icon.

Visual Studio Code on Windows: https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/setup/windows

1) Download the Visual Studio Code installer for Windows.
2) Once it is downloaded, run the installer (VSCodeUserSetup-{version}.exe). This will only take a minute.
3) By default, VS Code is installed under *C:\Users\{Username}\AppData\Local\Programs\Microsoft VS Code*

Visual Studio Code comes with a built-in feature called **IntelliSense**, which helps with debugging, formatting and code navigation. If you want to learn more about how

Javascript works inside Visual Studio Code, and how you can personalise this experience, read this link.

How to work with React Js

Later on in the course, we'll be learning about using **React** - a popular Javascript library for building user interfaces. For us to be able to build with React in VSC, we need to install a few other things.

These include **Node.js**, which is a Javascript runtime environment, and **npm (node package manager)** which is included in Node.js.

How to Install Node.Js

Node Installation link: https://nodejs.org/en/

Please select either the option for MacOS or your appropriate operating system in the 'other downloads' sections. It will be best to use the **LTS Version** - the system recommended for most users. This may change over time, but there will usually be a recommended version as well as a more up-to-date version. **We don't necessarily recommend the most recent version**, as this may still be in development / have certain beta features.

Once you've downloaded the Node package, you can install it on your system. Accept the licence agreement and choose where you want it installed. You can follow this guide to make sure everything installed correctly, including guidance for verifying the installation. So long as you can open a terminal in VCS, run "node -v" and get it to return the version of node you just installed, then it has been set up properly. This video also shows you how to set up a React project, however please wait for our React lessons for your instructor to walk you through how to do this with create-react-app.

Once that is completed, you will be able to use both node.js and npm in VSC - perfect for when we come to creating our first React app!