

Demo 08: Using Contextual commands in GitHub Copilot Chat

In GitHub Copilot Chat, `@workspace` and `@terminal` are contextual commands that help Copilot understand where to apply its responses. They specify the scope or location where Copilot should perform actions.

Prerequisites

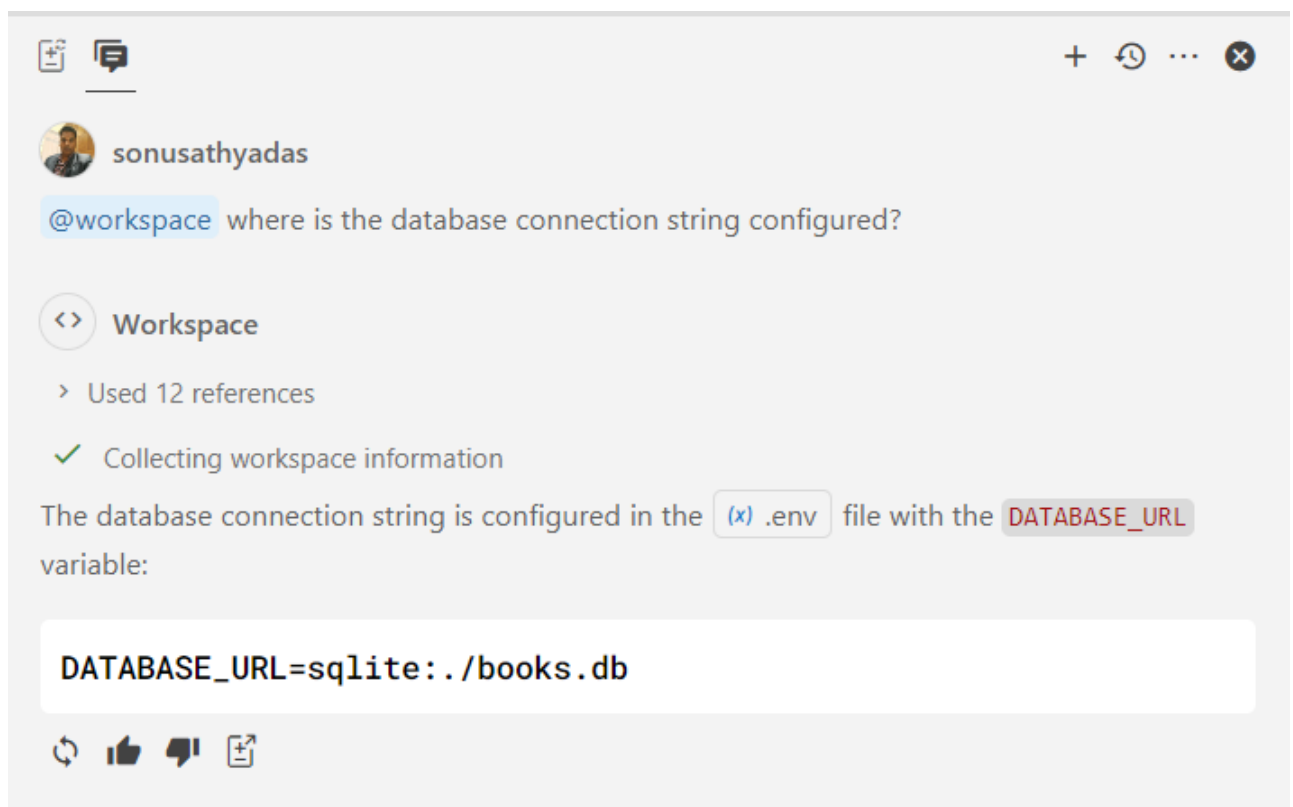
- VS Code
- GitHub Copilot Chat Extension for VS Code
- NodeJS 18 or later
- GitHub Copilot subscription
- Book API project

Working with `@workspace` contextual command

1. Open the `book-api` project in VS Code.
2. Open the GitHub Copilot Chat and run the following prompt with the `@workspace` contextual command.

```
@workspace where is the database connection string configured?
```

3. Below is the response generated by GitHub Copilot



4. Open the `bookController.js` file in editor. Run another prompt with the `@workspace` context command

```
@workspace /explain What is the use of bookController class
```

5. This will give a response that explains the use of `bookController` class

The screenshot shows a chat window with a user profile for 'sonusathyadas'. The user has sent a message: '@workspace /explain Explain the bookController class'. Below the message is a code snippet: 'JS bookController.js:1-28'. The chat response is titled 'Workspace' and includes a sub-header 'Used 1 reference'. The main text explains that the `(x) BookController` class is a controller in a Node.js application that handles HTTP requests related to book resources. It interacts with a `(x) bookModel` to perform CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete) operations on books. The response then shows the 'Constructor' code block:

```
constructor(bookModel) {  
  this.bookModel = bookModel;  
}
```

Below the constructor code, a bullet point states: 'The constructor initializes the `(x) BookController` with a `(x) bookModel` instance, which is used to interact with the data layer.'

The response then shows the 'createBook' code block:

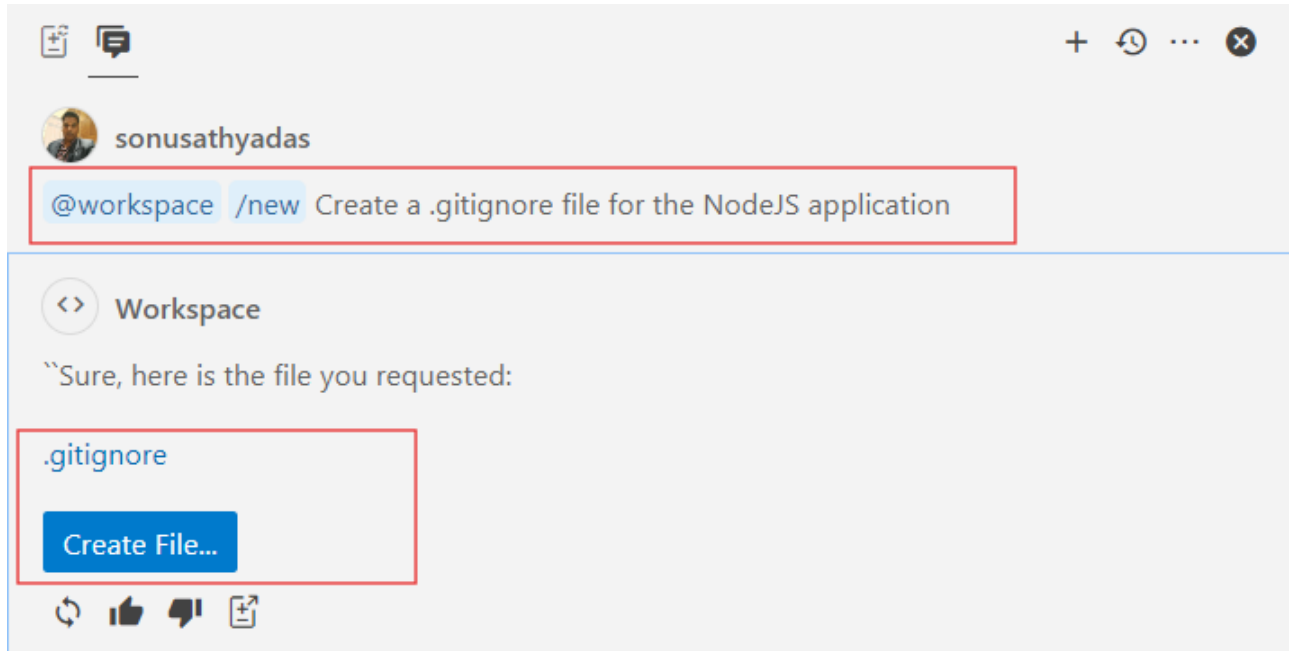
```
async createBook(req, res) {  
  try {  
    const bookData = req.body;  
    this.bookModel.createBook(bookData, (err, newBook) =>  
      if (err) {
```

At the bottom of the chat window, there is an 'Ask Copilot' section with a text input field containing 'JS bookController.js:1-87 Current file'. To the right of the input field are icons for '@', a paperclip, and a microphone. At the bottom right, there is a dropdown menu showing 'GPT-4o' and a send button.

6. Add a new `.gitignore` file to the project using the following prompt

```
@workspace /new Create a .gitignore file for the NodeJS application
```

7. This will generate the `.gitignore` file for the project and click on the `Create File` button to save the file with the name `.gitignore` inside the project folder.



Working with @terminal command

1. Open the `book-api` project in VS Code and run the following prompt in the GitHub Copilot Chat window.

```
@terminal Initialize git repository for the current project, stage all changes and commit changes with a message 'Initial commit'
```



2. Copilot will suggest the required `git` commands. Click on the `Insert into Terminal` icon on top of the generated command.




3. Try another prompt in the Copilot chat.


```
@terminal /explain 'git add' command
```

4. This will explain the use of `git add` command with examples



 sonusathyadas

@terminal /explain 'git add' command

 Terminal

The `git add` command is used to add changes in the working directory to the staging area. This prepares the changes to be included in the next commit. Here is how you can use it:

To add a specific file:

```
git add <file>
```

For example, to add `JS app.js` :

```
git add src/app.js
```

To add all changes in the current directory:





```
git add .
```

To add all changes in a specific directory:

```
git add <directory>
```




For example, to add all changes in the `src` directory:

```
git add src/
```



What does 'git commit' do?

Ask Copilot



GPT-4o 