

Installing Node.js and VS Code on Windows

Introduction: Why Node.js and VS Code Matter

Node.js lets you run JavaScript on your computer. This makes it easy to build tools and learn programming. Visual Studio Code is a free code editor. It has features that help you write code faster. Together they give you a powerful setup for learning and building projects.

How to Download and Install Node.js on Windows

1. Open your web browser.
2. Go to the official Node.js website at nodejs.org.
3. You will see two download buttons. Click the button labeled LTS.
4. When the file finishes downloading, open it.
5. The Setup Wizard will appear. Click Next.
6. Read the license agreement. Click I Agree.
7. Choose the default installation folder. Click Next.
8. On the Feature Selection screen leave all options checked. Click Next.
9. Click Install to begin.
10. Wait for the installer to finish.
11. Click Finish when it is done.

How to Check if Node.js Is Installed

1. Press the Windows key on your keyboard.
2. Type cmd and press Enter to open the Command Prompt.
3. In the terminal window type `node --version` and press Enter.
4. You should see something like v16.20.0. This means Node.js is installed.
5. Next type `npm --version` and press Enter. npm is the package manager that comes with Node.js. You should see a version number too.

How to Download and Install Visual Studio Code

1. Open your web browser.
2. Go to the official Visual Studio Code website at code.visualstudio.com.
3. Click the button that says Download for Windows.
4. When the file finishes downloading, open it.
5. The Setup Wizard will appear. Click Next.
6. Read the license agreement. Click I Accept.

7. Choose the default destination folder. Click Next.
8. On the Select Additional Tasks screen you can check the boxes for added features. For example, "Add Open with Code action to Windows Explorer file context menu" is useful.
9. Click Next.
10. Click Install to begin.
11. Wait for the installer to finish.
12. Click Finish when it is done.

How to Open VS Code and Run a Simple JavaScript File

1. Press the Windows key and type Visual Studio Code. Press Enter to open it.
2. In VS Code click File in the menu and then click New File.
3. Type this code into the new file:

```
javascript

console.log('Hello World');
```
4. Click File and then click Save As.
5. Name the file hello.js and save it to a folder you can find easily, like Documents.
6. To run the file open the built in terminal. Click Terminal in the menu and then click New Terminal.
7. In the terminal you will see a path. Type cd Documents and press Enter if you saved the file in Documents.
8. Type node hello.js and press Enter.
9. You should see Hello World printed in the terminal.

Wrap-Up: What to Explore Next

Now you have Node.js and VS Code on your Windows machine. You ran your first JavaScript file. Next you can try these steps:

1. Learn basic JavaScript concepts like variables and functions.
2. Create more .js files and run them with node.
3. Explore npm packages by running npm install lodash for example.
4. Install VS Code extensions like Prettier and ESLint to help with code style.
5. Build a small project such as a To-Do list that runs in the terminal.

Enjoy your coding journey. Keep experimenting and learning step by step. You are all set to grow as a programmer.