Visual Studio Code (VS Code) Installation and Extensions

Introduction

Visual Studio Code (VS Code) is a lightweight, powerful, and flexible code editor developed by Microsoft. It is widely used for web development and programming due to its intuitive interface and extensive extension ecosystem.

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1. Steps to Install VS Code

Step 1: Download VS Code - Visit the official website: https://code.visualstudio.com - Select your operating system: **Windows, macOS, Linux**

Step 2: Run the Installer - Open the downloaded installer. - Follow the installation prompts. - Select **"Add to PATH"** for command-line access. - Use default settings unless custom configuration is required.

Step 3: Launch VS Code - Open the application. - The interface includes a **sidebar**, **editor window**, and **status bar**.

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2. Recommended Extensions for Easy Coding

Extensions improve the functionality of VS Code. Here are essential extensions for efficient coding:

a) Prettier – Code Formatter

Installation: 1. Open VS Code → **Extensions (Ctrl+Shift+X)** 2. Search **"Prettier – Code formatter"** 3. Click **Install**

Uses: - Automatically formats code according to standard conventions. - Maintains consistent code style. - Supports HTML, CSS, JavaScript, TypeScript, JSON, and more.

b) Live Server

Installation: 1. Open **Extensions** 2. Search **"Live Server"** 3. Click **Install**

Uses: - Launches a local development server with **live reload**. - Instantly view changes in the browser. - Ideal for HTML, CSS, and JavaScript projects.

c) Other Useful Extensions

Extension	Use
HTML CSS Support	Auto-completion for HTML & CSS code
Auto Rename Tag	Automatically renames paired HTML/XML tags
Path Intellisense	Auto-completes file paths in projects
ES7+ React/Redux/React-Native snippets	Fast code snippets for React development
Debugger for Chrome	Debug JavaScript code directly in Chrome

3. Tips for Efficient Coding

- **Ctrl+P** → Quickly open files
- **Ctrl+Shift+P** → Access all commands
- Enable **format on save** for Prettier:
- Go to **File → Preferences → Settings → Search "format on save" → Check the box**
- Install extensions gradually to maintain performance

Conclusion

VS Code, combined with essential extensions like **Prettier** and **Live Server**, makes coding faster, cleaner, and more efficient. Mastering these tools will improve your productivity and code quality.