

Debugging with Visual Studio Code



Kamran Ayub

Helping developers get started with JavaScript

www.linkedin.com/in/kamranayub



Debugging in JavaScript Applications



Browser
Client-side debugging



Node.js
Server-side debugging



```
console.log(someVar);
```



Demo: Browser-based Debugging

The screenshot displays a web browser window with the Home Depot website. The browser's address bar shows the URL `homedepot.com`. The website's header includes the Home Depot logo, a search bar, and a shopping cart icon. A navigation bar below the header shows the location "Goleta" and the time "10PM". The main content area features a promotional banner for "UP TO 40% OFF" on online bath products, along with images of a bathroom vanity, a bathtub, and a toilet. The browser's developer tools are open, showing the "Sources" panel. The file explorer on the left lists the project structure, including folders like `src` and `node_modules`. The code editor displays the `App.js` file, with a breakpoint set at line 20, column 45. The right-hand pane shows the "Paused on breakpoint" state, displaying the current scope and local variables, including `slugCustomerType` and `isNativeApp`. The "Call Stack" panel at the bottom right shows the sequence of function calls leading to the current breakpoint.

homedepot.com

Paused in debugger

What can we help you find today?

Goleta 10PM

93117

UP TO 40% OFF

Select Online Bath + Free Delivery

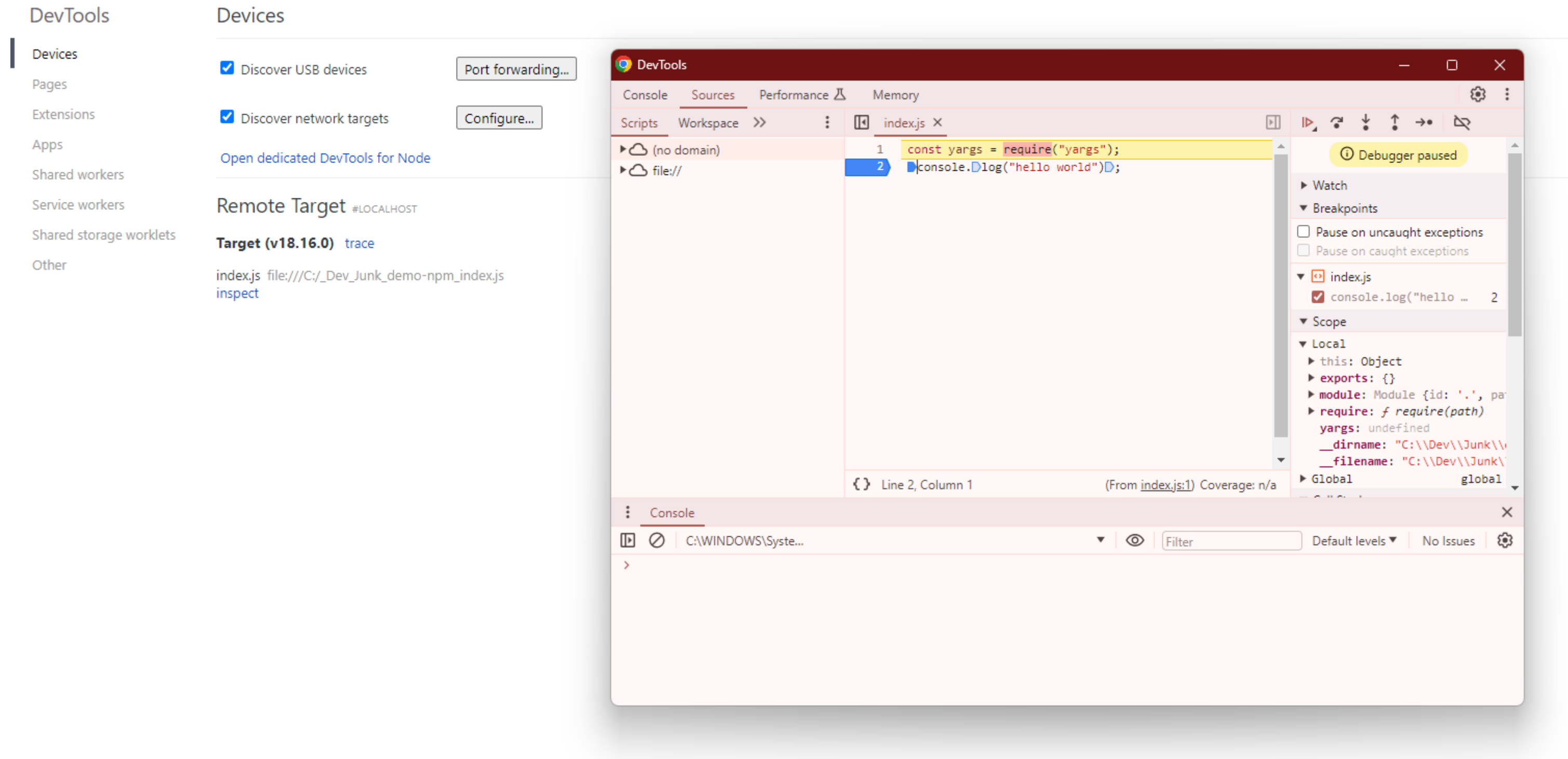
Shop Now

0/0

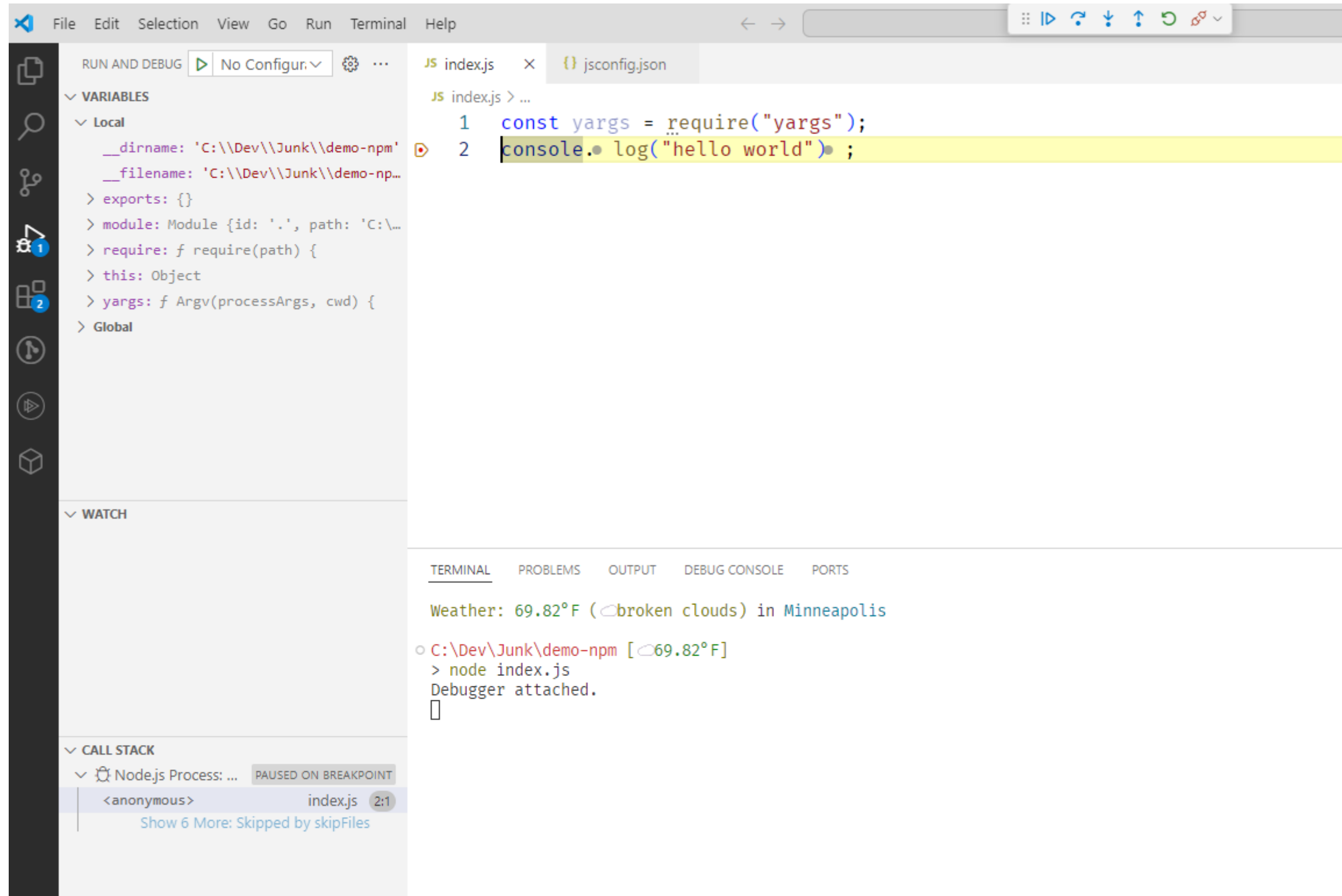
Line 20, Column 45

(From my-homepage.05e6d0a...js) Coverage: n/a

Demo: Node.js-based Debugging



Demo: Debugging JavaScript in IDEs



Launching the JavaScript Debugger



Demo

Setting breakpoints

Debug a Node.js app

Debug a browser app

Create a debug configuration



Demo: JavaScript Debug Terminal

The screenshot displays the JavaScript Debug Terminal interface in VS Code. On the left, a sidebar shows the 'JavaScript Debug Terminal' with the following details:

- Process ID (PID): 22372
- Command line: `C:\WINDOWS\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe '-noexit' '-command' 'try { . "c:\Users\Kamran\AppData\Local\Programs\Microsoft VS Code\resources\app\out\vs\workbench\contrib\terminal\browser\media\shellIntegration.ps1" } catch {}'`
- Shell integration activated
- The following extensions have contributed to this terminal's environment:
 - Git : Enables the following features: git auth provider
- [Show environment contributions](#)

The main editor area shows the 'RUN AND DEBUG' view with the following sections:

- VARIABLES**
 - Local
 - `__dirname`: 'C:\\Dev\\Junk\\demo-npm'
 - `__filename`: 'C:\\Dev\\Junk\\demo-np...
 - `exports`: {}
 - `module`: Module {id: '.', path: 'C:\\...
 - `require`: f require(path) {
 - `this`: Object
 - `yargs`: f Argv(processArgs, cwd) {
 - Global
- WATCH**

The code editor shows the following JavaScript code in `index.js`:

```
1 const yargs = require("yargs");
2 console.log("hello world");
```

The bottom status bar shows the 'TERMINAL' view with the following output:

```
Weather: 69.82°F (☁broken clouds) in Minneapolis
C:\Dev\Junk\demo-npm [☁69.82°F]
> node index.js
Debugger attached.
[]
```



Demo: Setting a Breakpoint

The screenshot displays the Visual Studio Code interface during a JavaScript debugging session. On the left, a 'JavaScript Debug Terminal' panel shows the process ID (22372) and the command line used to launch the application. The main editor area shows a file named 'index.js' with a breakpoint set on line 2, which contains the console log statement. The 'VARIABLES' pane on the left shows the current state of the program, including the 'yargs' object. The bottom terminal window shows the output of the application, including the weather information and the message 'Debugger attached.'

JavaScript Debug Terminal

Process ID (PID): 22372

Command line: C:\WINDOWS\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe '-noexit' '-command' 'try { . "c:\Users\Kamran\AppData\Local\Programs\Microsoft VS Code\resources\app\out\vs\workbench\contrib\terminal\browser\media\shellIntegration.ps1" } catch {}'

Shell integration activated

The following extensions have contributed to this terminal's environment:

- Git : Enables the following features: git auth provider

[Show environment contributions](#)

File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help

RUN AND DEBUG No Configur...

VARIABLES

Local

- __dirname: 'C:\\Dev\\Junk\\demo-npm'
- __filename: 'C:\\Dev\\Junk\\demo-np...
- exports: {}
- module: Module {id: '.', path: 'C:\\...
- require: f require(path) {
- this: Object
- yargs: f Argv(processArgs, cwd) {

Global

WATCH

JS index.js x {} jsconfig.json

JS index.js > ...

```
1 const yargs = require("yargs");
2 console.log("hello world");
```

TERMINAL PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE PORTS

Weather: 69.82°F (☁broken clouds) in Minneapolis

C:\\Dev\\Junk\\demo-npm [☁69.82°F]

```
> node index.js
Debugger attached.

```



Demo: VS Code Debugger

The screenshot displays the VS Code interface during a debugging session. On the left, the **JavaScript Debug Terminal** is open, showing the process ID (22372) and the command line used to start the terminal. Below this, it lists extensions that contributed to the environment, including Git. The **VARIABLES** panel on the left shows the local scope with variables like `__dirname`, `__filename`, `exports`, `module`, `require`, `this`, and `yargs`. The **WATCH** panel is currently empty. The main editor shows a file named `index.js` with two lines of JavaScript code: `const yargs = require("yargs");` and `console.log("hello world");`. The second line is highlighted in yellow. The **TERMINAL** panel at the bottom shows the output of the command `node index.js`, which includes the message "Weather: 69.82°F (broken clouds) in Minneapolis" and "Debugger attached."

JavaScript Debug Terminal

Process ID (PID): 22372

Command line: C:\WINDOWS\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe '-noexit' '-command' 'try { . "c:\Users\Kamran\AppData\Local\Programs\Microsoft VS Code\resources\app\out\vs\workbench\contrib\terminal\browser\media\shellIntegration.ps1" } catch {}'

Shell integration activated

The following extensions have contributed to this terminal's environment:

- Git : Enables the following features: git auth provider

[Show environment contributions](#)

RUN AND DEBUG No Configur. v

VARIABLES

Local

- `__dirname`: 'C:\\Dev\\Junk\\demo-npm'
- `__filename`: 'C:\\Dev\\Junk\\demo-np...
- `exports`: {}
- `module`: Module {id: '.', path: 'C:\\...
- `require`: f require(path) {
- `this`: Object
- `yargs`: f Argv(processArgs, cwd) {

Global

WATCH

JS index.js x {} jsconfig.json

JS index.js > ...

```
1 const yargs = require("yargs");
2 console.log("hello world");
```

TERMINAL PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE PORTS

Weather: 69.82°F (broken clouds) in Minneapolis

C:\Dev\Junk\demo-npm [69.82°F]

```
> node index.js
Debugger attached.

```



Demo: Debugging Browser-Based Projects

Vite

Next Generation Frontend Tooling

Get ready for a development environment that can finally catch up with you.

[Get Started](#)[Why Vite?](#)[View on GitHub](#)[🦄 ViteConf 23!](#)

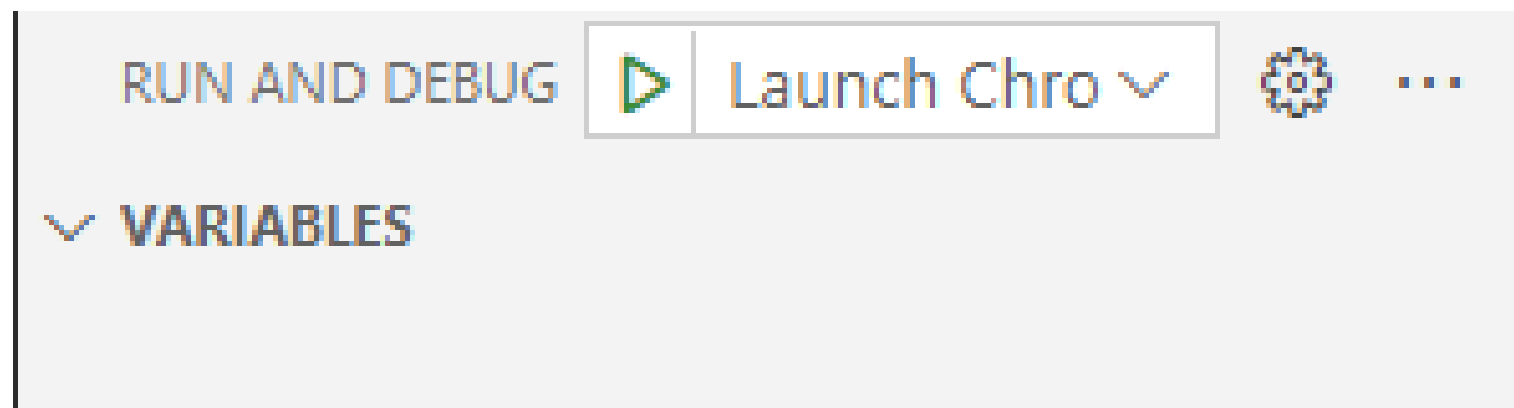
Demo: Creating a launch.json

Use Chrome configuration for browser-based projects

```
{
  "version": "0.2.0",
  "configurations": [
    {
      "type": "chrome",
      "request": "launch",
      "name": "Launch Chrome against localhost",
      "url": "http://localhost:5173",
      "webRoot": "${workspaceFolder}"
    }
  ]
}
```



Demo: Debugging Browser-Based Projects



TERMINAL PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE PORTS

VITE v5.2.11 ready in **617** ms

→ **Local:** <http://localhost:5173/>
→ **Network:** use **--host** to expose
→ press **h + enter** to show help



Debugging Resources

Debugging in Visual Studio Code

<https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/editor/debugging>

Configuring JavaScript Debugger in Web Storm

<https://www.jetbrains.com/help/webstorm/configuring-javascript-debugger.html>

Configuring JavaScript Debugger in IntelliJ IDEA

<https://www.jetbrains.com/help/idea/configuring-javascript-debugger.html>





Controlling the Debugger



Demo

Step over, into, and out of code

Understand the call stack

Setting multiple breakpoints



Demo: Step over code

JS index.js > ...

```
1  function add(a, b) {  
2  |    return a + b;  
3  |}  
4  
5  function multiply(a, b) {  
6  |    return a * b;  
7  |}  
8  
➤ 9  console.log(add(5, 2));  
10 console.log(multiply(5, 2));  
11
```



Demo: Step into

RUN AND DEBUG No Configur... ...

✓ VARIABLES

✓ Local: add

- a: 5
- b: 2

> this: global

> Global

JS index.js × {} jsconfig.json

JS index.js > add

```
1 function add(a, b) {  
2   return a + b;  
3 }  
4  
5 function multiply(a, b) {  
6   return a * b;  
7 }  
8  
9 console.log(add(5, 2));  
10 console.log(multiply(5, 2));  
11
```



Demo: Call stack

CALL STACK

Node.js Process: index.js [12868] PAUSED


global.add	index.js	2:3
<anonymous>	index.js	9:13

Show 6 More: Skipped by skipFiles

```
JS index.js > ...
1  function add(a, b) {
2    |   return a + b;
3  }
4
5  function multiply(a, b) {
6    |   return a * b;
7  }
8  ⚡
9  console.log(add(5, 2));
10 console.log(multiply(5, 2));
11
```




Demo: Step out

```
JS index.js > ...  
1  function add(a, b) {  
2    |   return a + b;  
3  }  
4  
5  function multiply(a, b) {  
6    |   return a * b;  
7  }  
8    
> 9  console.log(add(5, 2));  
10 console.log(multiply(5, 2));  
11
```



Demo: Continue

```
JS index.js > ...  
1  function add(a, b) {  
2    |   return a + b;  
3  }  
4  
5  function multiply(a, b) {  
6    |   return a * b;  
7  }  
8    
> 9  console.log(add(5, 2));  
10 console.log(multiply(5, 2));  
11
```



Inspecting and Watching Variables



Demo

Inspecting variables

Watching variables

Executing ad-hoc code



Demo: Variables list

```
▼ VARIABLES
  ▼ Local: add
    a: 5
    b: 2
    > this: global
    > Global
```

```
JS index.js > add
1 function add(a, b) {
2   return a + b;
3 }
4
5 function multiply(a, b) {
6   return a * b;
7 }
-
```



Demo: Watching variables

✓ WATCH

a: 5

✓ WATCH



a: *Uncaught ReferenceError: a is ...* X



Demo: Immediate execution

TERMINAL

PROBLEMS

OUTPUT

DEBUG CONSOLE

PORTS

7

→ console.log(a * 10)

undefined

50



Summary

IDEs provide powerful debugging capabilities to figure out issues quickly

You can debug both Node.js and browser apps with the same tools

Sharing debug configuration and tooling makes your whole team more effective



**You're now equipped to be
more productive on your
JavaScript learning journey**



Where to Go from Here

Course GitHub repository with files

<https://bit.ly/PSJSDevEnvRepo>

Like VS Code? Dive in deeper

<https://code.visualstudio.com>

JavaScript Learning Path on Pluralsight

<https://app.pluralsight.com/paths/skill/javascript-2022>



Thank You!

linkedin.com/in/kamranayub

kamran@kamranayub.com

