

Trends or illusions ? Stack Overflow Survey Discovery



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As a developer, you may feel some trends are happening based on your intuition or experience. But, is it a real trend or just an illusion? To answer this question, we need data to tell its story.

Since 2011, Stack Overflow conducted developer survey examining all aspects of the developer experiences around the world. It covers career satisfaction, education and opinions on open source software, etc.

Here, I list three questions I'm interested in. In this article, I'll share my findings below. Here are my questions :

- **What are the top 5 popular languages from 2018 to 2019 ?**
- **What is the most popular version control tool in 2018 ?
What percentage does it take ?**
- **What is the most popular IDE from 2017 to 2019 ?**

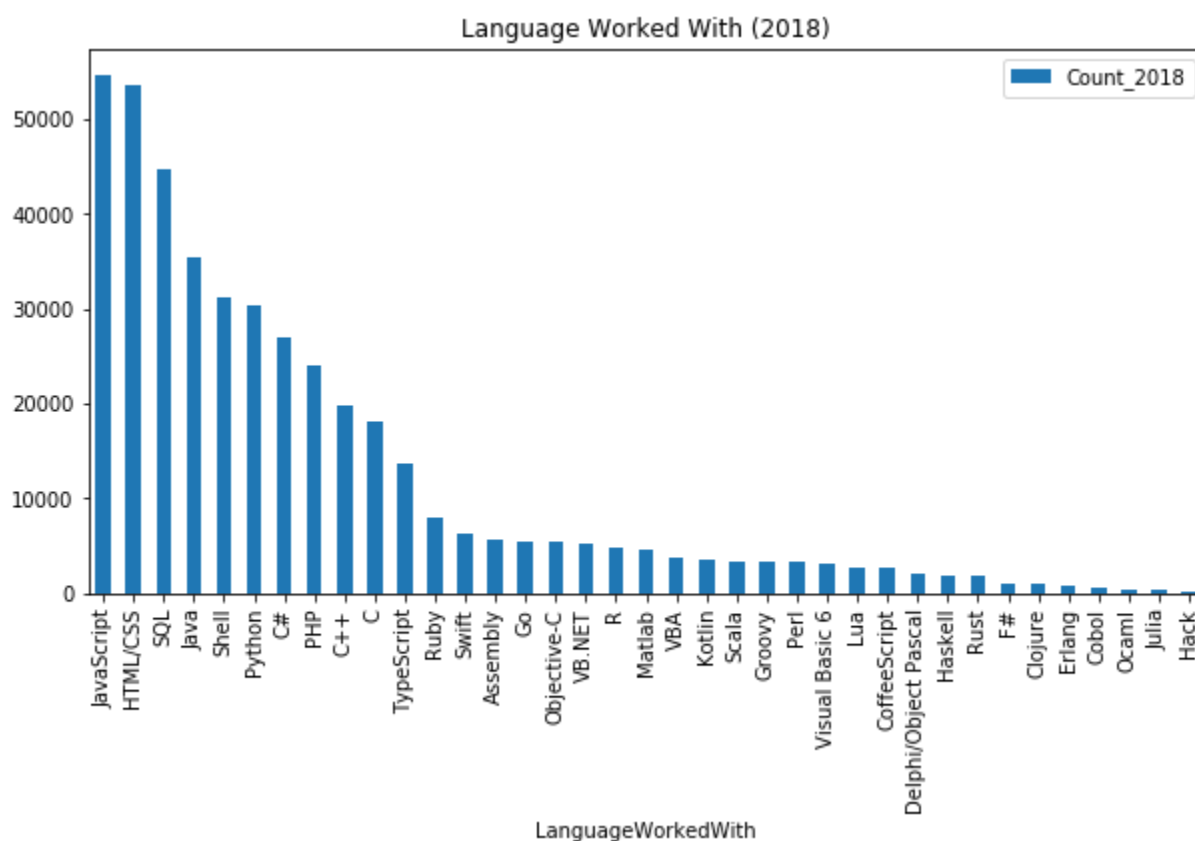
You may guess the results before reading. Let's go !

. . .

What are the top 5 popular languages from 2018 to 2019 ?

When we look into data in 2018, the top 5 popular languages are :

1. Javascript
2. HTML/CSS
3. SQL
4. Java
5. Shell



On the other hand, the top 5 popular languages in 2019 are :

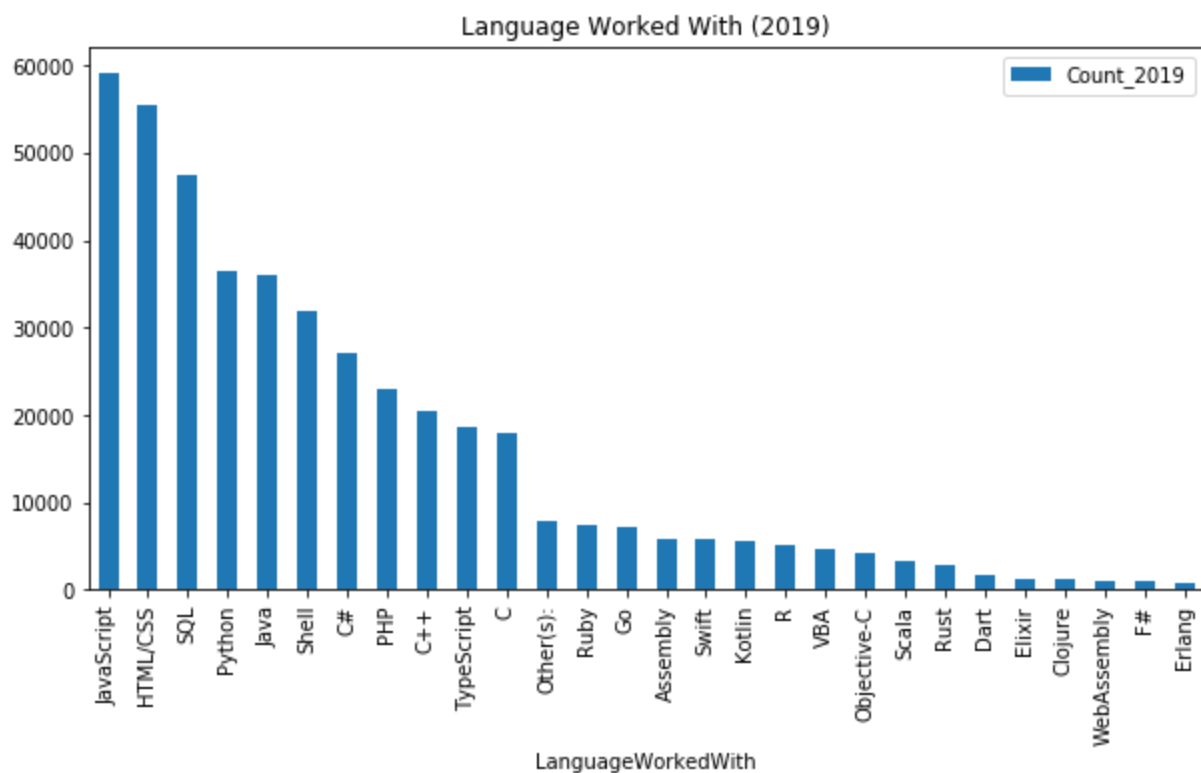
1. Javascript

2. HTML/CSS

3. SQL

4. Python

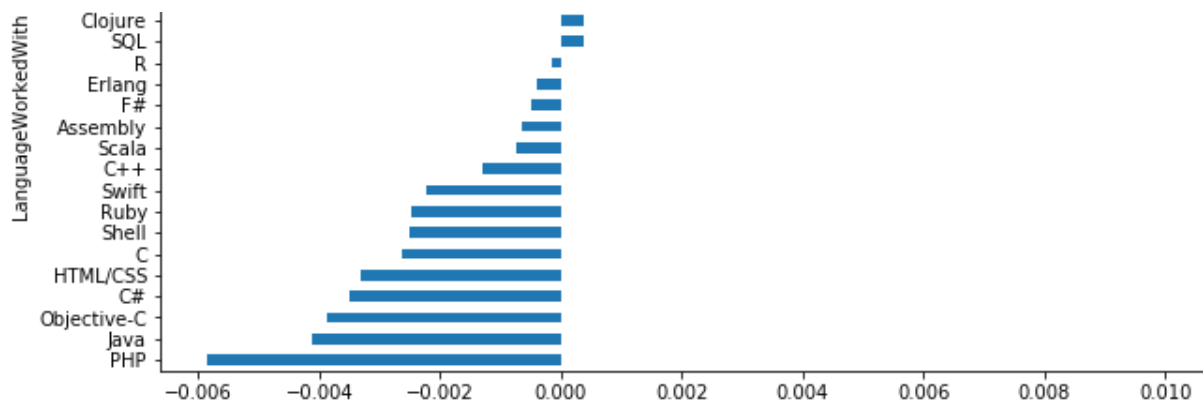
5. Java



It's noted that the top 3 popular languages remain the same, while **Python** replacing **Shell** in 2019.

We can analyze further by comparing the percentage difference of language worked with between 2018 and 2019.



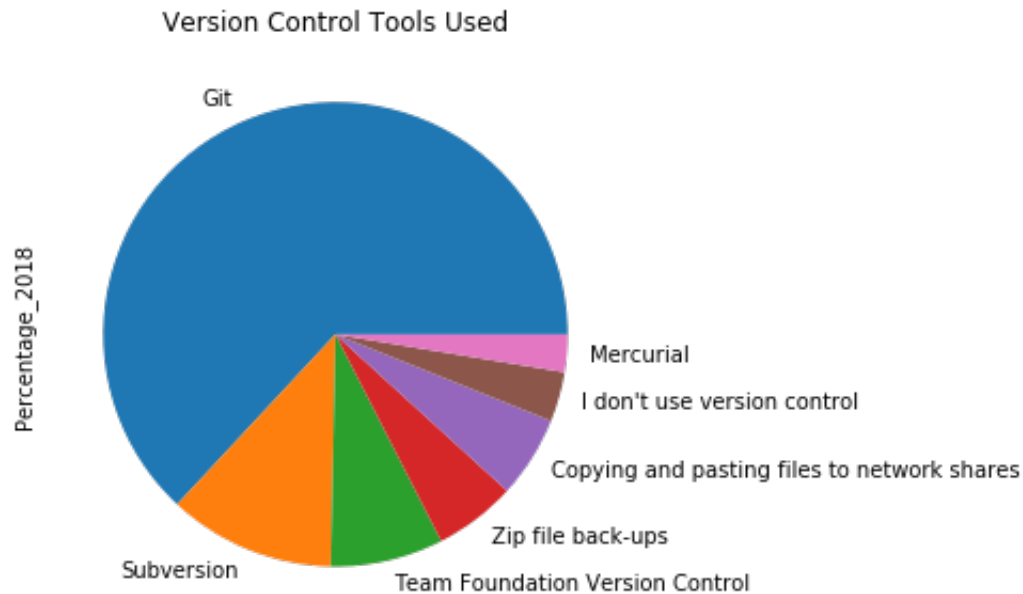


If 0.5% percentage difference is used as threshold, we can see **Python** and **TypeScript** are the most promising languages in 2019. On the other hand, **PHP** tends to be unpopular in 2019. It's not surprising that Python is one of the most promising language because most state of the art AI tools are developed based on it. But it's quite surprising for me about the growth of TypeScript and the decline of PHP.

What is the most popular version control tool in 2018 ? What percentage does it take ?

According to the data statistics in 2018, it's not surprising for developers that **Git** is the most popular version control tool.

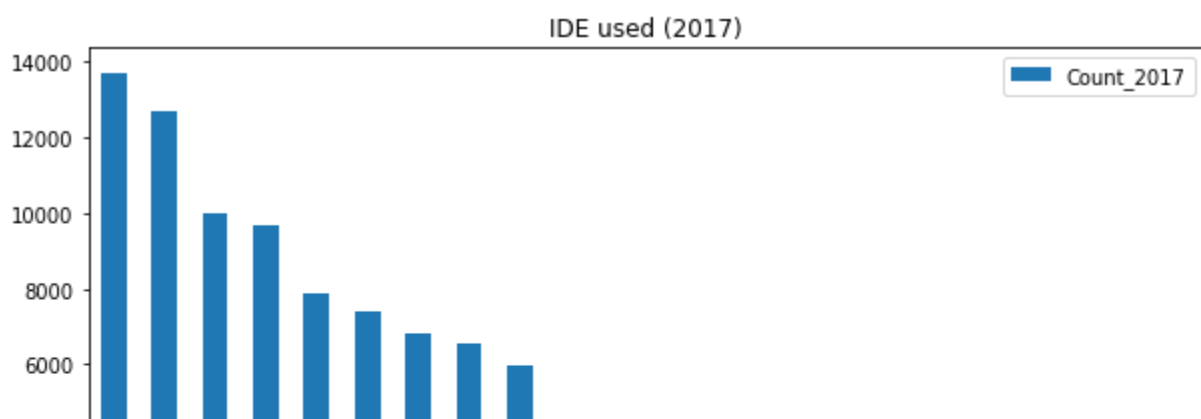
	Count_2018	Percentage_2018
VersionControl		
Git	64824	0.630682
Subversion	11936	0.116127
Team Foundation Version Control	8067	0.078485
Zip file back-ups	5869	0.057100
Copying and pasting files to network shares	5846	0.056877
I don't use version control	3562	0.034655

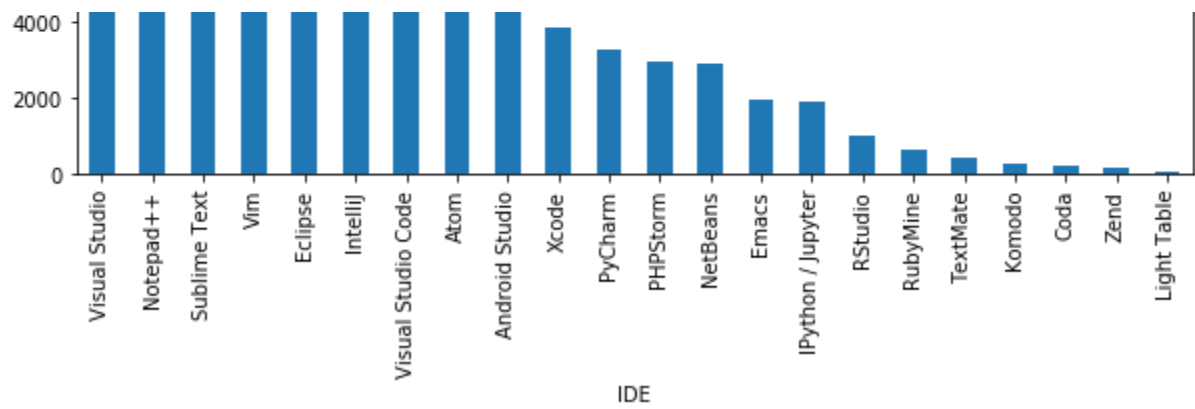


However, it's out of my expectation that **Git** accounts for **63%** and the runner-up, **Subversion**, only accounts for **11.6%**. What a huge difference !

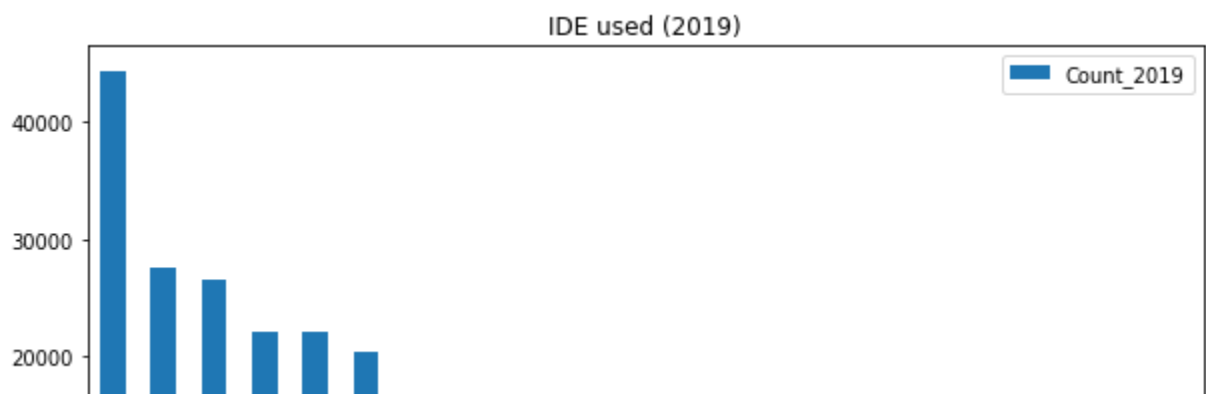
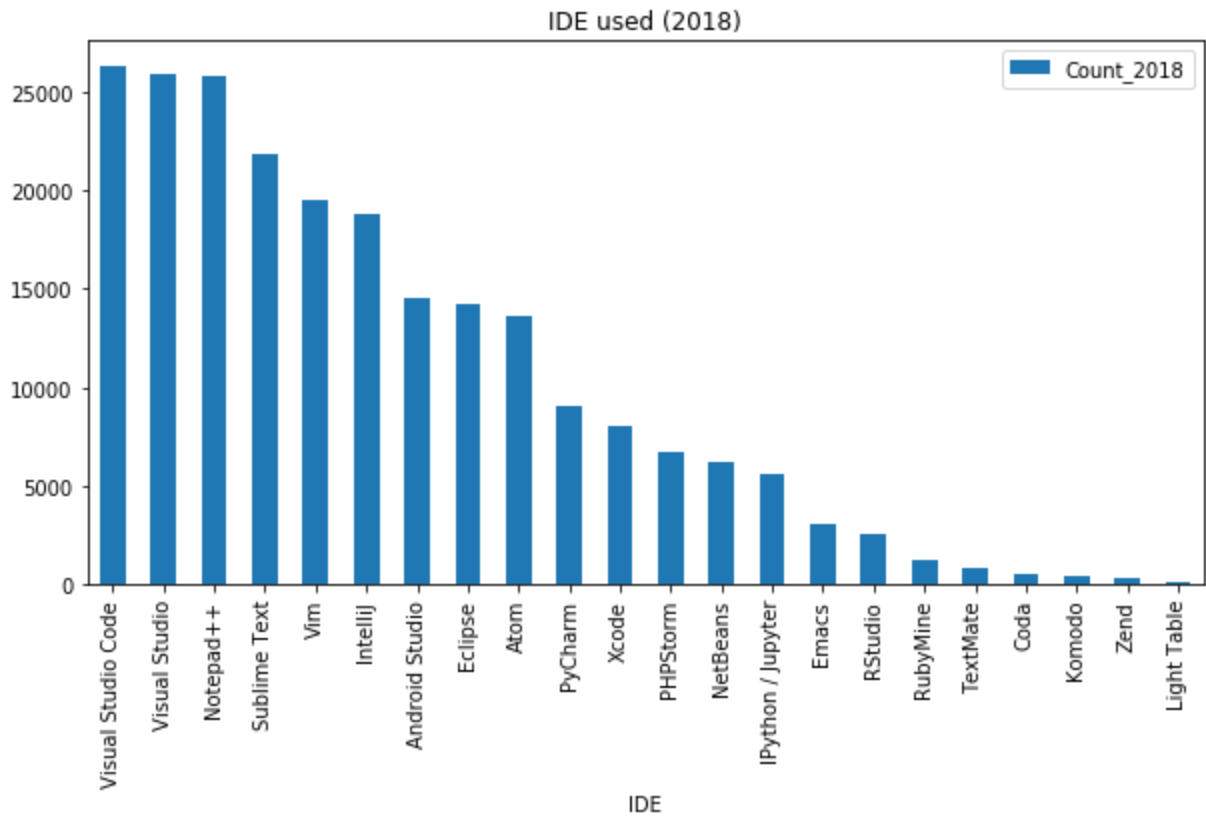
What is the most popular IDE from 2017 to 2019 ?

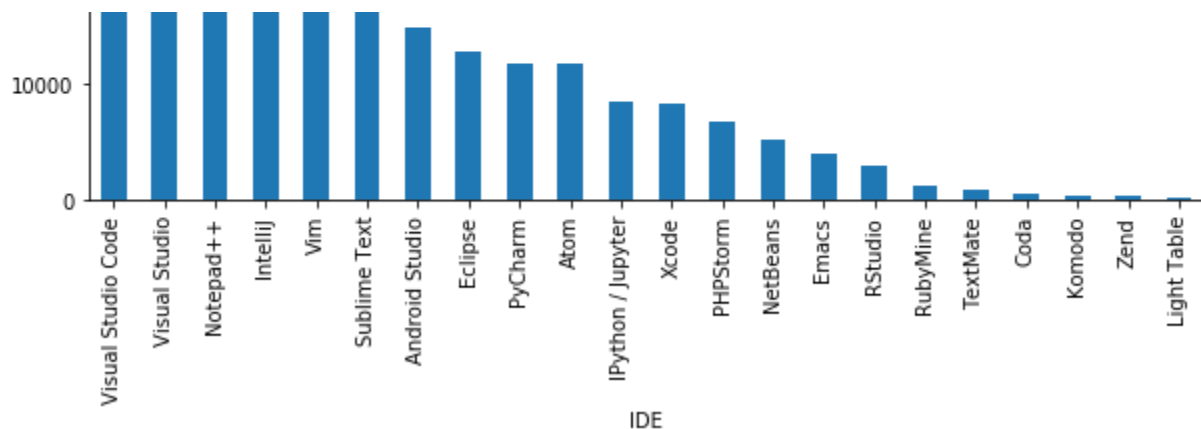
Based on bar charts, we can see the most popular IDE in 2017 is **Visual Studio**.



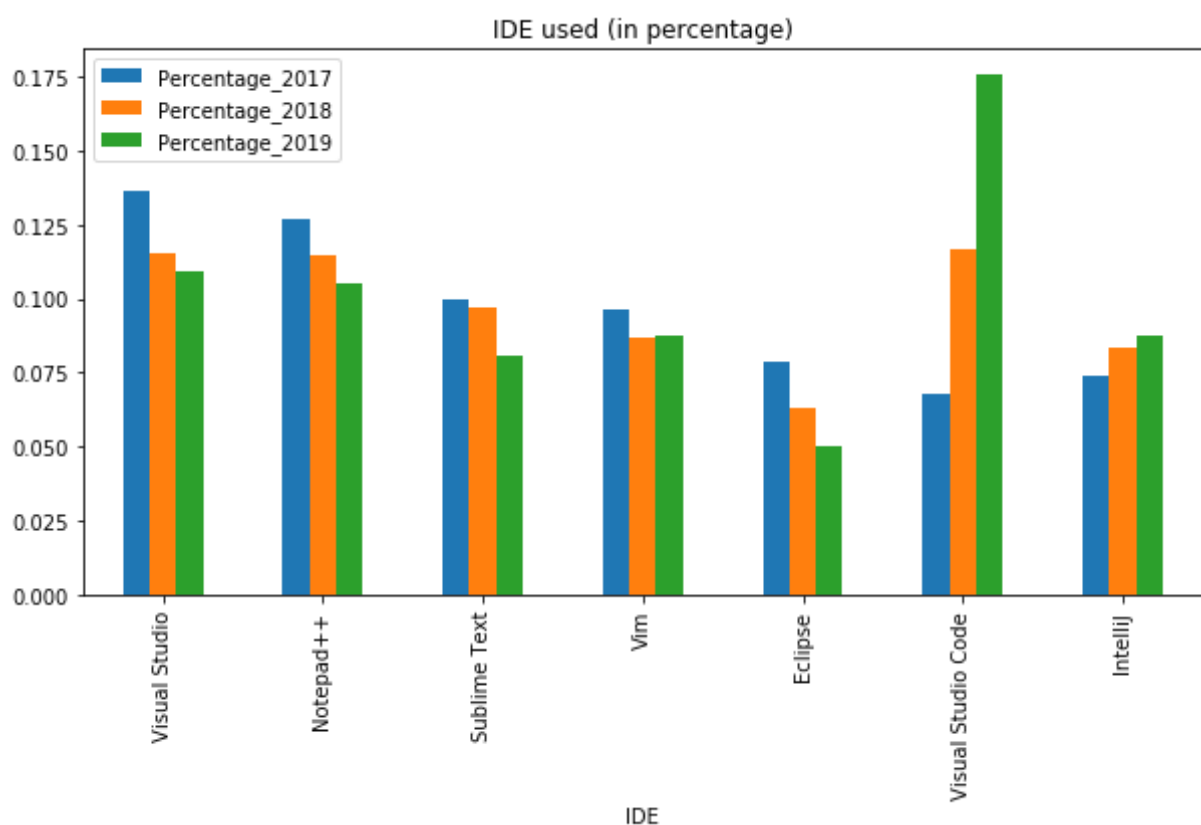


Just one year later, **Visual Studio Code** becomes the most popular IDE in 2018 and also in 2019.

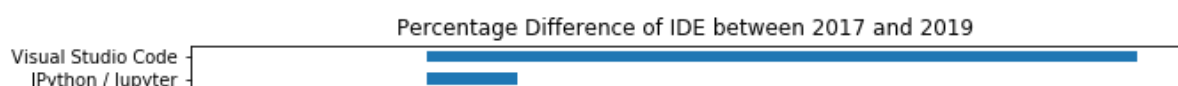


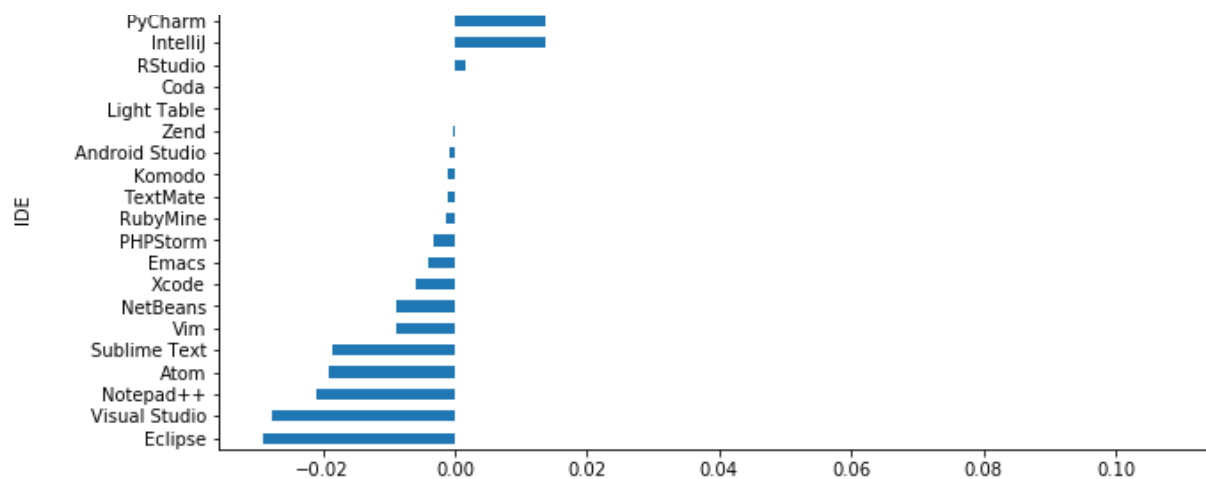


When we compare all top 5 popular IDEs from 2017 to 2019, we can see clearly how rapid **Visual Studio Code** grow.



If we only compare the difference between 2017 and 2019, **Visual Studio Code** get more than 10% growth. It's a huge growth compared to other IDEs.





Did you guess it right ?

- The top 5 popular language in 2018 are : Javascript, HTML/CSS, SQL, Java and Shell
- The top 5 popular language in 2019 are : Javascript, HTML/CSS, SQL, Python, Java
- The most popular version control tool in 2018 is Git, and it accounts for 63%
- The most popular IDE in 2017 is Visual Studio
- The most popular IDE in 2018 and 2019 is Visual Studio Code