3.1.3 Install Visual Studio Code

Tom informs you that using the Python interpreter isn't the only way you'll be writing and executing Python scripts. As you write the script to perform the election audit, you will need to edit and save often. To help with this task, Tom suggests that you download one final piece of software: Visual Studio Code. Visual Studio Code, or VS Code, allows you to write and execute scripts, as well as edit and save scripts like you would a Microsoft Word or Excel file. To ensure you have the latest version, Tom is going to walk you through how to download and install VS Code.

Visual Studio Code, also called VS Code, is a free text editor that runs on macOS and Windows. VS Code is one of the better code editors currently available, and it makes it easy to work with a variety of different programming languages such as HTML, JavaScript, SQL, and, of course, Python.

NOTE

> It's recommended that you use VS Code to complete this module.

There are two drawbacks when it comes to using the Python interpreter:

1. You can't save the code you write in the interpreter.
2. It's challenging to write scripts that are longer than a few lines.

This is where the VS Code outshines the Python interpreter.

To download VS Code, follow the instructions for your operating system.

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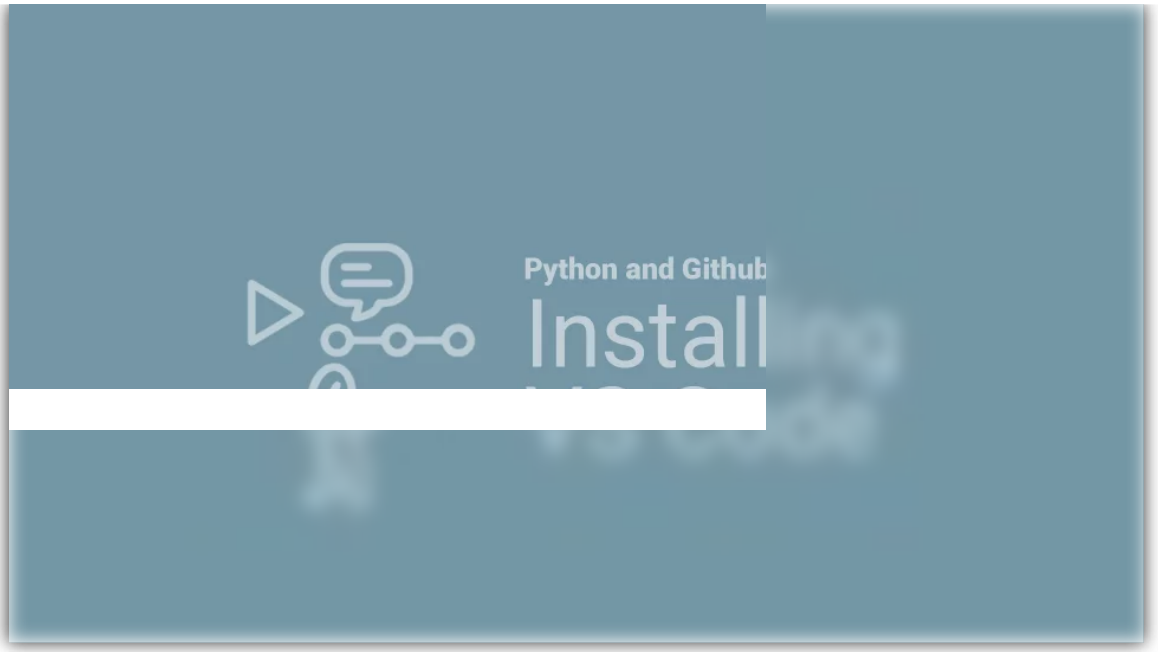
macOS

Windows



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