



Live Preview

Preview

Microsoft

11,266,096 installs

77 | Free

Hosts a local server in your workspace for you to preview your webpages on.

Installation

Launch VS Code Quick Open (Ctrl+P), paste the following command, and press enter.

ext install ms-vscode.live-server

Copy

More Info

Overview

Version History

Q & A

Rating & Review

This is the pre-release edition of Live Preview for early feedback and testing. It works best with VS Code Insiders.

Live Preview - VS Code Extension

WARNING: This extension is still under development!

An extension that hosts a local server for you to preview your web projects on!

This extension is most useful for projects where a server is not already created (e.g. not for apps using React, Angular, etc.). To work with these, feel free to run the Simple Browser: Show command that is already built-in with VS Code.

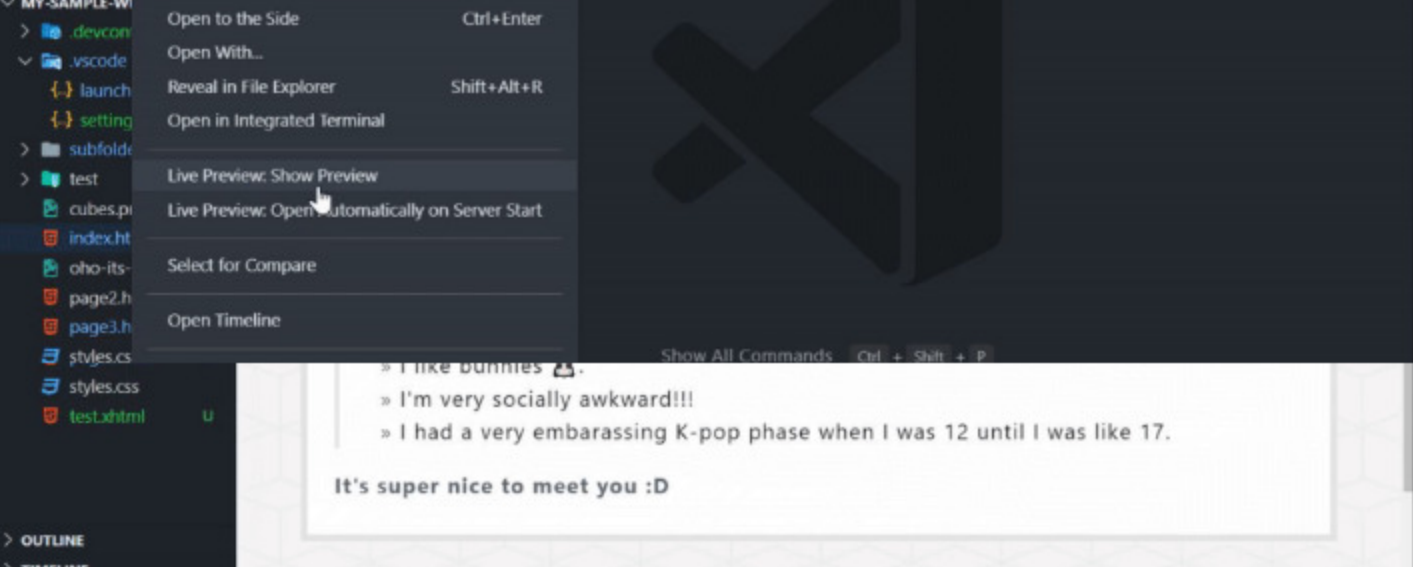
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Features

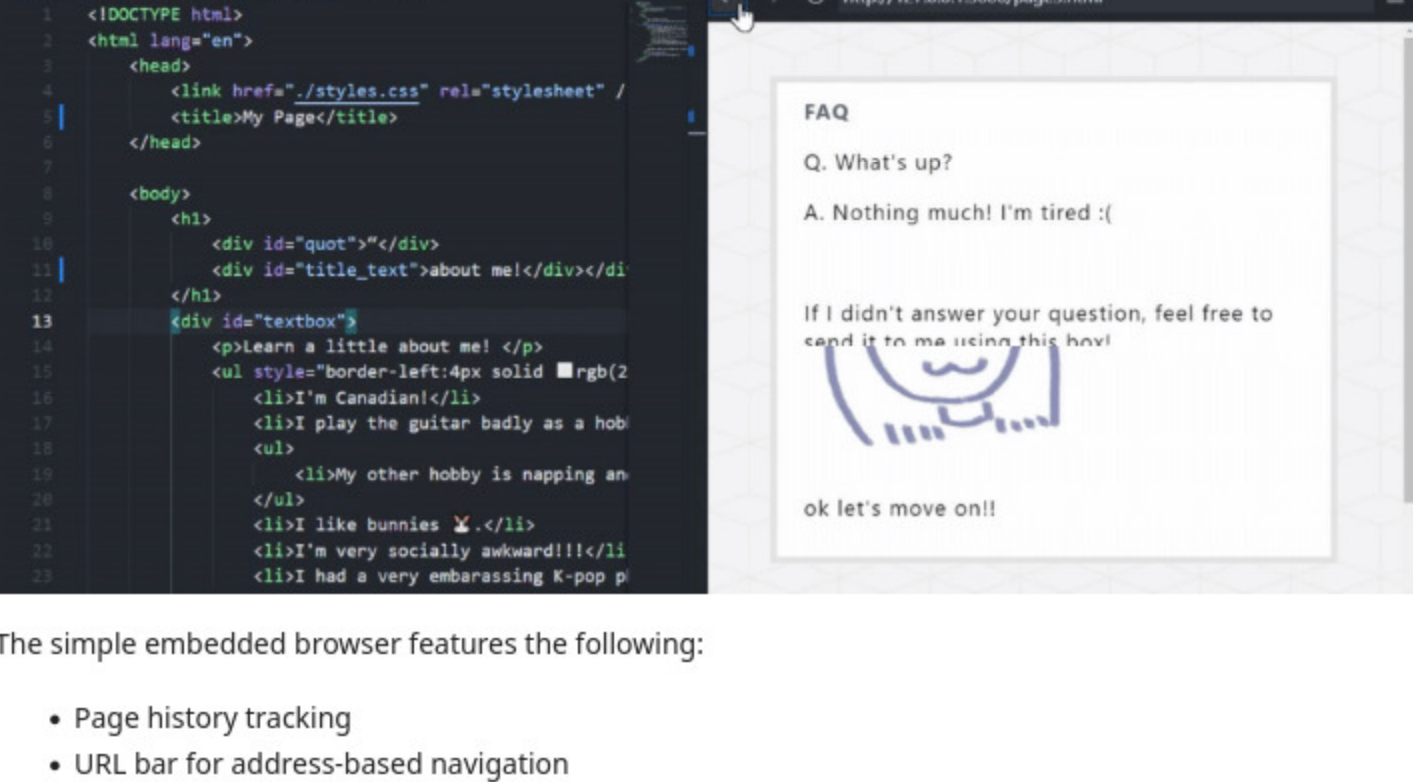
HTML File Previewing

Preview your HTML files quickly by clicking the preview button in the top right corner of your editor or using the context menu.



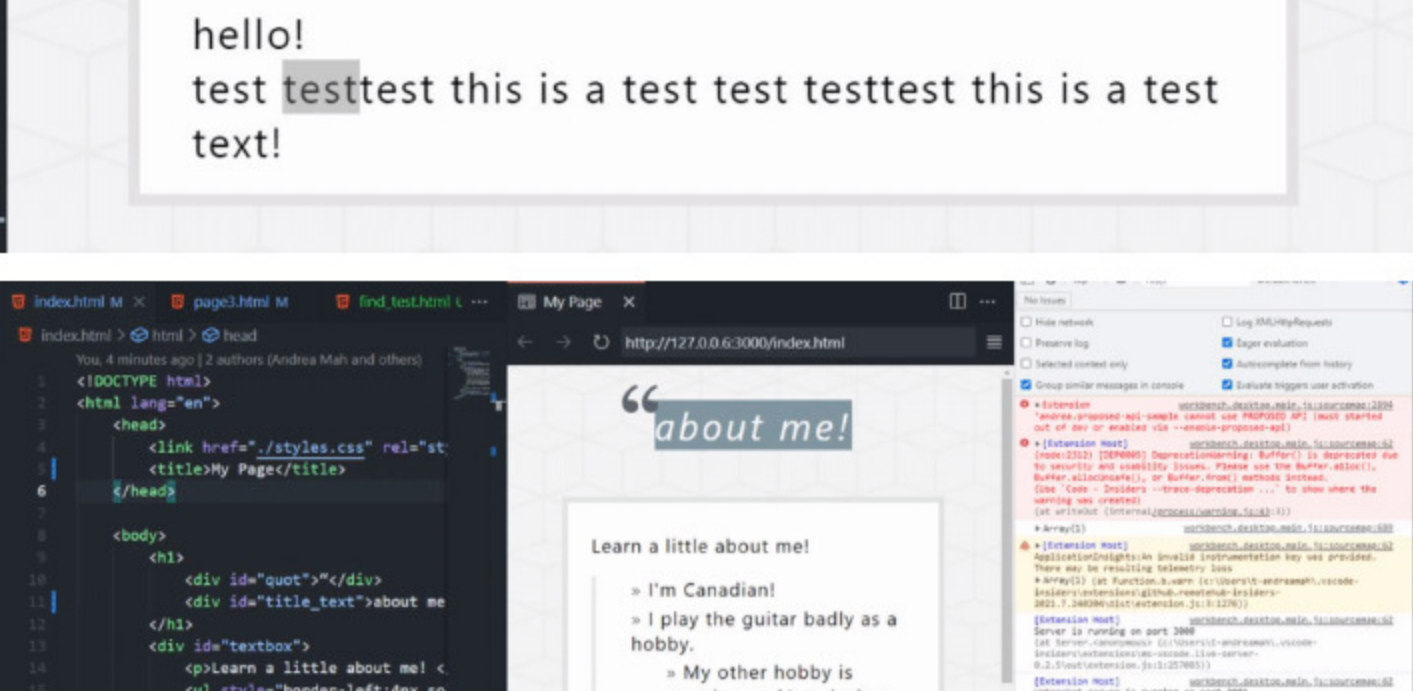
Embedded Preview

A preview is available in-editor for the files hosted by the server.



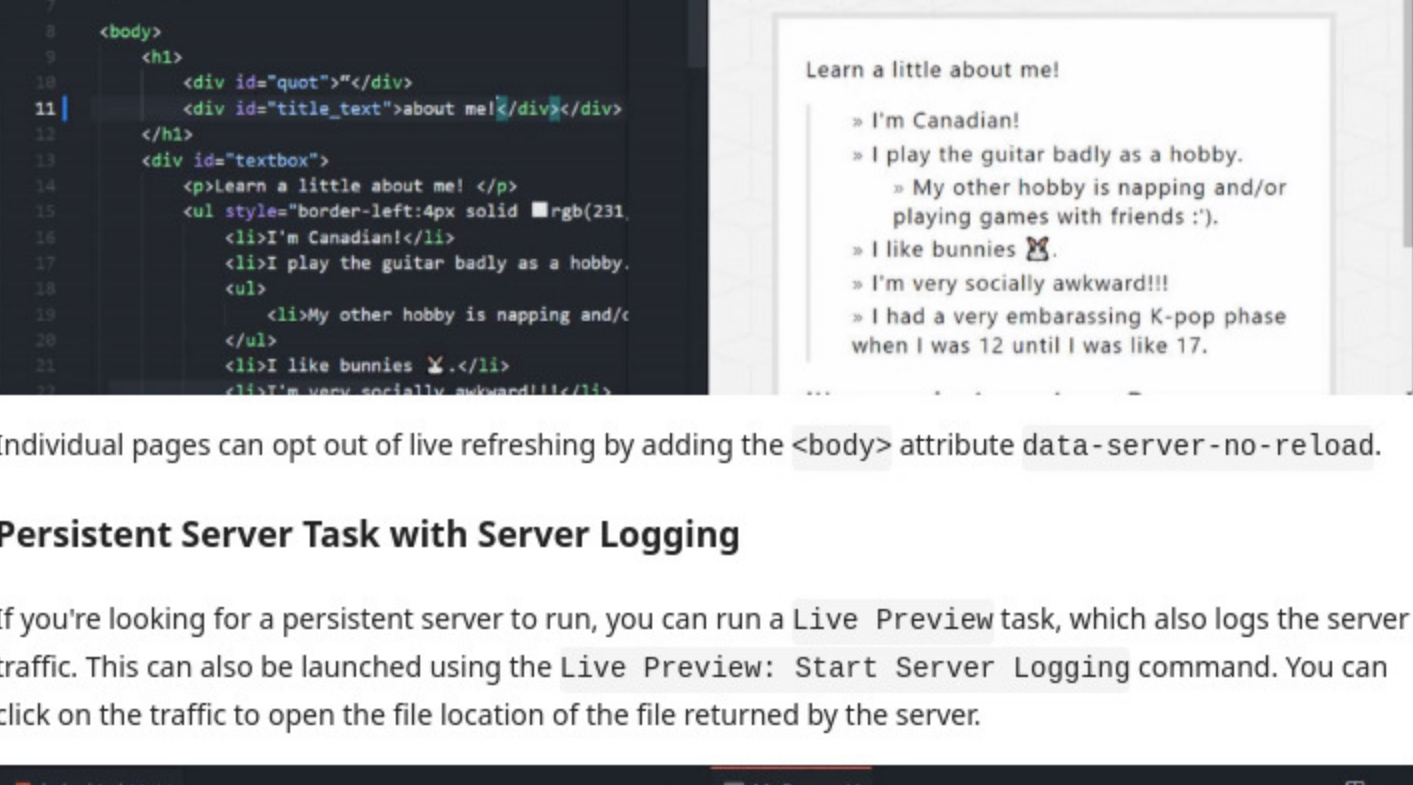
The simple embedded browser features the following:

- Page history tracking
- URL bar for address-based navigation
- Expandable menu, allowing users to:
 - Preview the current page in browser
 - Perform a page search
 - Tip: You can also use CTRL+F to open the find box and Enter to go to the next result
 - Open the editor's webview DevTools



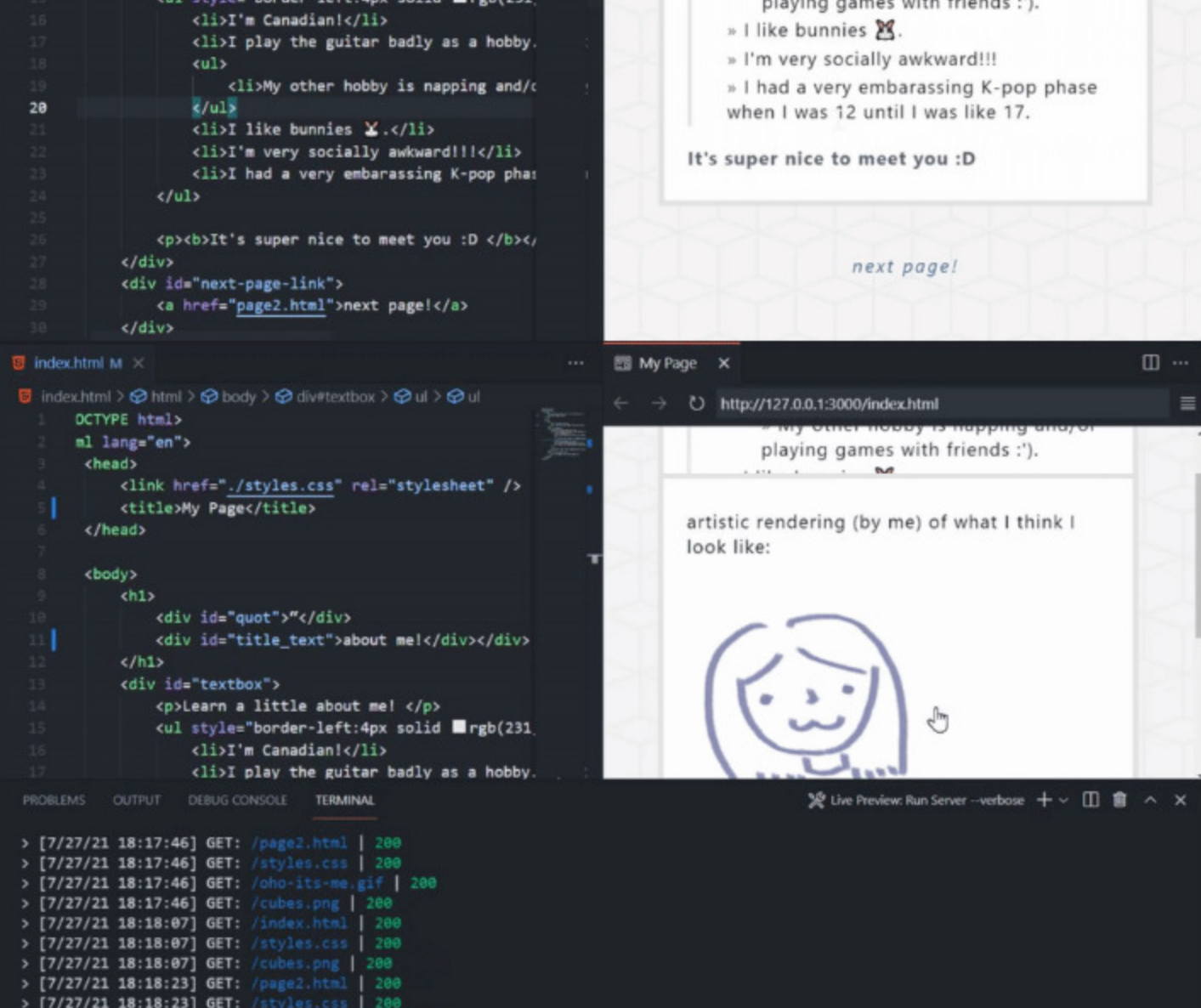
Live Refreshing

See the changes as you make them. By default, changes appear as you make them in the editor. You can also change this in the extension settings (via LivePreview.autoRefreshPreview) to refresh the preview on save or not at all.



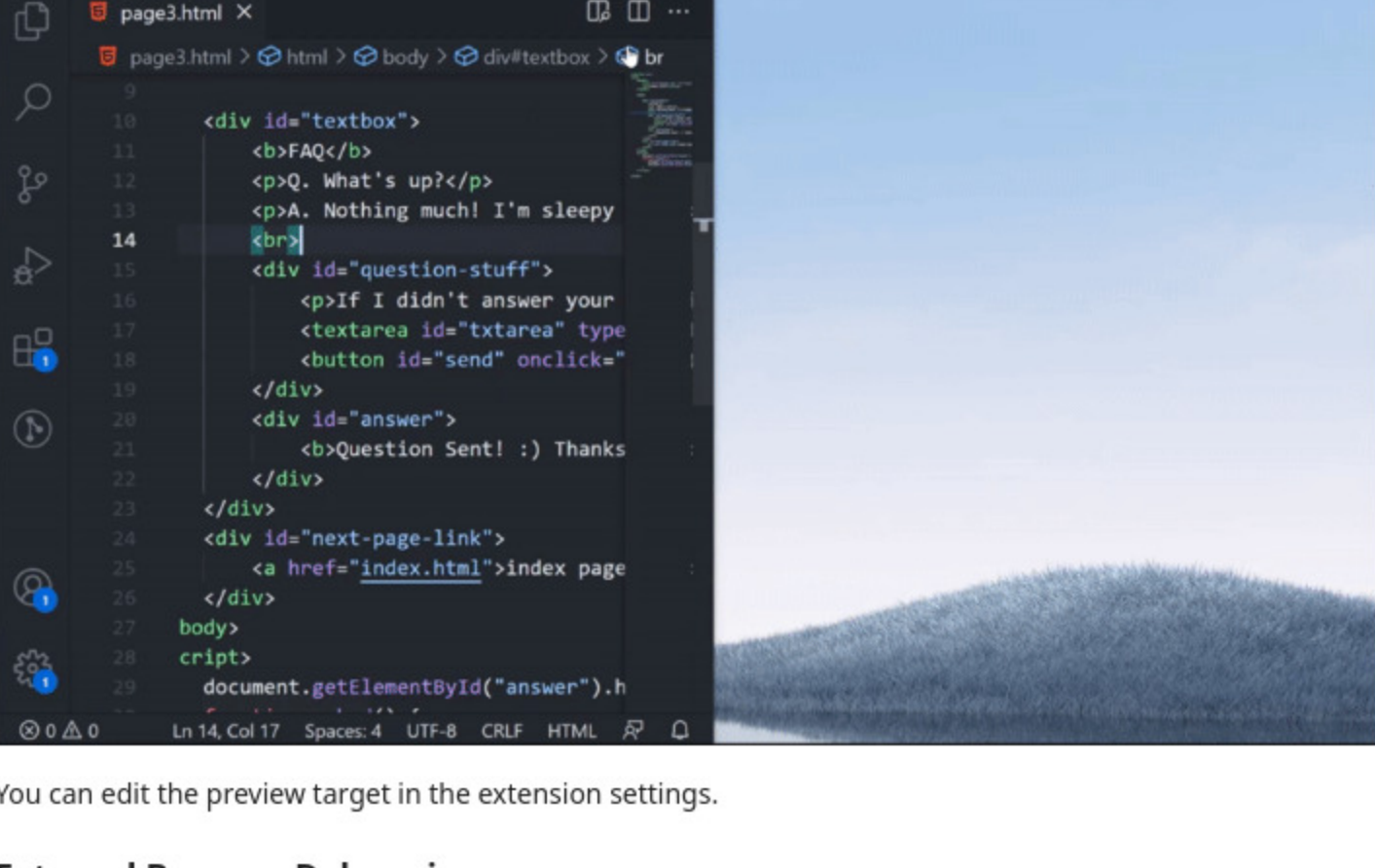
Persistent Server Task with Server Logging

If you're looking for a persistent server to run, you can run a Live Preview task, which also logs the server traffic. This can also be launched using the Live Preview: Start Server Logging command. You can click on the traffic to open the file location of the file returned by the server.



External Browser Previewing

Although all of the images above use the embedded browser, you can also experience the same features in an external browser.

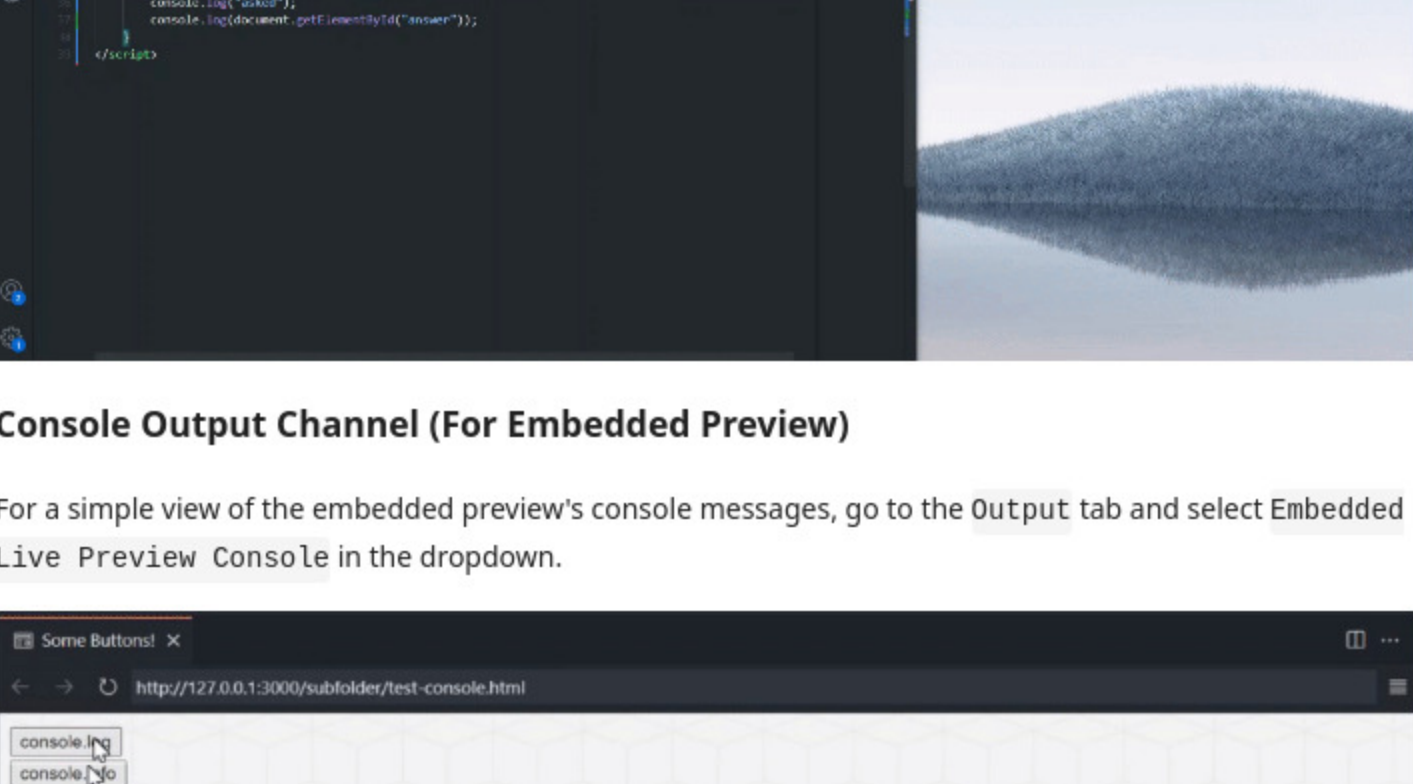


You can edit the preview target in the extension settings.

External Browser Debugging

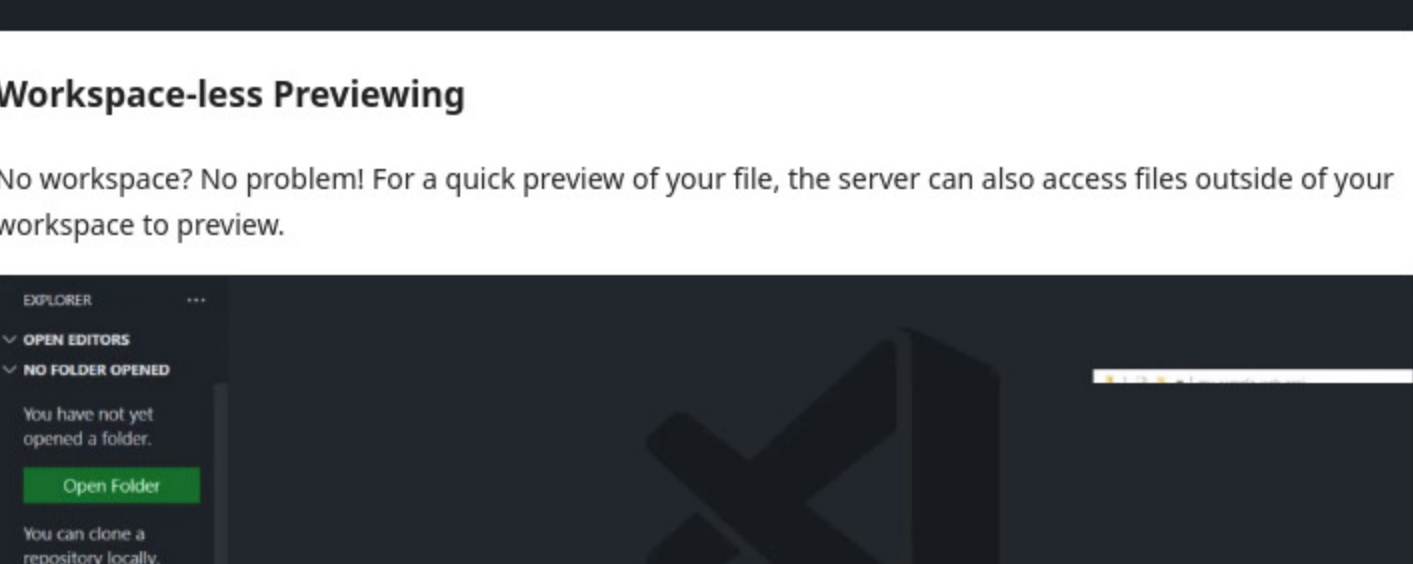
The external browser preview also supports debugging via the built-in js-debug extension and attaching to the Edge Devtools Extension. This allows support for features such as setting breakpoints and inspecting elements.

Run Live Preview: Show Debug Preview in the command palette to get these debugging features.



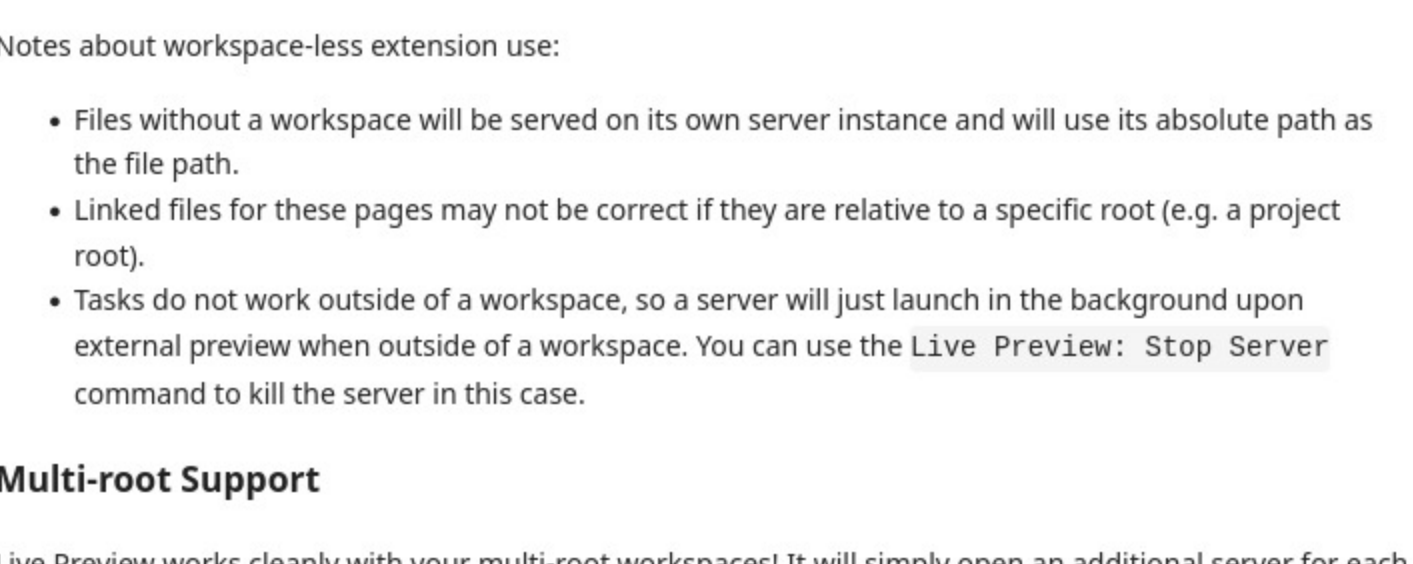
Console Output Channel (For Embedded Preview)

For a simple view of the embedded preview's console messages, go to the Output tab and select Embedded Live Preview Console in the dropdown.



Workspace-less Previewing

No workspace? No problem! For a quick preview of your file, the server can also access files outside of your workspace to preview.

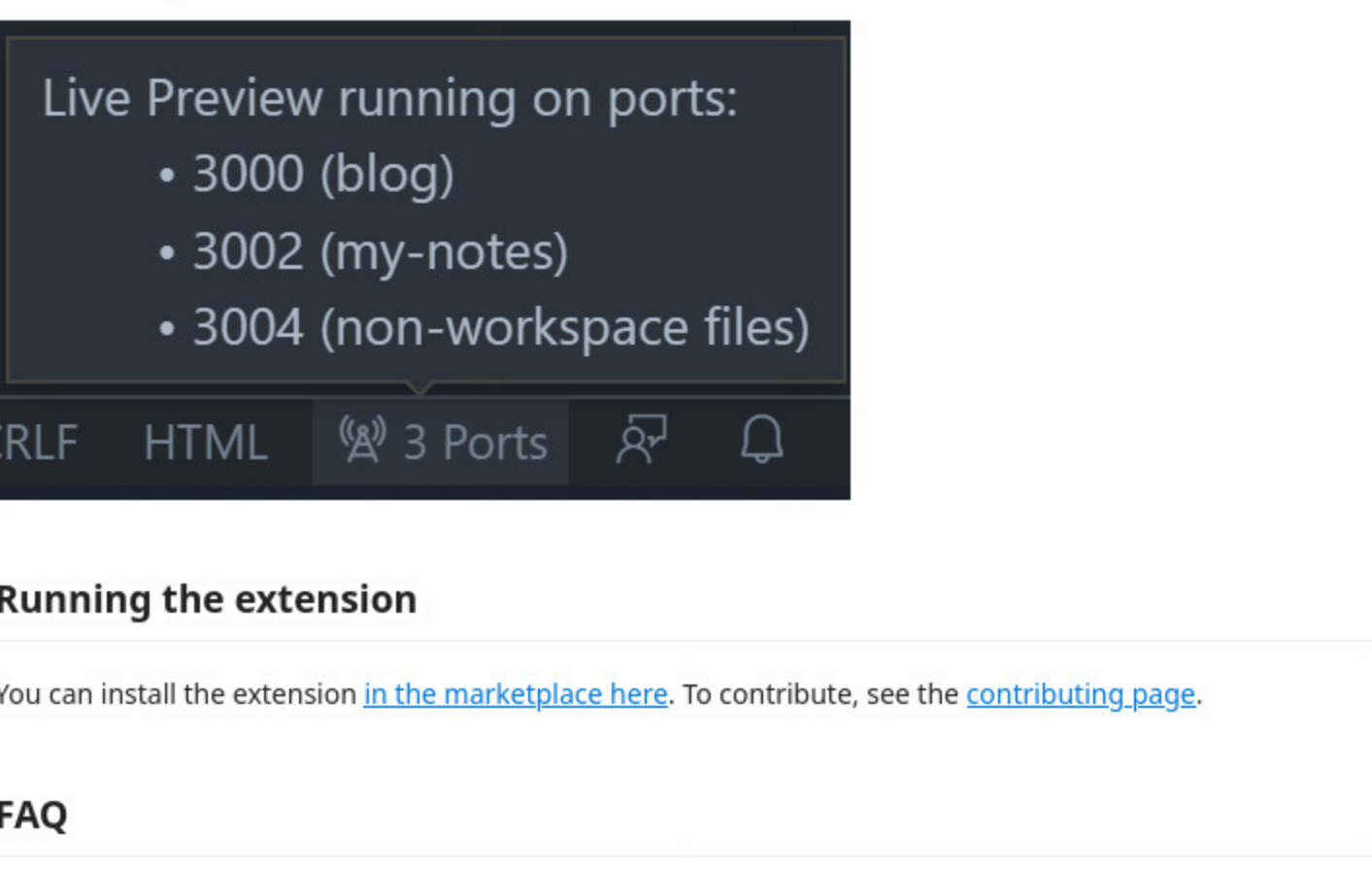


Notes about workspace-less extension use:

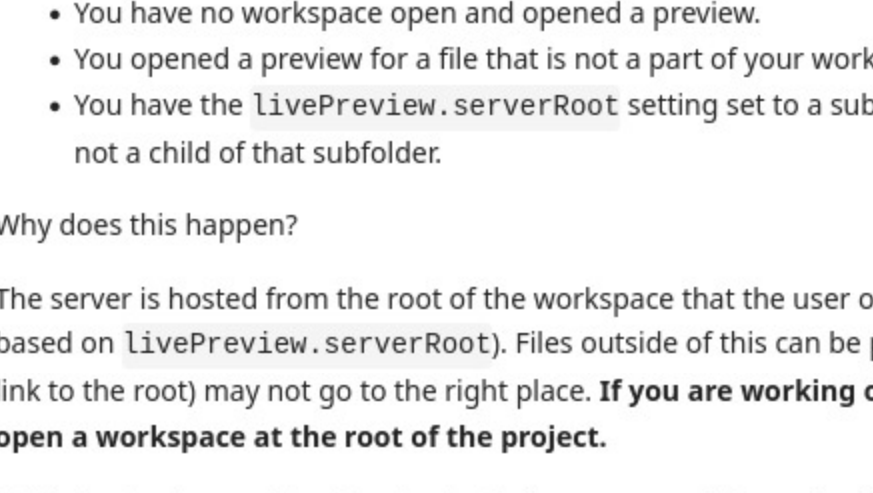
- Files without a workspace will be served on its own server instance and will use its absolute path as the file path.
- Linked files for these pages may not be correct if they are relative to a specific root (e.g. a project root).
- Tasks do not work outside of a workspace, so a server will just launch in the background upon external preview when outside of a workspace. You can use the Live Preview: Stop Server command to kill the server in this case.

Multi-root Support

Live Preview works cleanly with your multi-root workspaces! It will simply open an additional server for each root that you open a preview on.



You can view the ports that are open for Live Preview by hovering the status bar indicator (usually located in the bottom-right corner of the window).



Running the extension

You can install the extension [in the marketplace here](#). To contribute, see the [contributing page](#).

FAQ

Q. Why does the "Previewing a file that is not a child of the server root. To see or fully correct relative file links, please open a workspace at the project root or consider changing your server root settings for Live Preview." message mean?

A. Either:

- You have no workspace open and opened a preview.
- You opened a preview for a file that is not a part of your workspace(s).
- You have the LivePreview.serverRoot setting set to a sub-folder in your workspace and your file is not a child of that subfolder.

Why does this happen?

The server is hosted from the root of the workspace that the user opens (or a subfolder of the workspace based on LivePreview.serverRoot). Files outside of this can be previewed, but some file paths (such as a link to the root) may not go to the right place. If you are working on a web project, it is advised that you open a workspace at the root of the project.

Q. I'm trying to use Live Preview in Codespaces and the embedded preview isn't working.

A. Currently, you will need to manually navigate to the links host the forwarded port content before it works. In the area of the editor where the integrated terminal usually is, navigate to Ports and open the local addresses (usually at ports 3000 and 3001) in the browser. You can do this by using CTRL+Click on the URLs in the Ports menu.

Allow the browser to perform the necessary redirects, then close the windows. Re-open the preview window and it should work now.

Q. Why does my external browser preview look different than the preview in the embedded browser preview?

A. Aspects such as styling might look different based on the browser cache and your external browser or any other client-side state. Try clearing your cache and restarting your browser.

Inspirations

Special thanks to the following extensions for inspiring Live Preview!

- Live Sener
- Five Server

Issue Tracking

Please file issues against the [VS Code Live Preview repository](#).

Changelog

See the project's changelog [here](#).

Categories

Other

Tags

browser | html | live | livepreview | preview

Works with

Universal

Resources

Issues
Repository
Homepage
License
Changelog

Project Details

microsoft/vscode-livepreview
Last Commit: 4 months ago
12 Pull Requests
152 Open Issues

More Info

Version: 0.5.2025091501
Released on: 6/21/2021, 10:33:59 PM
Last updated: 9/15/2025, 12:20:51 PM
Publisher: Microsoft
Unique Identifier: ms-vscode.live-server
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