Five Tips Every Admin Should Know about Visual Studio Code

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What Are We Going to Talk About?

Texas dreamin'

What is Visual Studio Code

Also known as VS Code

Free open source text editor that can be used to edit and analyze and manage files.

Configure, develop, backup, manipulate metadata files created by Salesforce

Terms

- Repos - Git / Bitbucket
  - Fancy name for place to store text files

- Command Pallet - Command / Control Shift + P
  - Replaces Command Line in Many Cases
  - Powerful tool that create the commands for you
  - Similar to the Setup menu in Salesforce

- Folder Scaffolding - same as Windows Explorer

- Code Editor / IDE - Notepad++, MavensMate, Sublime

- Extension - a bit of code or command that automates a task
  - Think Appexchange or App Store

Why Use Visual Studio Code?

- When used with the Salesforce CLI and Extensions written to solve specific problems one can do things other than simply write code.
- Move data between Salesforce Orgs
  - Individually or as a group of metadata
- Sign in and Open Salesforce Orgs
- Query Records
- Troubleshoot Issues
- Backup Salesforce Org Metadata

A practical addition to your toolbox

Navigating Visual Studio Code
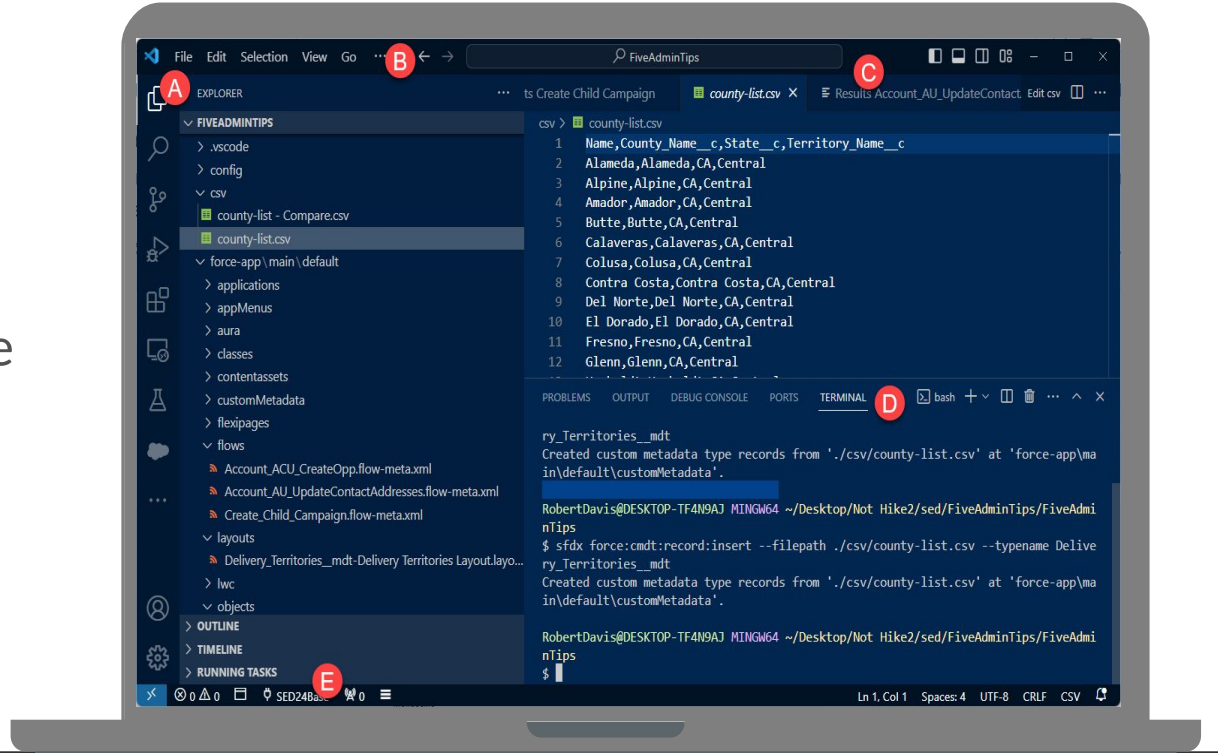
A – Activity Bar

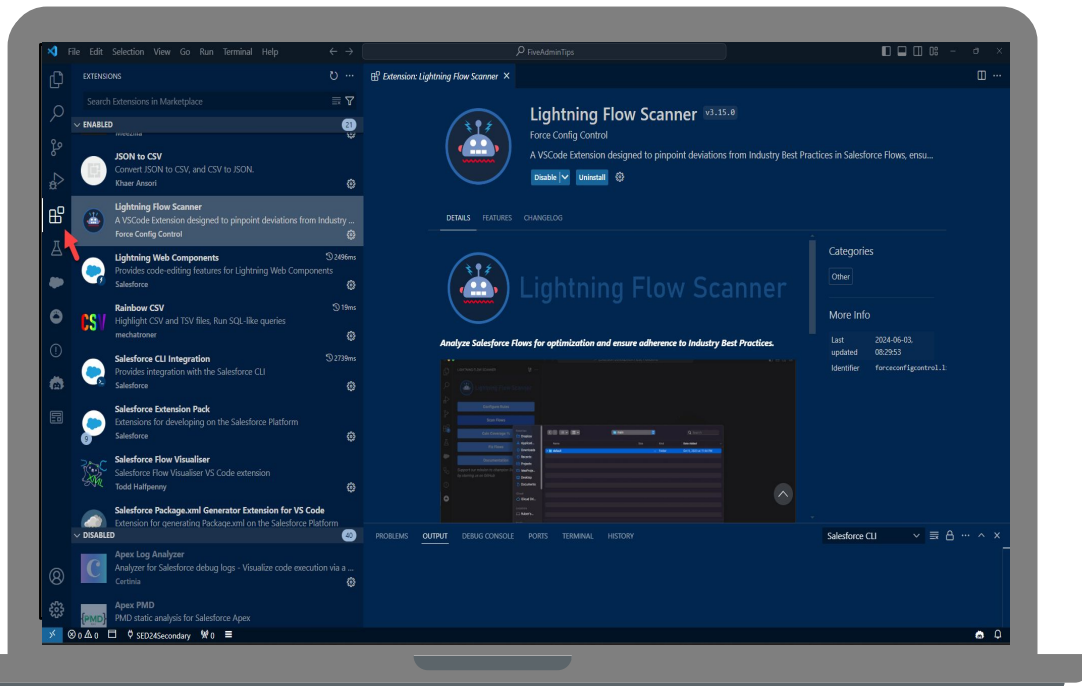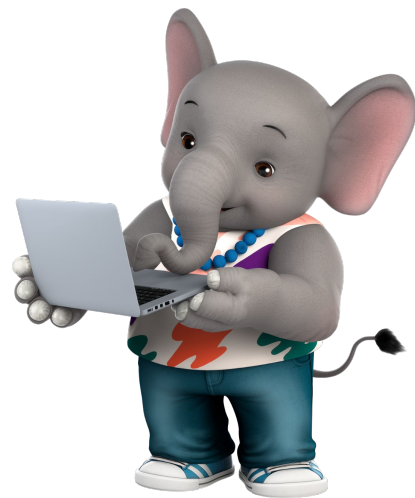B – Menu

C – Editor Groups

D – Command Line
/ Terminal

E - SideBar

Where do I find Extensions?

Where can I find and select extensions for installation

Moving Data between Salesforce Orgs

Retrieve

- Via Project Manifest

  Right click the package.xml file and select SFDX:Retrieve Source in Manifest from Org

- Individual Metadata

  Find in Org Browser in Visual Studio Code

  Select the object and select the little cloud icon beside its name.

Deploy

- Via Project Manifest

  Right click the package.xml file and select SFDX:Deploy Source in Manifest to Org

- Individual Metadata
- Right click the component and select SFDX: Deploy Source to Org

Where Can I use VS Code?

- Sandboxes
- Production
    - Will run all the test just like deploying with a Changeset
    - All same requirements as any other push into Production
- Extensions to help with deployments

Loading Data into Custom Metadata Objects

- Mass loading is not supported by Data Loader
- Loading in a few hundred records can be time consuming
- Usually to load territories or zips for some sort of Flow or Apex lookup
- Country Mappings
- Courthouse Mappings
- Command Line:

```
robert.davis_hike2@HIKE2-LT026 MINGW64 ~/Desktop/hike2/IDE Projects/one-view (main)
$ fdx force:cmdt:record:insert --filepath FIVEADMINTIPS/csv/county-list.csv --typename  Delivery_Territories__mdt
```
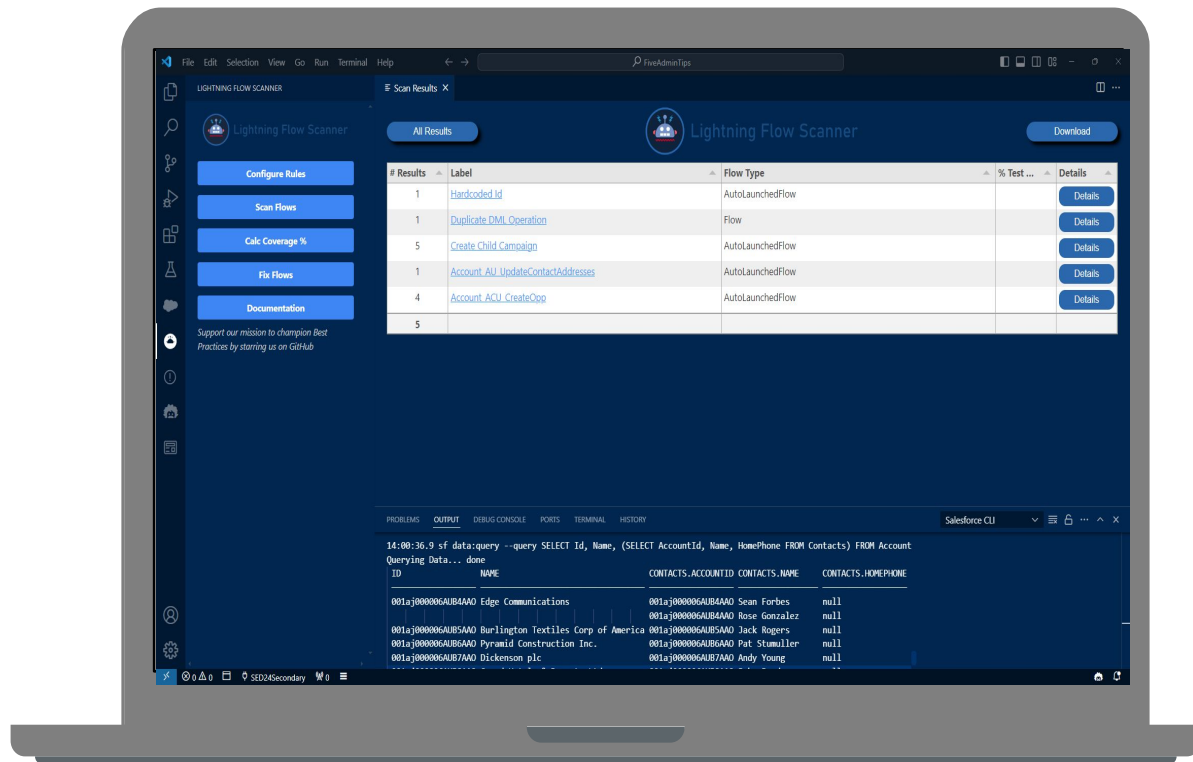
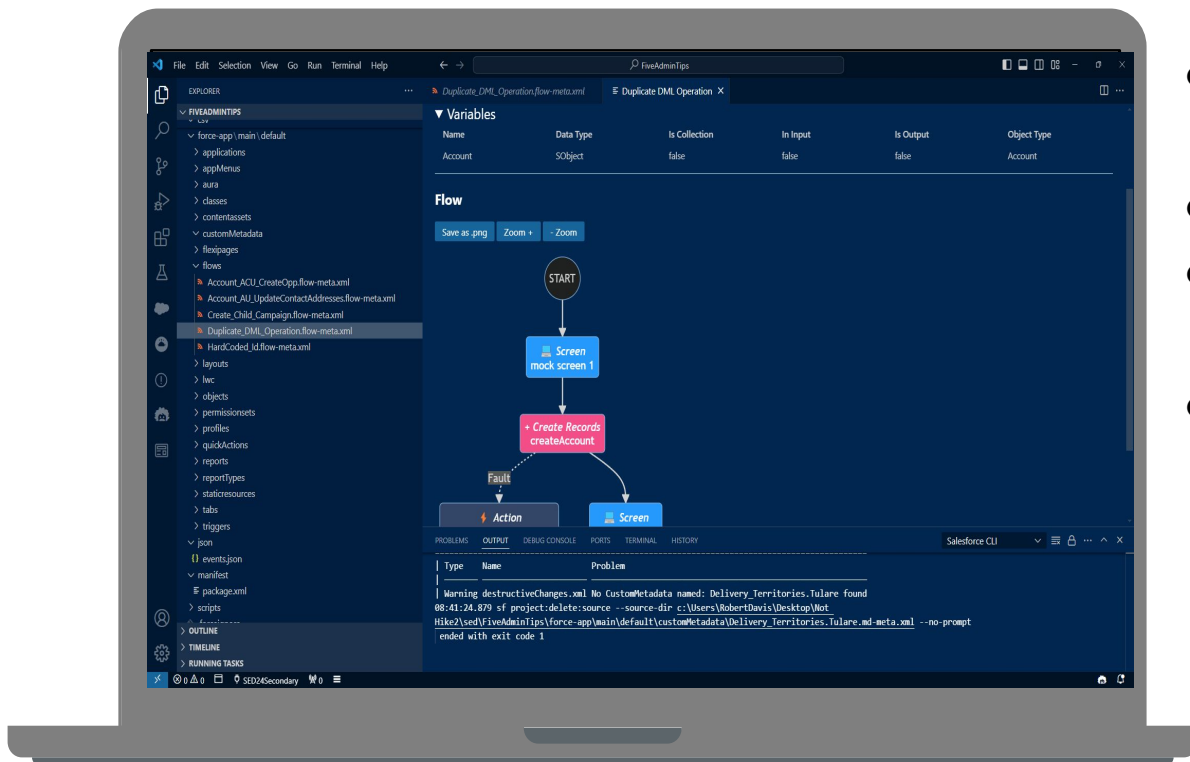- Deploy to the Salesforce Org

SOQL
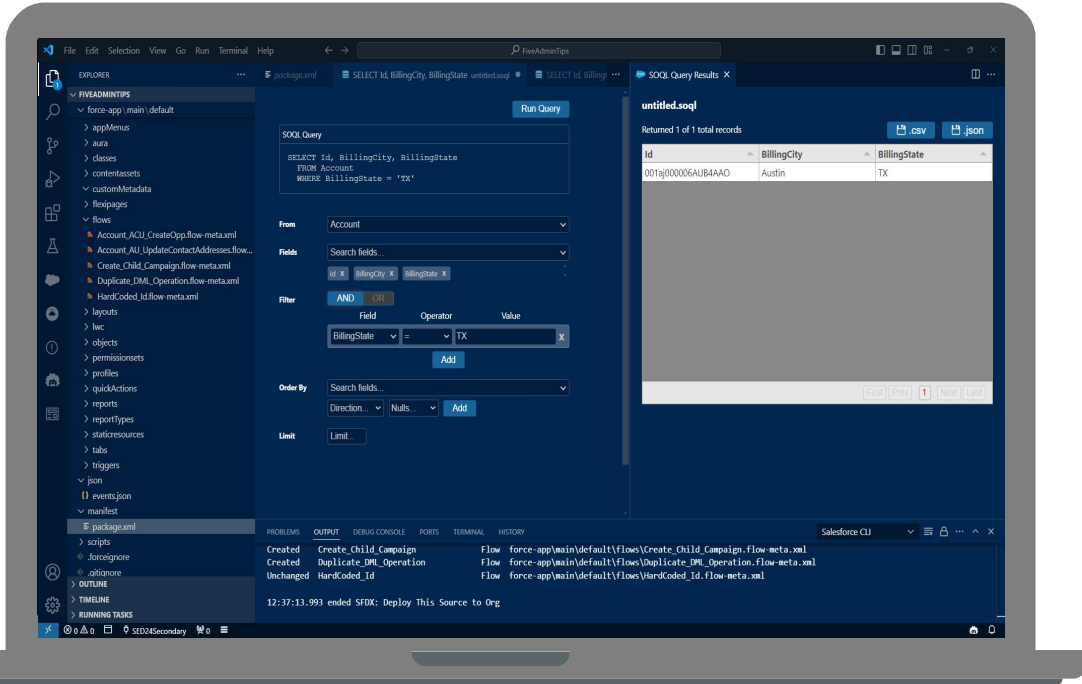
- Visual Studio Code SOQL by Salesforce
- Easily Answer: "How many records have…"
- Easily Export to CSV or JSON

Flow Scanner

- Visual Studio Code Extension Lightning Flow Scanner by Force Fig Control
- Applies Standard Best practices by evaluating and surfacing
- Helps us build better flows

Flow Visualizer

- Flow Visualizer Render Command
- Shows image of process
- Shows variables and formulas
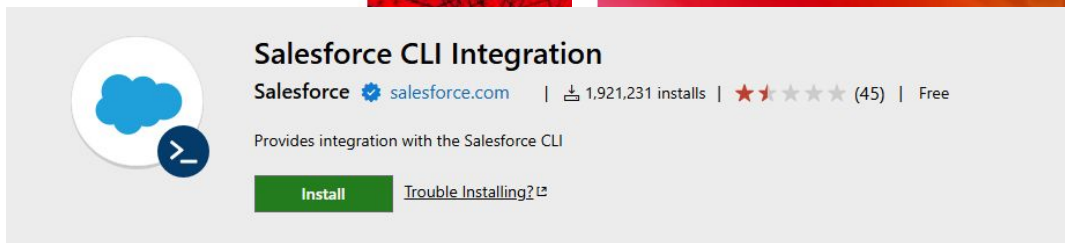- Flow Visualizer by Todd Halfpenny

Security

- [Bleeping Computer headlines from February and March 2025](#)
- [Bleeping Computer Article VS Code Extensions infect Windows with Cryptominers](#)
- Verified Publisher
- Reviews and Ratings and Repos
- [ExtensionTotal Security](#)

VSCode extensions with 9 million installs pulled over security risks

By **Bill Toulas**
February 26, 2025   02:10 PM   💬 1

Microsoft apologizes for removing VSCode extensions used by millions

By **Bill Toulas**
March 13, 2025   04:53 PM   💬 8

Salesforce CLI Integration
Salesforce ✔ salesforce.com | ⬇ 1,921,231 installs | ★ ⯨ ★ ★ ★ (45) | Free
Provides integration with the Salesforce CLI

[Install]   Trouble Installing? ⬏

RESOURCES

References

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- [Quick Start: Visual Studio Code for Salesforce Development](#) by Trailhead

- [Visual Studio Code User Interface](#)

- [Mass Insert Custom Metadata Type Records](#) by SFDC Lessons

- [Write SOQL Queries](#) by Trailhead

- [Getting Started with Code Builder](#) by Mohith Shrivastava

- [Bulk Loading Custom Metadata Types](#) by Emily McCowan

Extensions

- [Salesforce CLI Integration](#) by Salesforce

- [Diff Tool](#) by jinsihou

- [SOQL](#) by Salesforce

- [Lightning Flow Scanner](#) by Force Fig Control

- [Flow Visualizer](#) by Todd Halfpenny

RESOURCES

References

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- [Determine extension reliability](#) by Microsoft
- [Microsoft protections](#) by Microsoft
- [4/6 | Introduction ExtensionTotal : How to Assess Risk in VS Code Extensions](#) by Koi Security
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