

Installing Visual Studio Code in Portable Mode (Windows)
This guide shows you how to download, extract, and set up Visual Studio Code (VS Code) in **portable mode**, so that all settings and extensions are stored locally in the same folder as VS Code. This makes VS Code "self-contained" and easy to move to different machines or drives without leaving traces in the operating system.

1. Download the VS Code Zip Package

1. **Go to the official VS Code download page**:
[<https://code.visualstudio.com/download>] (<https://code.visualstudio.com/download>)
2. **Make sure to pick the *.zip* download for the correct architecture (x64).**
3. **Click the "ZIP" link** (for 64-bit, if that's your platform) to download.
- Example file name might be something like `VSCode-win32-x64-1.XX.X.zip`.

2. Extract VS Code to a Folder of Your Choice

1. **Pick a folder** where you want to run VS Code from, e.g. `D:\vscode\`.
- You can also choose a USB drive or any other location.
2. **Extract the ZIP** contents into that folder. When done, you should see files like:

3. Create the "data" Folder for True Portable Mode

By default, VS Code stores your extensions and settings in your user profile folder. To make it **fully portable**, do the following:

1. In the same directory where **Code.exe** is located, **create a new folder** named `data`.
2. The structure should now look like this:
3. **That's it!** VS Code will now read and write all user data (settings, extensions, etc.) in the `data` folder.

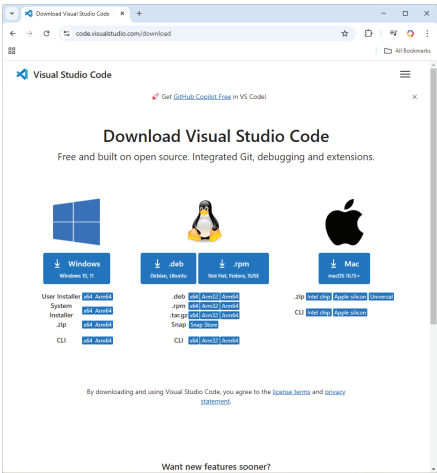
Screenshot (Conceptual)

4. Launch VS Code in Portable Mode

1. **Double-click** on `Code.exe` inside your portable folder to start VS Code.
2. **Check your settings and extensions**:
- Install or update an extension from **Extensions** (on the left sidebar in VS Code).
- Go to **File** > **Preferences** > **Settings** and change something.

These changes should appear in the `data` folder, confirming that VS Code is truly in **portable mode**.

Screenshot (Conceptual)



Create a Shortcut to VSCode on your desktop.

From your Desktop:

Right Click and choose "New", then "Shortcut", point the shortcut to D:\vscode\vscode.exe file.

Open VSCode

Run VSCode from your desktop. Be sure to open a command prompt and test node and npm are running correctly.

