How to use Visual Studio Code for Java Development

Windows Guide Version 2.0

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Step One: Acquire Visual Studio Code

* To get Visual Studio Code, simply navigate to <https://code.visualstudio.com/> and download the program. Install. You do not need to worry about payment because the program is free & open-sourced.
* If you already have Visual Studio Code, proceed to the next step.

Step Two: Acquire Java JDK

* Acquire the jdk at <http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html>. You needn’t download the x86 version unless you are running on a crappy x86 (you probably are not!).
* If you already have the JDK, proceed to the next step.

Step Three: Get the Java Support Extensions

* To save time, we can opt to install the Java Extension Pack by Microsoft, which is a bundle of numerous java extension packs for Visual Studio Code. This includes, but is not limited to, debugging functionality, intellisense for java and launch options.

Step Four: Fixing the Path

* Unfortunately, many people encounter an issue with Visual Studio Code in regards to java: it can’t seem to find JAVA\_HOME. You will find out quickly if you have this problem because debugging/running from VSCODE will not work and it will notify you.
* Fret not: this is easily fixed.
1. Locate your JDK in your \Program Files\ directory on your C:\. For me it was in C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.8.0\_152
2. Copy the install path to your JDK and go to Visual Studio Code.
3. Go to File > Preferences > Settings
4. Then go to Workplace Settings
5. In the search box, type “java.home”



1. Click on the hyperlink where it says “Edit in settings.json”
2. Paste the path to your Java Home in the place represented in the subsequent picture.



1. Save changes and restart Visual Studio Code.
2. If you run a program, it should by default show the output in the integrated debug console. This is great but usually does not allow you to input information. To fix this, edit your launch.json file.

3. Set the field for “console” from integrated console to “externalConsole” like how the picture has it formatted.
4. Your result should look like the following picture when running/debugging programs in the future.

5. That should be it!

Additional Information:

Java support in VSCODE seems to be optimized mostly for either Springboot or Maven projects.