

Installing and Configuring VSCode

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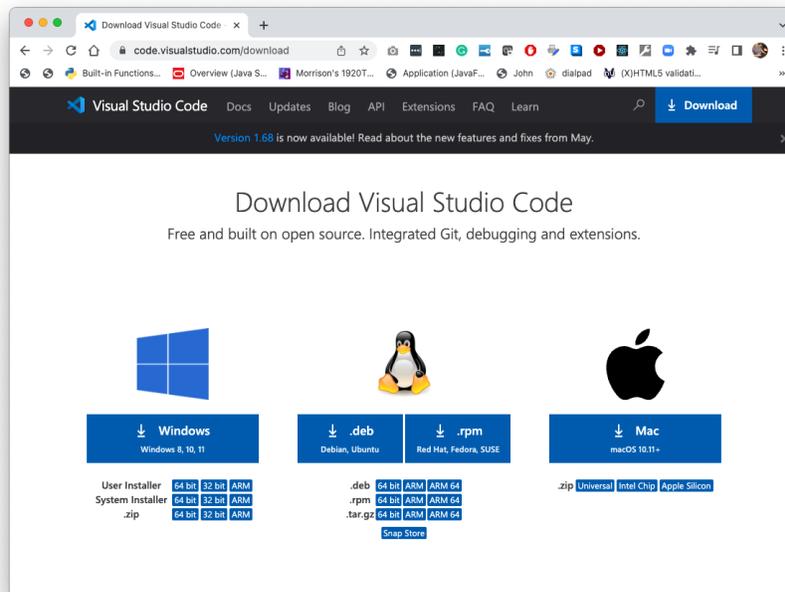
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0 Introduction

The purpose of this brief document is to show you how to install the VSCode code editor and how to get it prepared for writing programs or doing web development. You will be taken step by step through the process and you will test that your install works right.

1 Installing VSCode

Go to The VSCode Download Site and download the installer for your system. Installers are available for Mac, Windows, and Linux. You will see this.



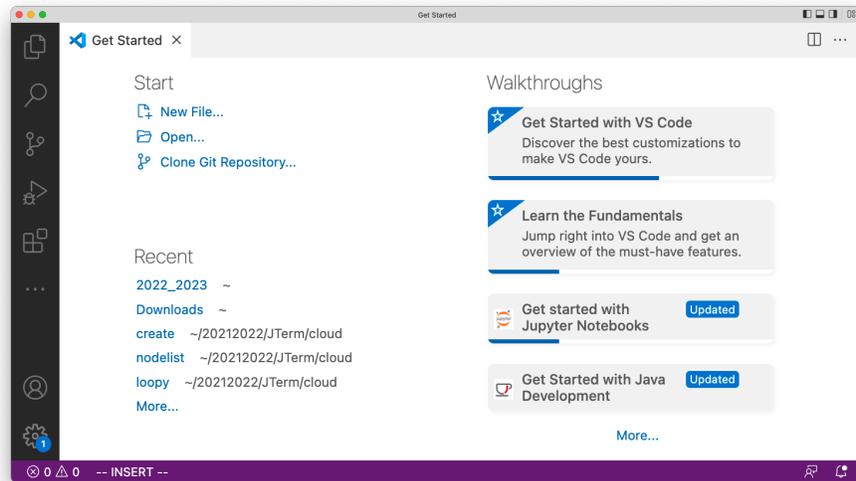
- **Mac** Make sure you choose the correct installer for your chip. You either have an M1 chip or an Intel chip. If you are unsure, open the “About this Mac” item from the Apple menu. A popup window will tell you your chip.
- **Windows** You probably have a 64 bit machine. If you are unsure, this page will tell you how to determine for sure if you have a 64 or 32 bit machine. If you have Windows 11 installed, you must have a 64 bit machine.
- **Linux** Choose the installer for your distro.

Once you obtain the installer for your system, run it to install VSCode.

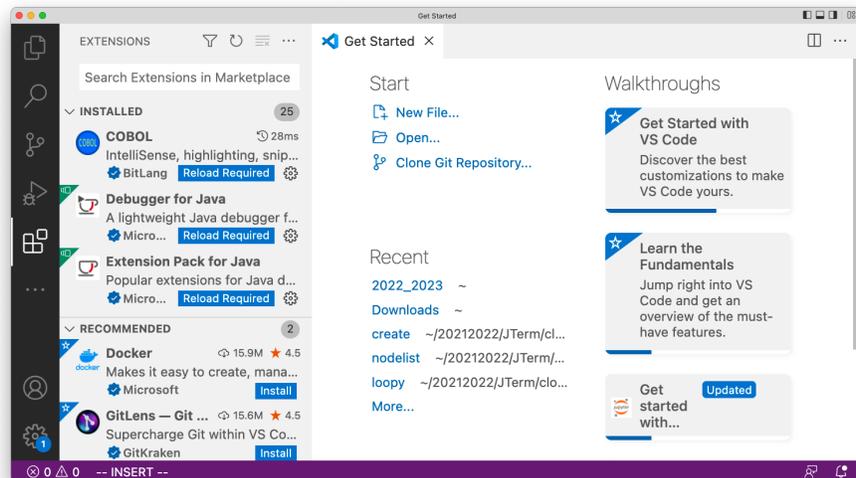
1.1 Extensions

To configure VSCode to meet your needs, you will need to go to the Extensions area. Here is how.

Open VSCode and you will see a window looking like this. Your contents will be slightly different.



On the left, you see a bunch of icons. The fifth one down is the Extensions icon. Click on it and you will see the search window for the Extensions Marketplace.

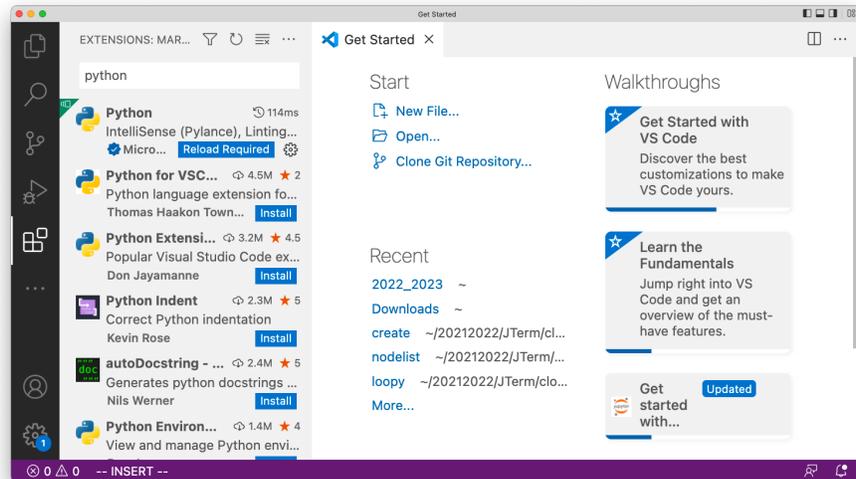


2 Configuring your Install for Python

If you don't already have Python installed, go to <https://johnmmorrison.com/beginners/python> for instructions on installing it.

2.1 Run A Program 2 CONFIGURING YOUR INSTALL FOR PYTHON

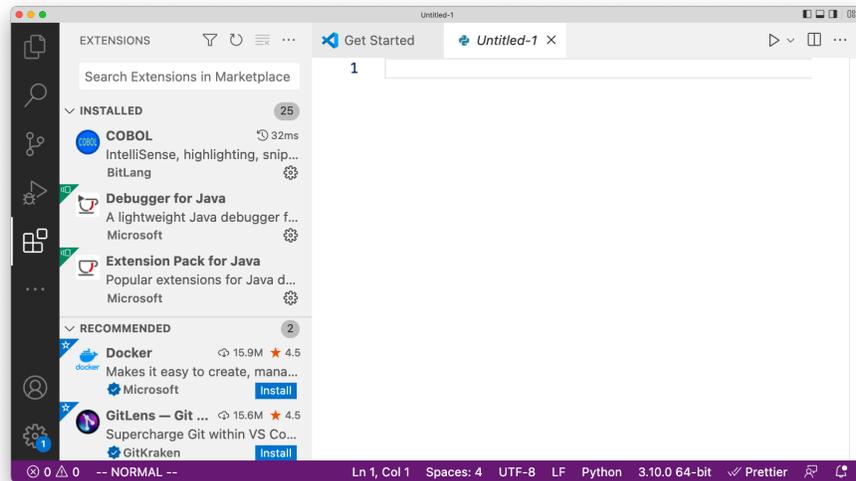
Once you have Python installed, go to the Extensions area in VSCode. Type python in the search bar as seen here. Install the Python extension.



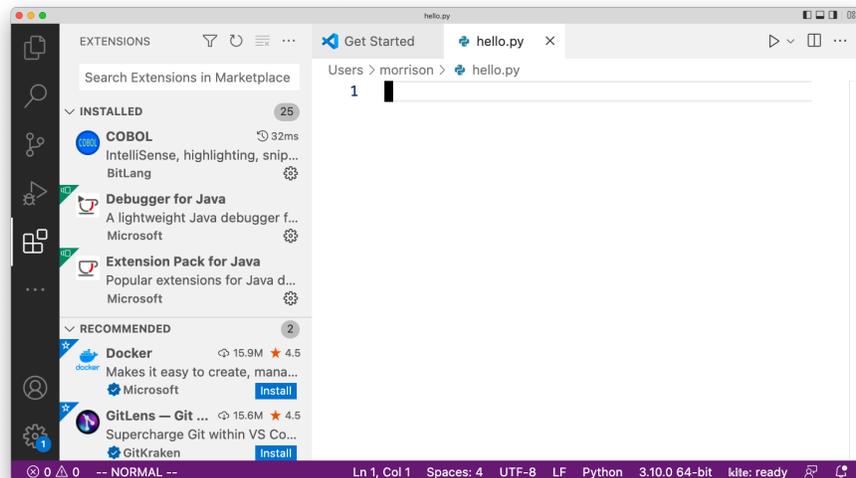
2.1 Run A Program

Your VSCode program might relaunch when you do the install; this is normal. Once that happens, click on New File... under the Start area in the Get Started window. A menu will appear; choose Python File. Once you do this, here is what you will see.

2.1 Run A Program 2 CONFIGURING YOUR INSTALL FOR PYTHON



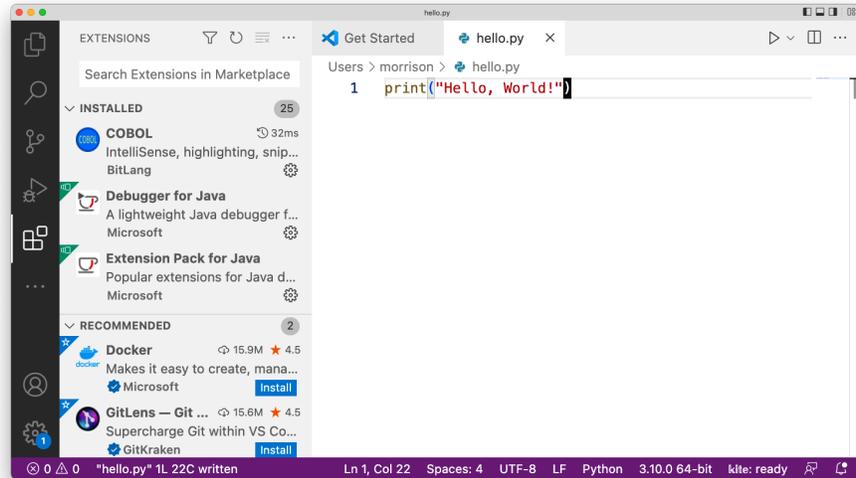
Go to the File menu (It will be in your screen's menu bar) and choose Save As... and name your file `hello.py`. You will see this.



It is a smart idea to choose a reasonable place in your file system for you work. Don't just save your programs in any old place.

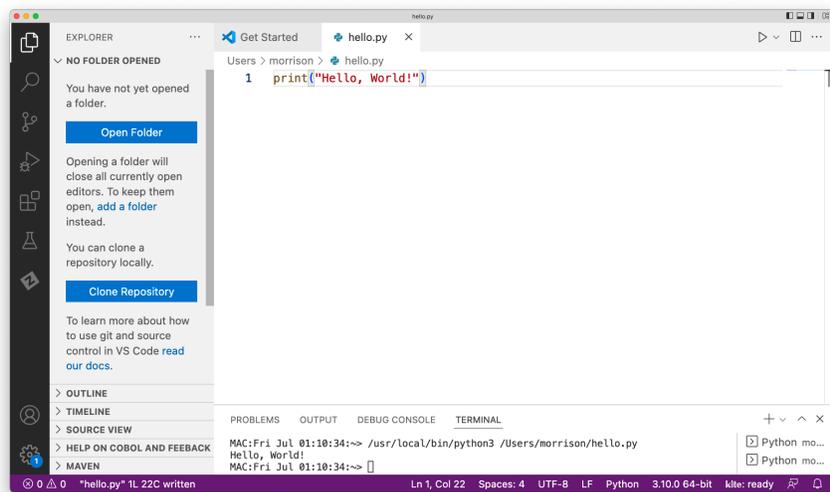
Next, type `print("Hello, World!")` into the window and save using the Save item from the File menu. Of course, your system's save keyboard combination works, too. You will see something like this.

2.1 Run A Program 2 CONFIGURING YOUR INSTALL FOR PYTHON



Also note that as you type, VSCode shows reference material pertinent to what you are typing. As you progress, you will learn how to take advantage of this productivity tool.

To run your masterpiece, hit the triangle button in the upper right-hand corner of the VSCode screen. A terminal will appear at the bottom of the VSCode window with your output.



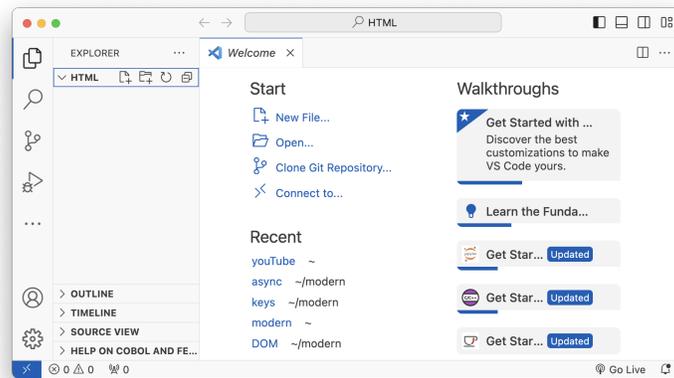
You can discard the terminal window between runs (it fills up with junk quickly)

by clicking the X in the upper right-hand corner of the terminal area. You are ready to program in Python using VSCode.

3 Configuring VSCode for Web Development

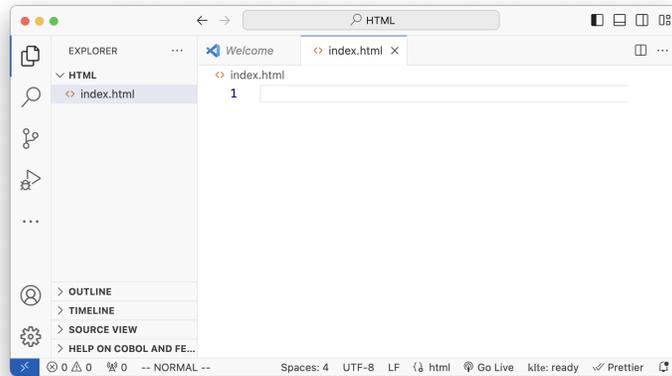
Begin by looking in the previous section and open the Extensions area for VS-Code. In the search box, type **Live Server** by Ritwick Dey. Click on the blue install button.

To get HTML/CSS support, type HTML in the search box and install HTML CSS Support. This will make your editor HTML/CSS savvy. Now let's use this. Make a folder named HTML. Choose **Open Folder** from the **File** menu. You will see this.



Next, select **New File...** from the **File** menu and save it as `index.html`. You will see a new editor window that looks like this.

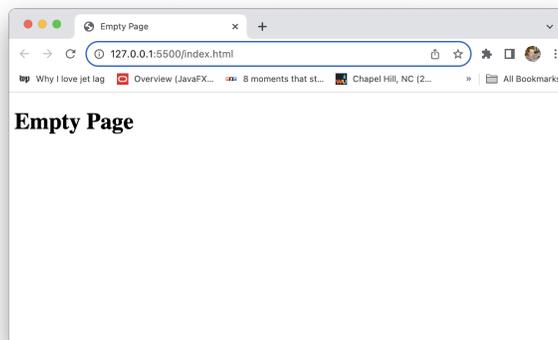
3 CONFIGURING VSCODE FOR WEB DEVELOPMENT



Now enter this text into the editor window. Note the editor's helpfulness.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <title>Empty Page</title>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Empty Page</h1>
  </body>
</html>
```

Hit the Go live button in the status bar at the bottom of the VSCode window. A new tab will appear in your browser with this in it.



After the line containing `<h1>Empty Page</h1>`, enter the text, `<p>Here is a paragraph.</p>`. Save the file and notice that the browser window updates to show your changes. You are good to go.

4 Configuring VSCode for Java

I am assuming you already code in Java. If not, go to <https://johnmmorrison.com/beginners/java> and you can find instructions for installing Java on your PC.

In VSCode, go to Extensions and add the Extension Pack for Java. Search for it by typing `Java` in the search box.

Once you have done this, Select `New File` from the `File` menu and save the file as `Test.java`. To run it, hit the triangle icon in the upper-right hand corner of VSCode's window. The result will appear in the terminal at the bottom and you will see this.

