

Live Preview Preview

Microsoft [microsoft.com](#) | 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](#)

Categories

Other

Tags

browser [html](#) [live](#) [livepreview](#) [preview](#)

refresh [reload](#)

Works with

Universal

Resources

[Issues](#)

[Repository](#)

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[License](#)

[Changelog](#)

Project Details

[microsoft/vscode-livepreview](#)

[Last Commit](#) 4 months ago

[12 Pull Requests](#)

[152 Open Issues](#)

More Info

Version 0.5.2025091501

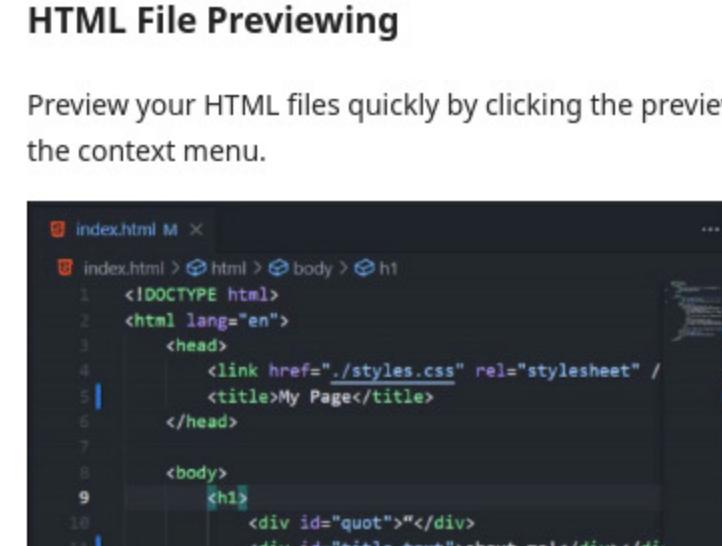
Released on 6/21/2021, 10:33:59 PM

Last updated 9/15/2025, 12:20:51 PM

Publisher Microsoft

Unique Identifier ms-vscode.live-server

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⚠ 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.

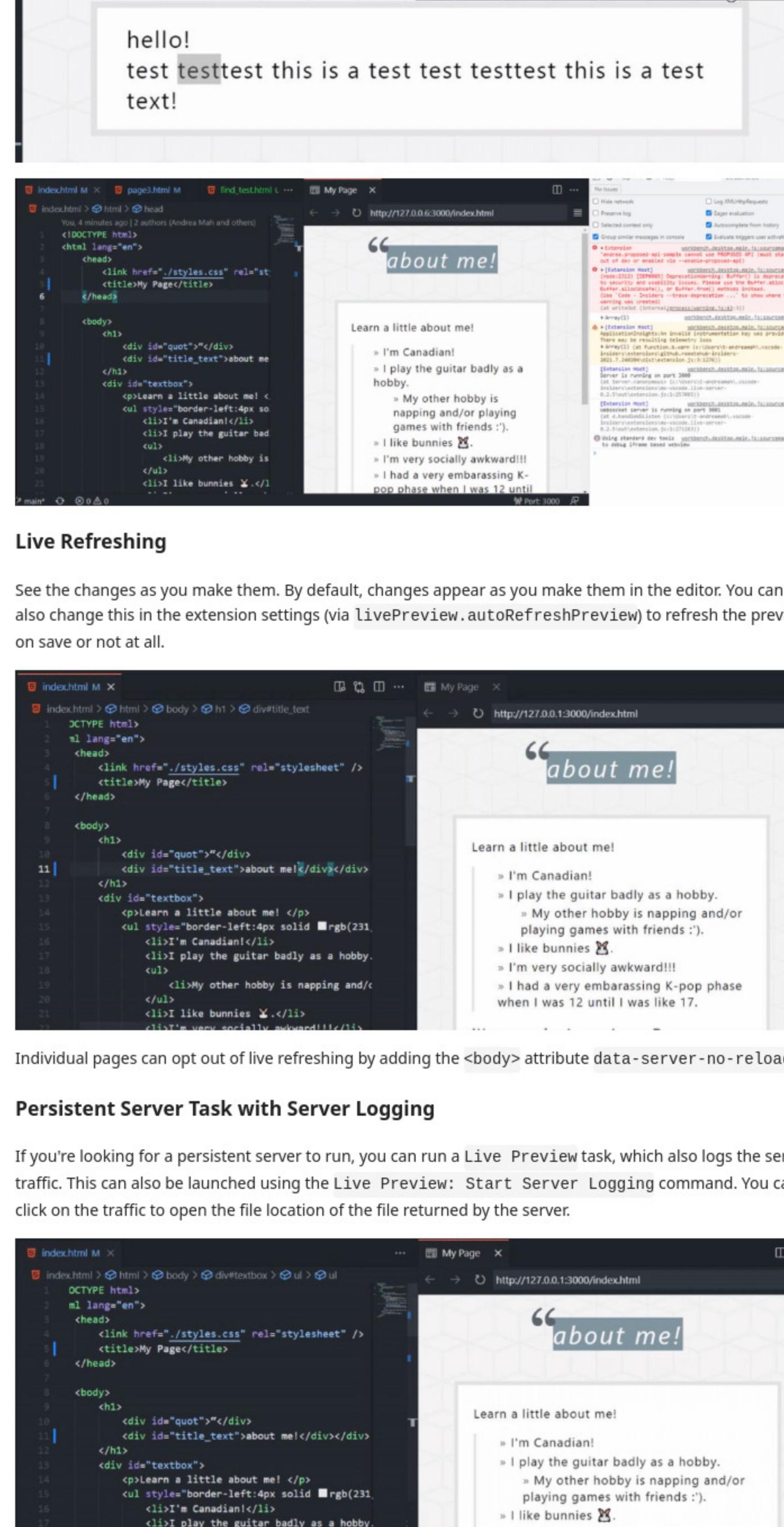
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Features

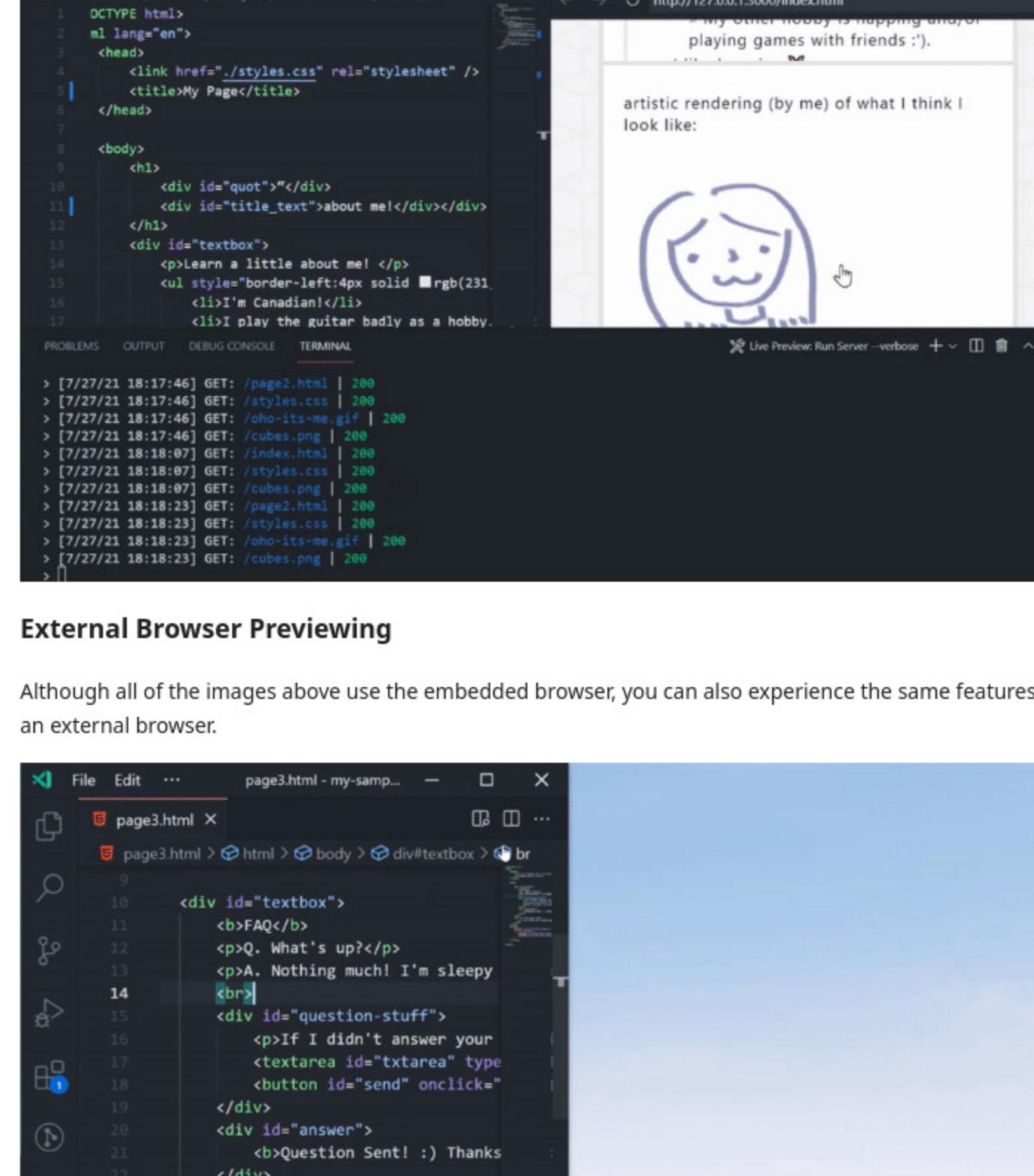
HTML File Previewing

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



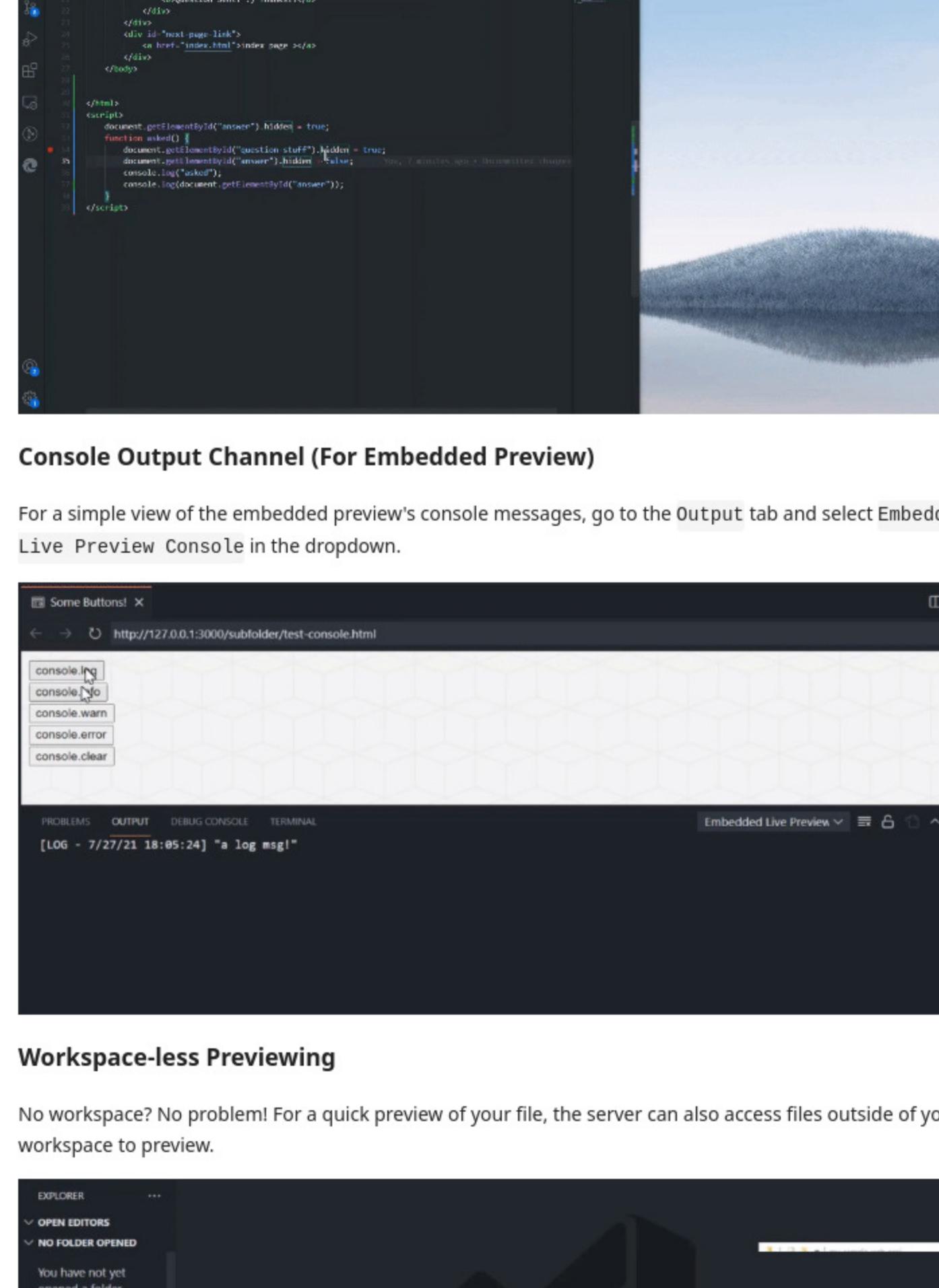
Embedded Preview

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



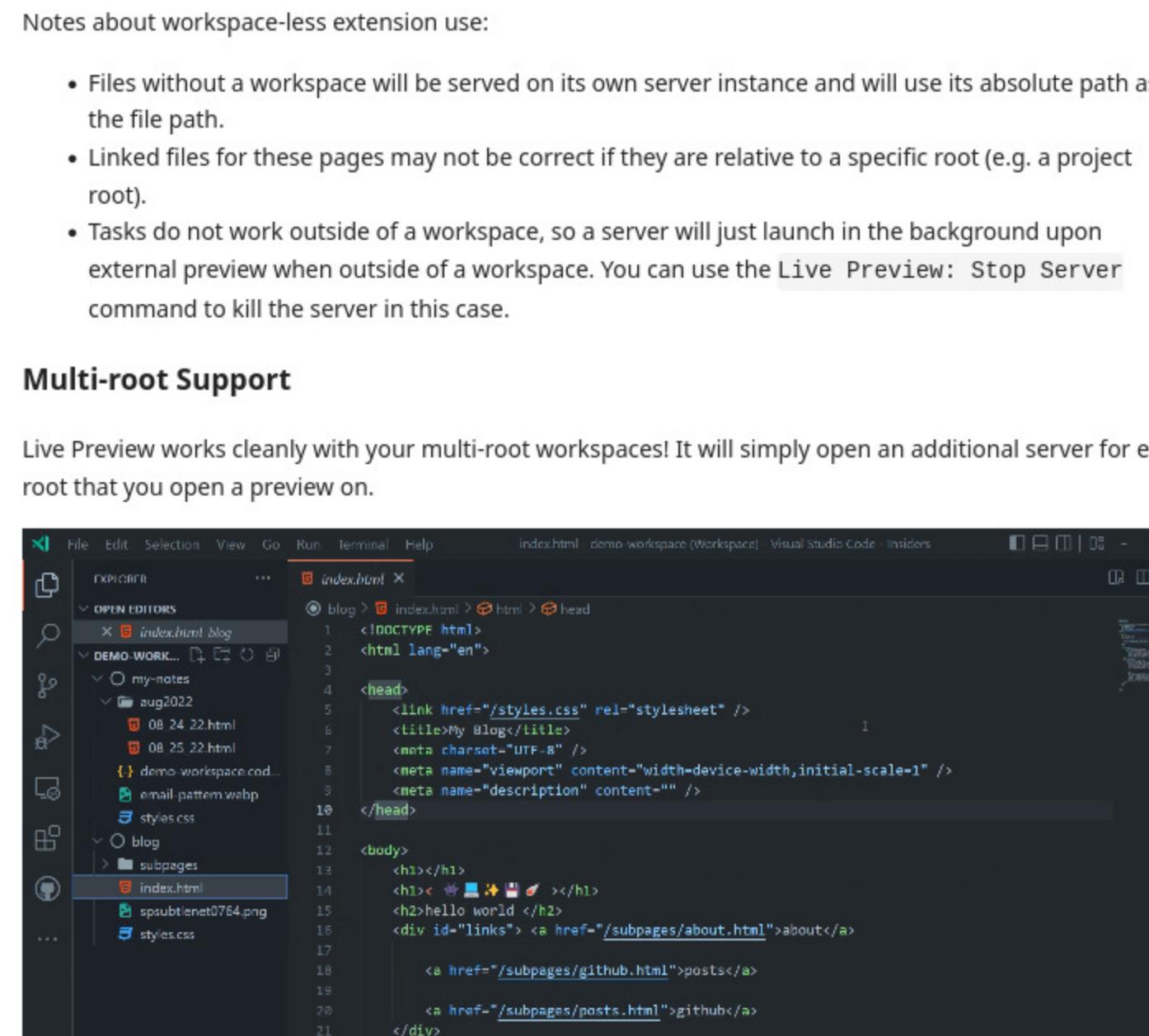
The simple embedded browser features the following:

- 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

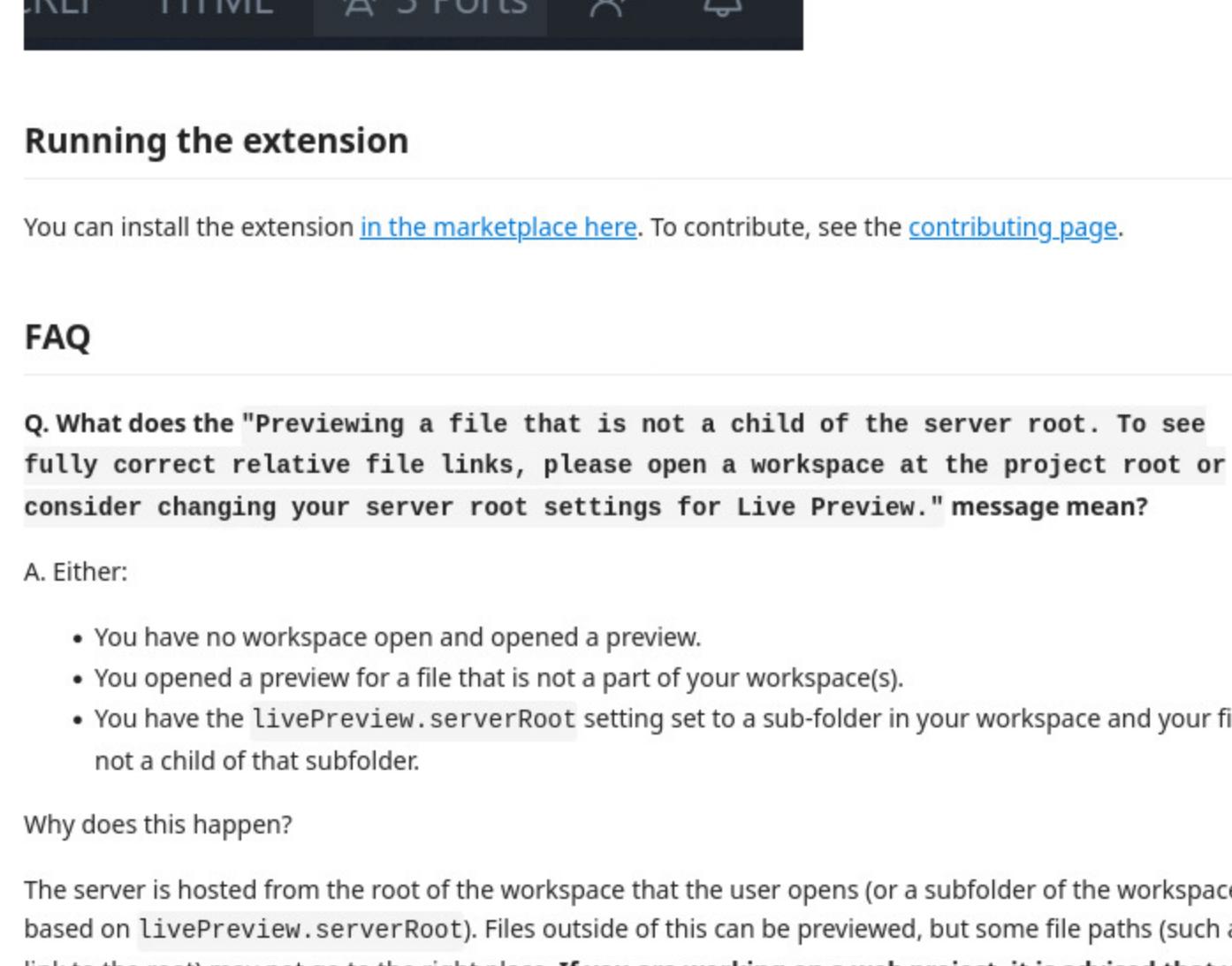
See the changes as you make them. By default, changes appear as you make them in the editor. You can also change this in the extension settings (via `livePreview.autoRefreshPreview`) to refresh the preview on save or not at all.



Individual pages can opt out of live refreshing by adding the `<body>` attribute `data-server-no-reload`.

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.

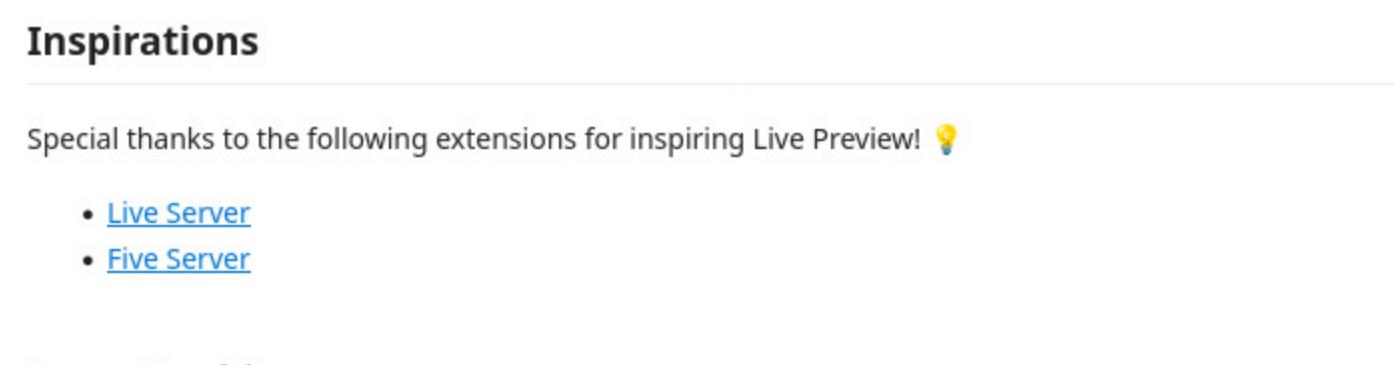


Individual pages can opt out of live refreshing by adding the `<body>` attribute `data-server-no-reload`.

You can edit the preview target in the extension settings.

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 `is-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.

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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.

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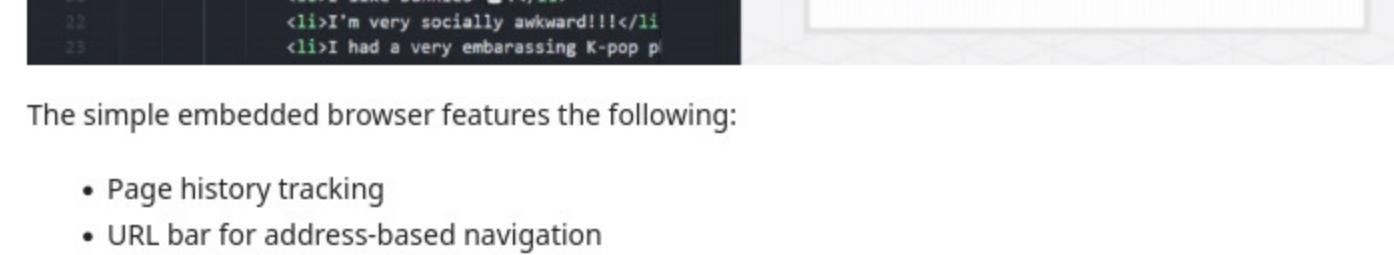
Workspace-less Previewing

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



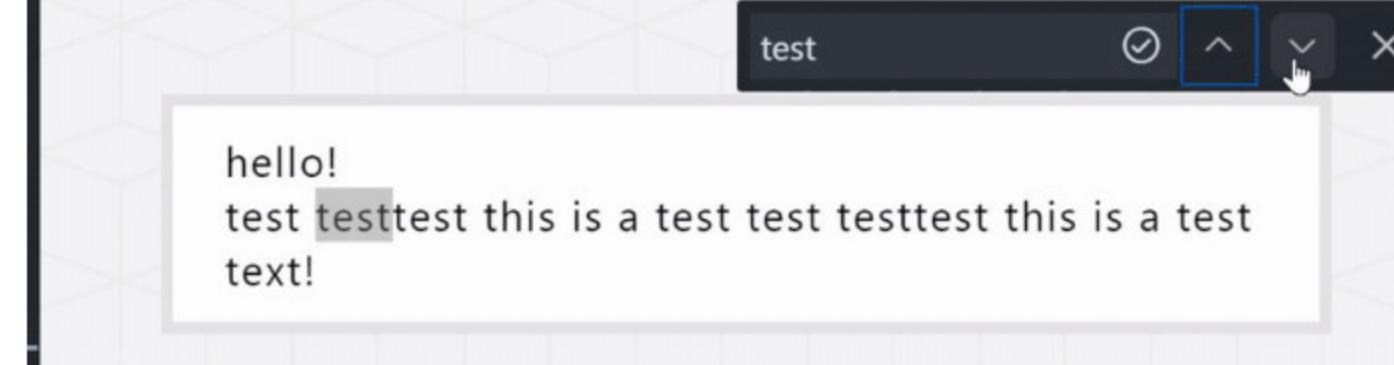
Notes about workspace-less extension use:

- 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

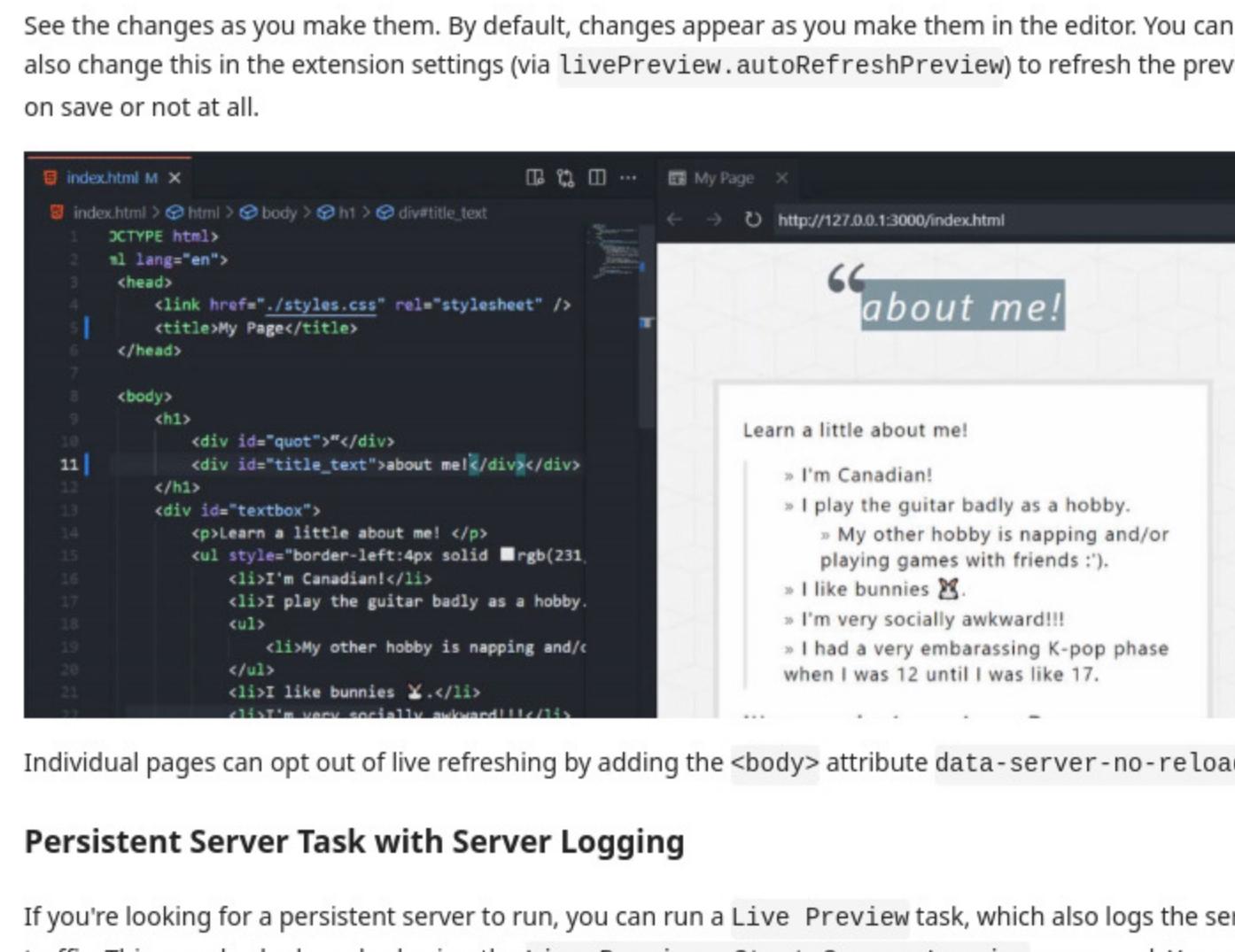
Live Preview works cleanly with your multi-root workspaces! It will simply open an additional server for each root that you open a preview on.



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Persistent Server Task with Server Logging

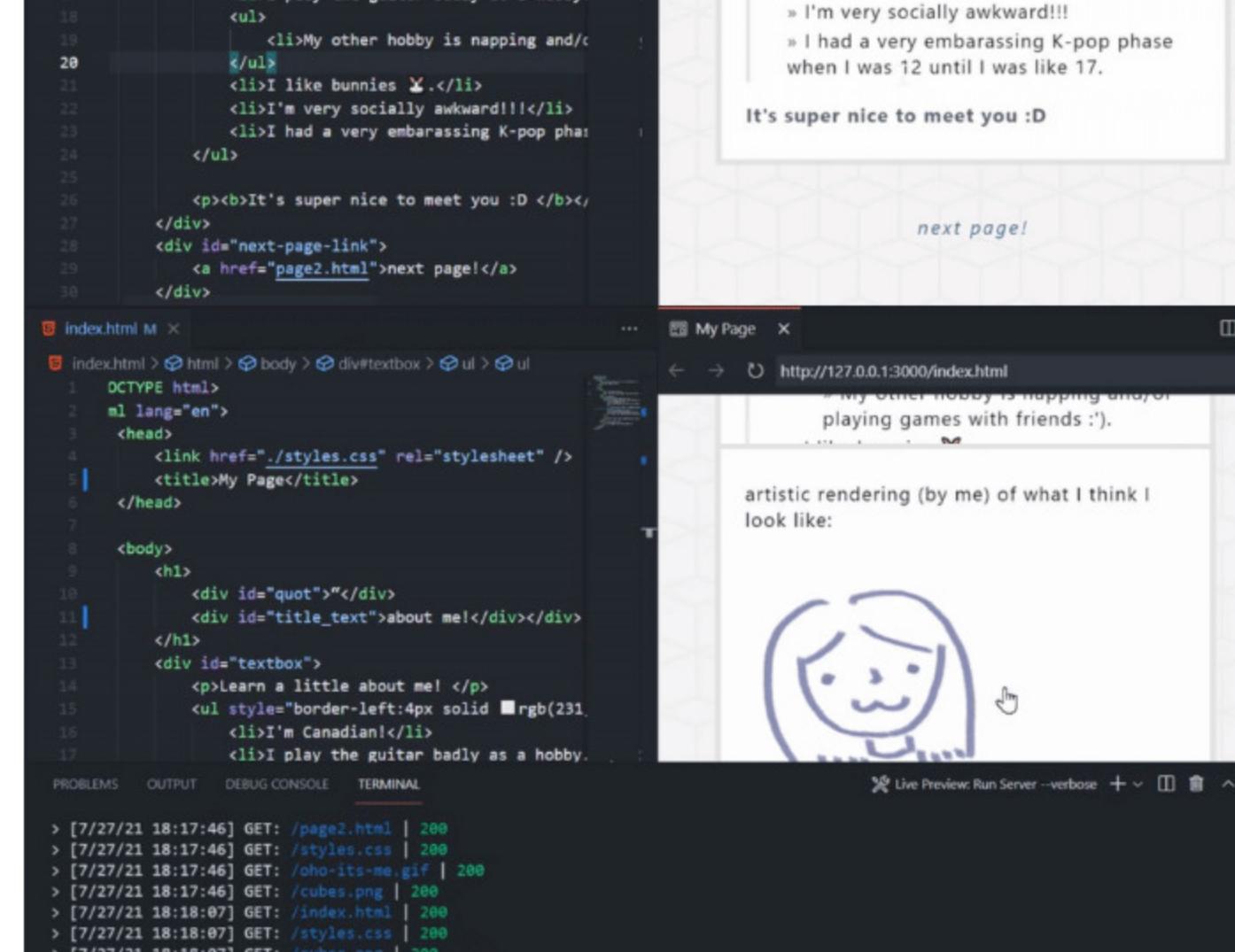
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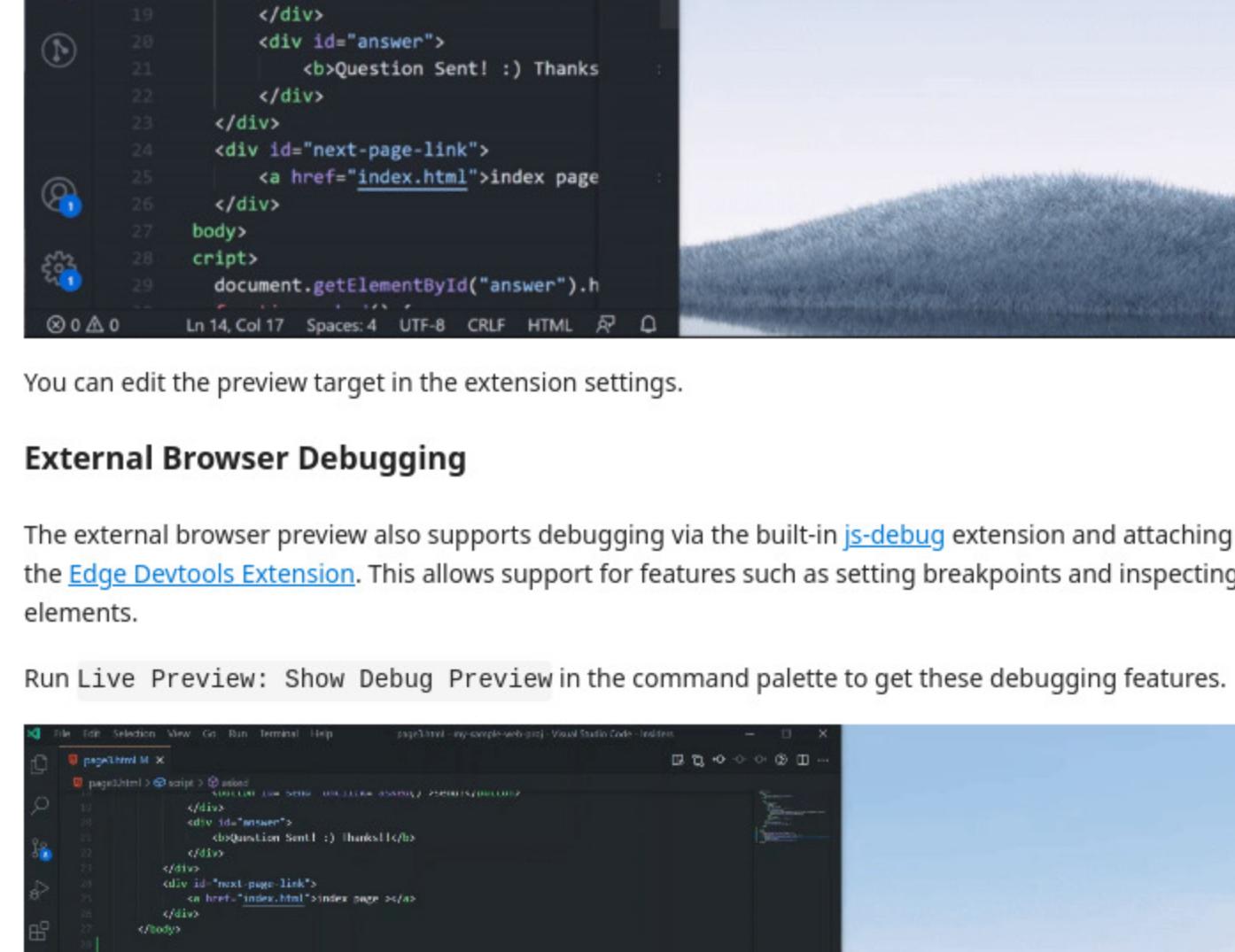


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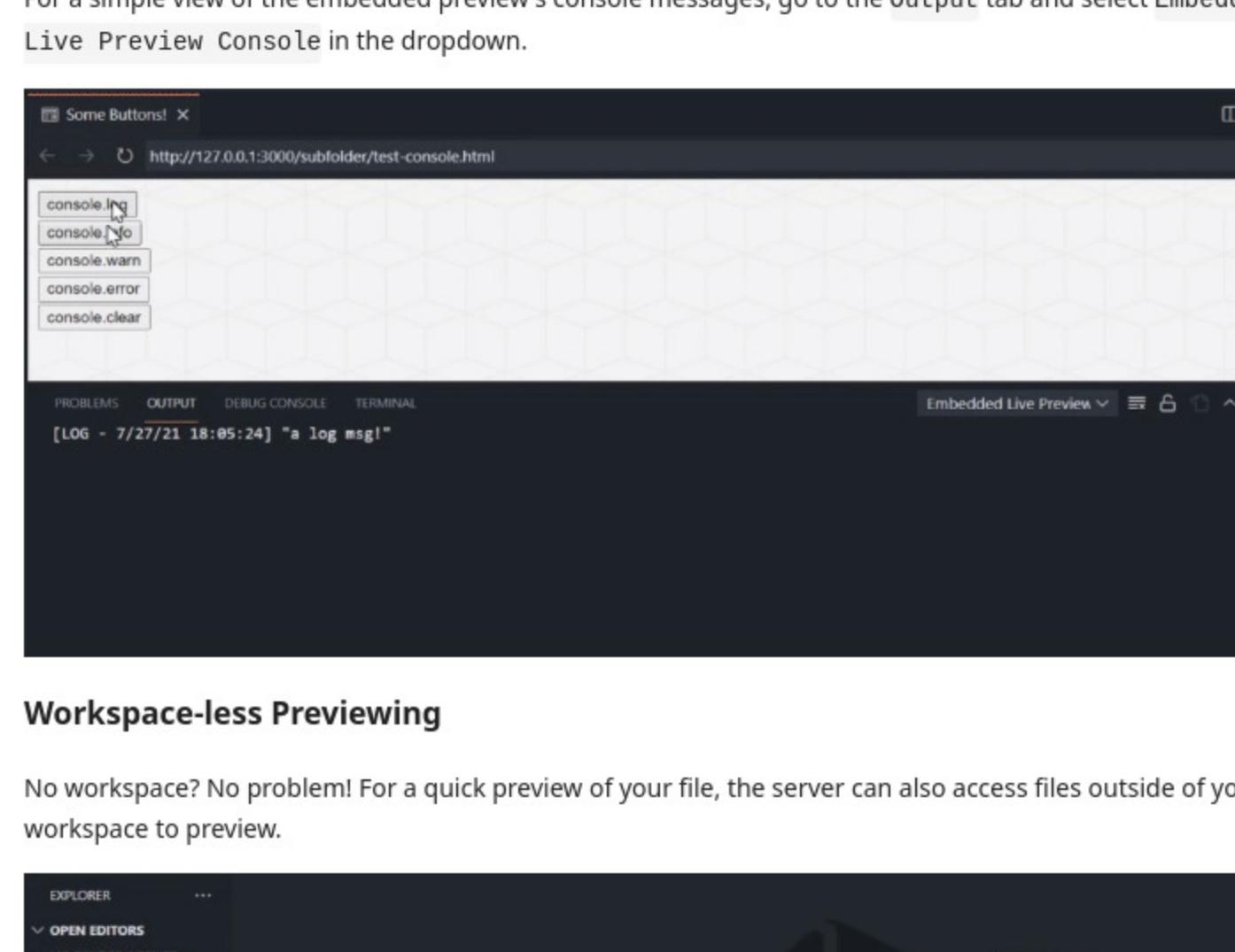
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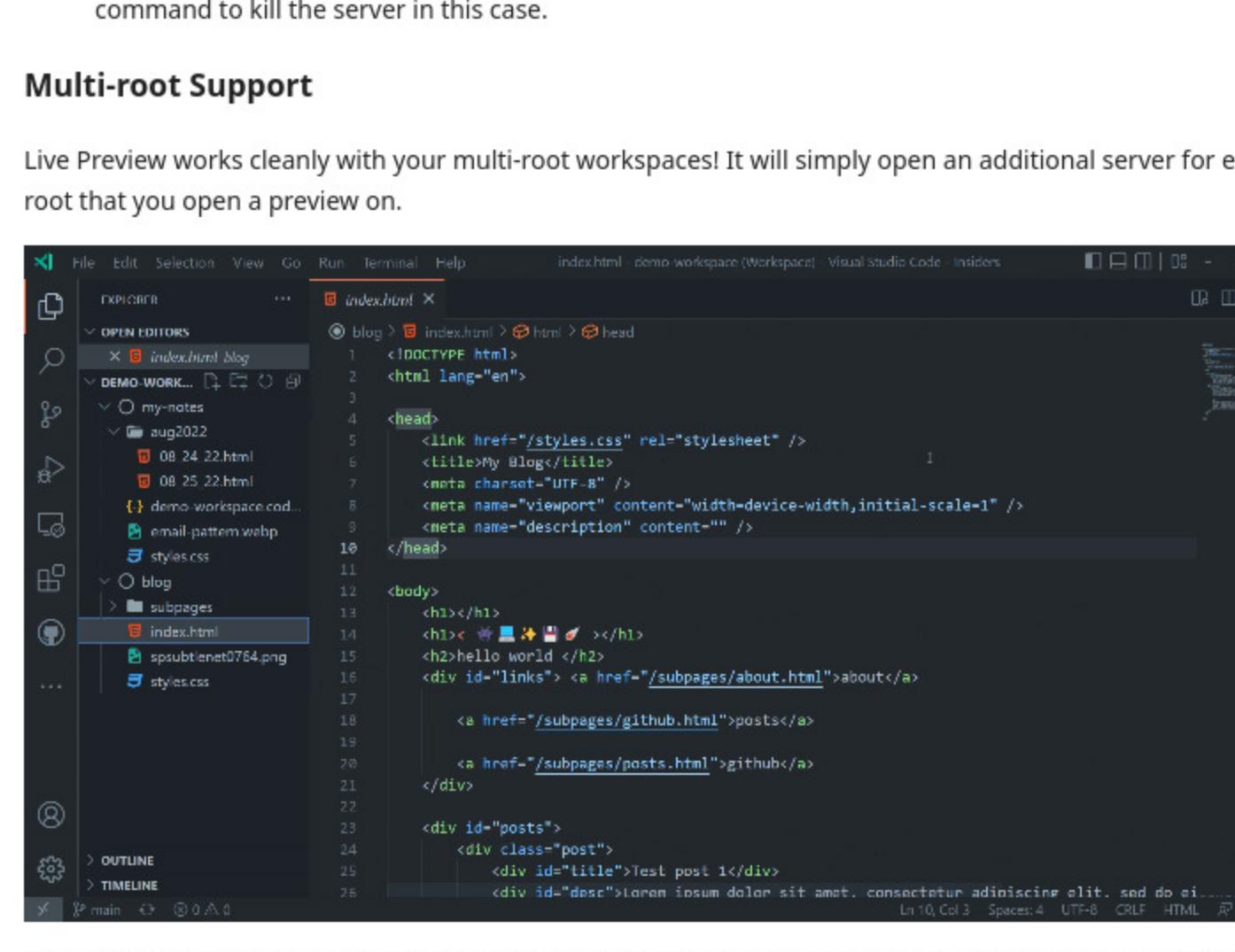
Please file issues against the [VS Code Live Preview repository](#).

Changelog

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

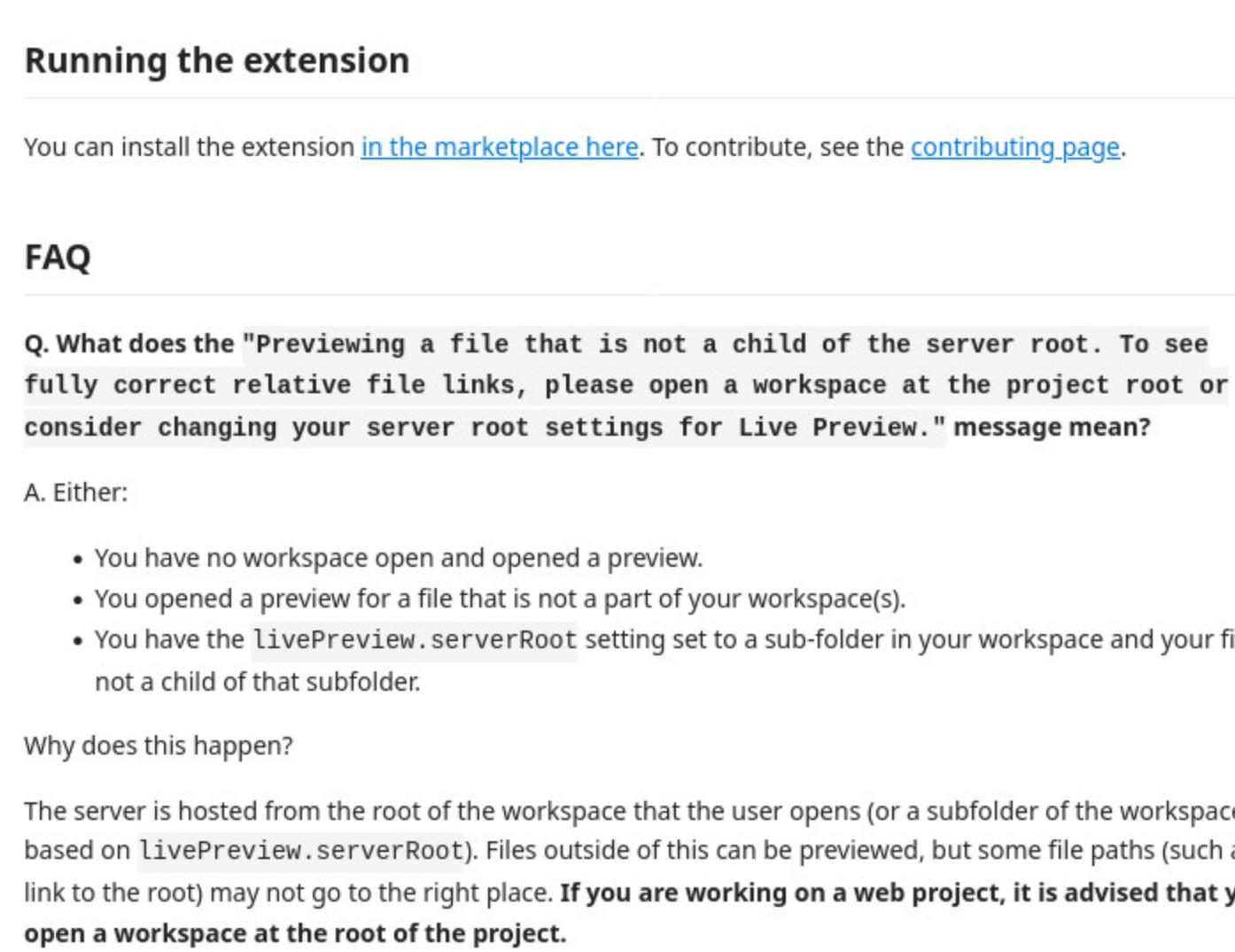
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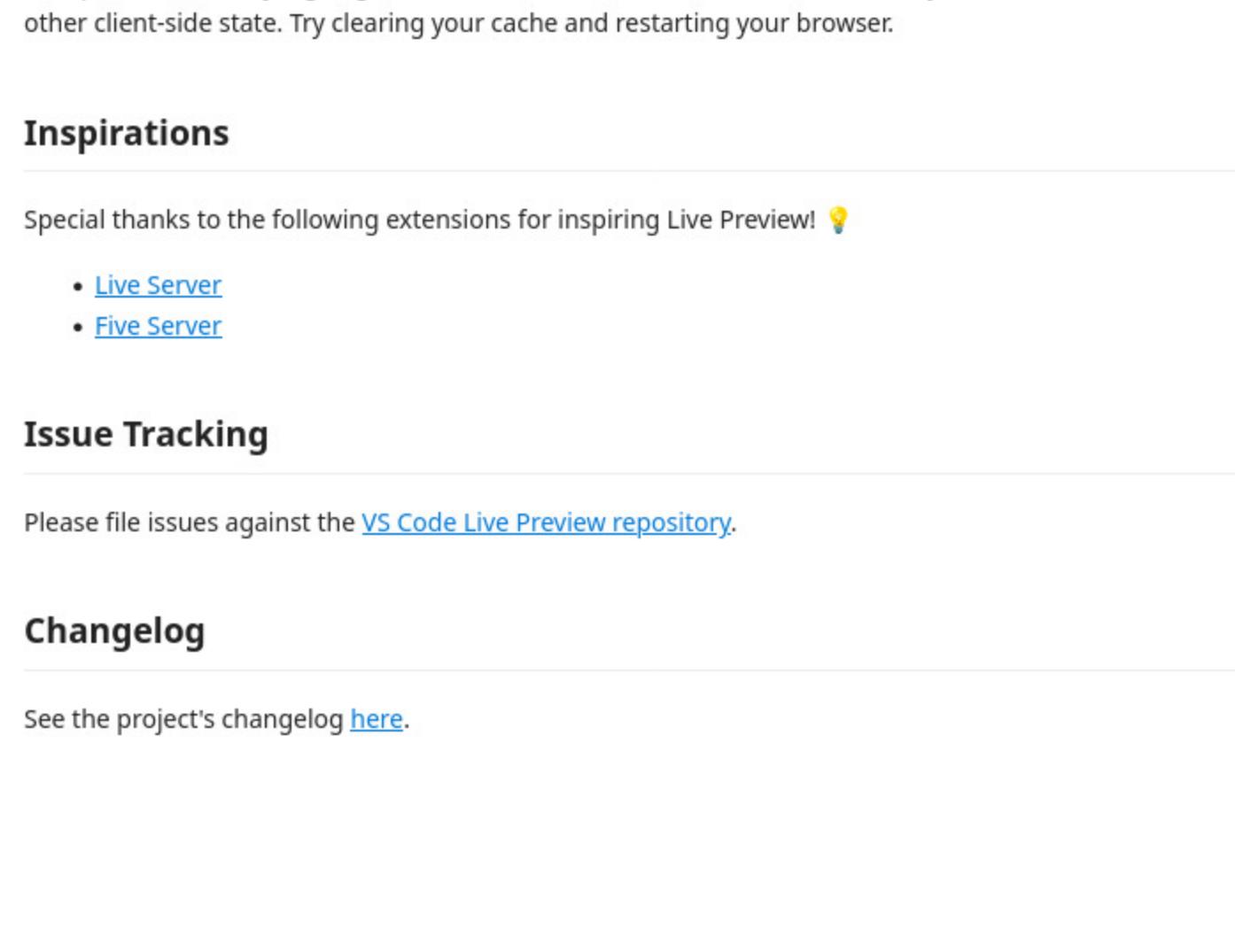
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