

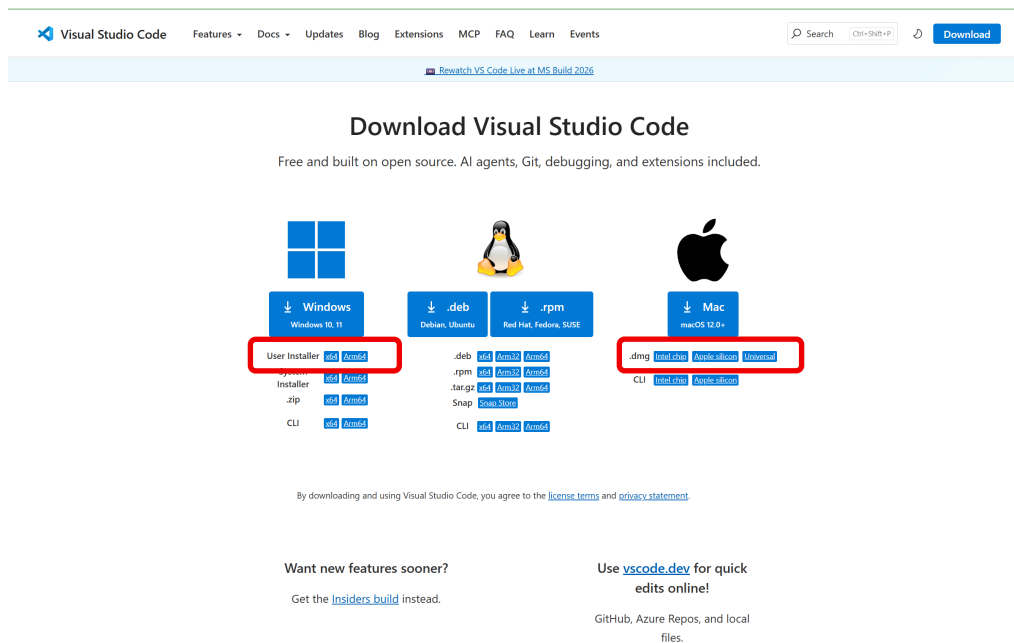
Installing & Setting Up VS Code

A step-by-step guide for Windows & Mac

This guide walks you through downloading and installing Visual Studio Code on Windows, then signing in and getting the editor ready to use. *Connecting VS Code to a remote server (Biowulf) over SSH is not covered here* — that's a separate setup step.

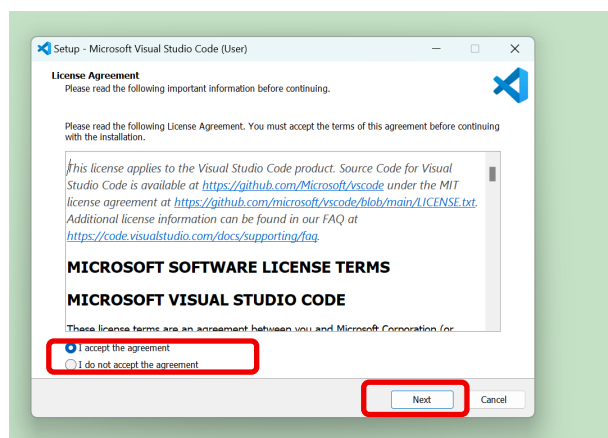
Step 1 — Download VS Code

Go to <https://code.visualstudio.com/download>. Under the Windows tile, click the **User Installer** → **x64** link (this installs just for your account and doesn't need admin rights).



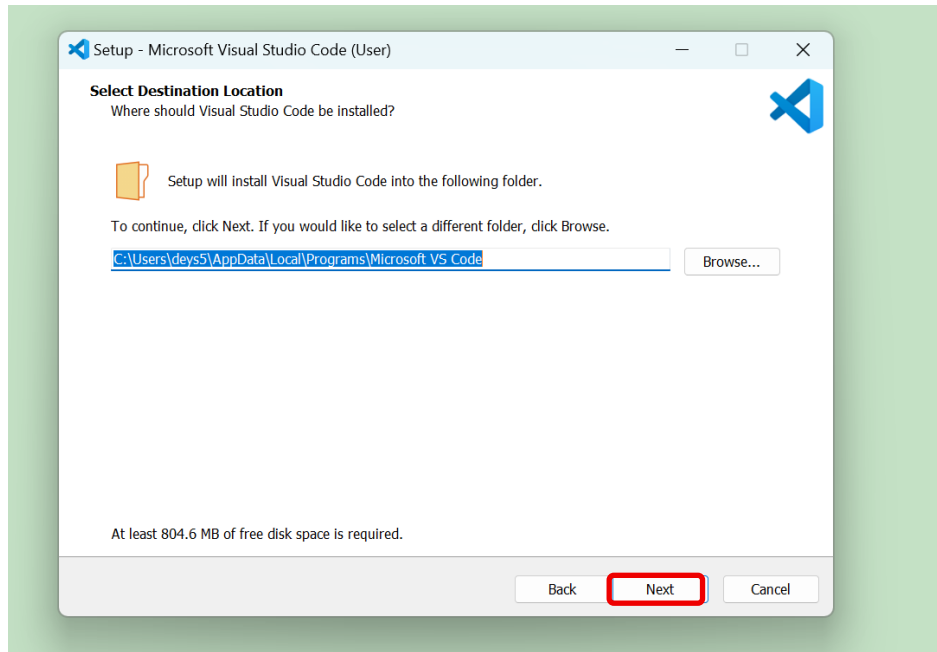
Step 2 — Accept the License Agreement

Run the downloaded installer. On the first screen, select **I accept the agreement**, then click **Next**.



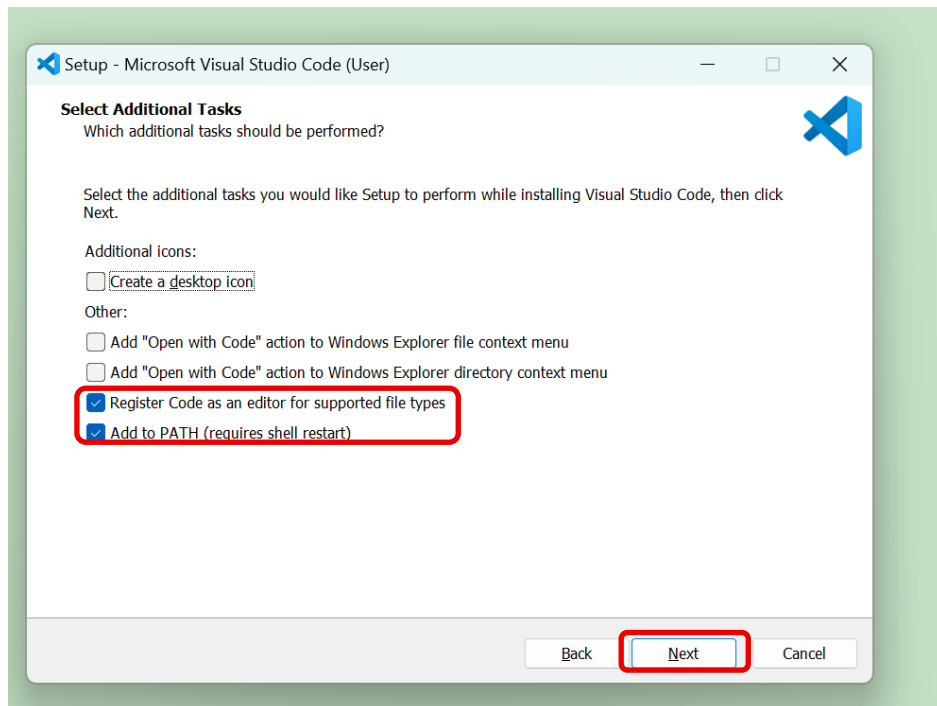
Step 3 — Choose the Install Location

Leave the default destination folder as-is and click **Next**. The default location is fine for most setups.



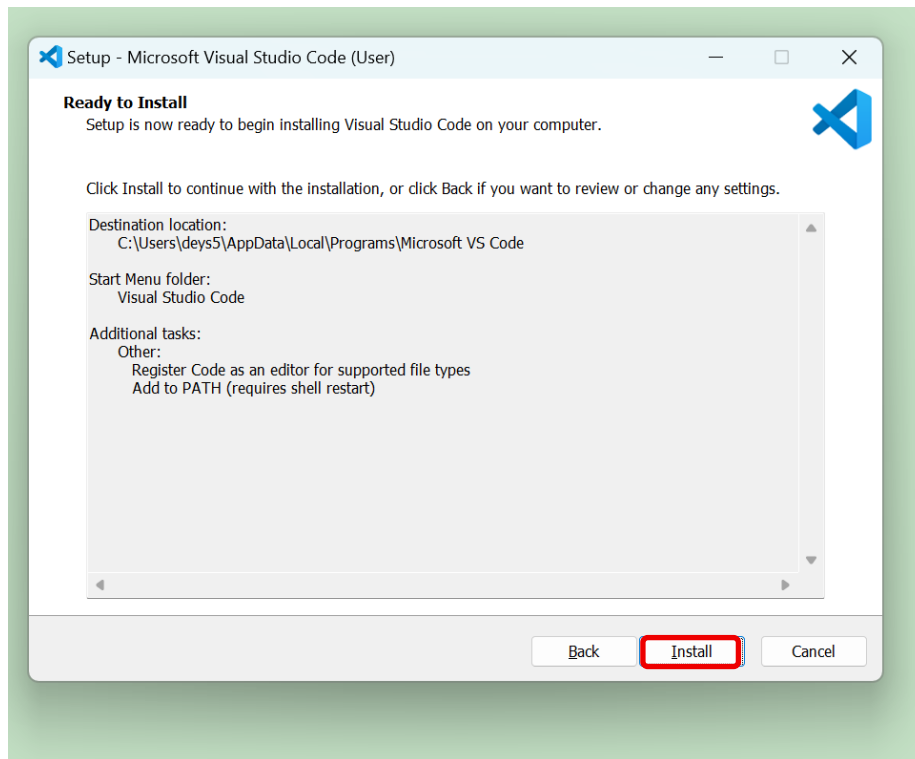
Step 4 — Select Additional Tasks

Make sure **Register Code as an editor for supported file types** and **Add to PATH** are checked — the PATH option lets you launch VS Code from a terminal with the `code` command. Optionally check **Create a desktop icon**, then click **Next**.



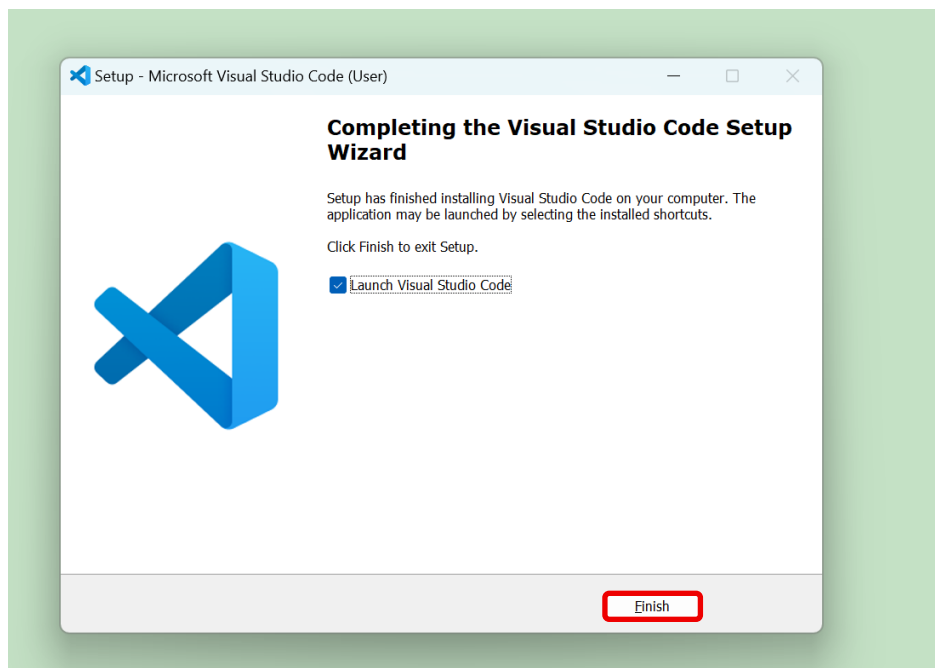
Step 5 — Install

Review the summary and click **Install**. The installation takes a few moments.



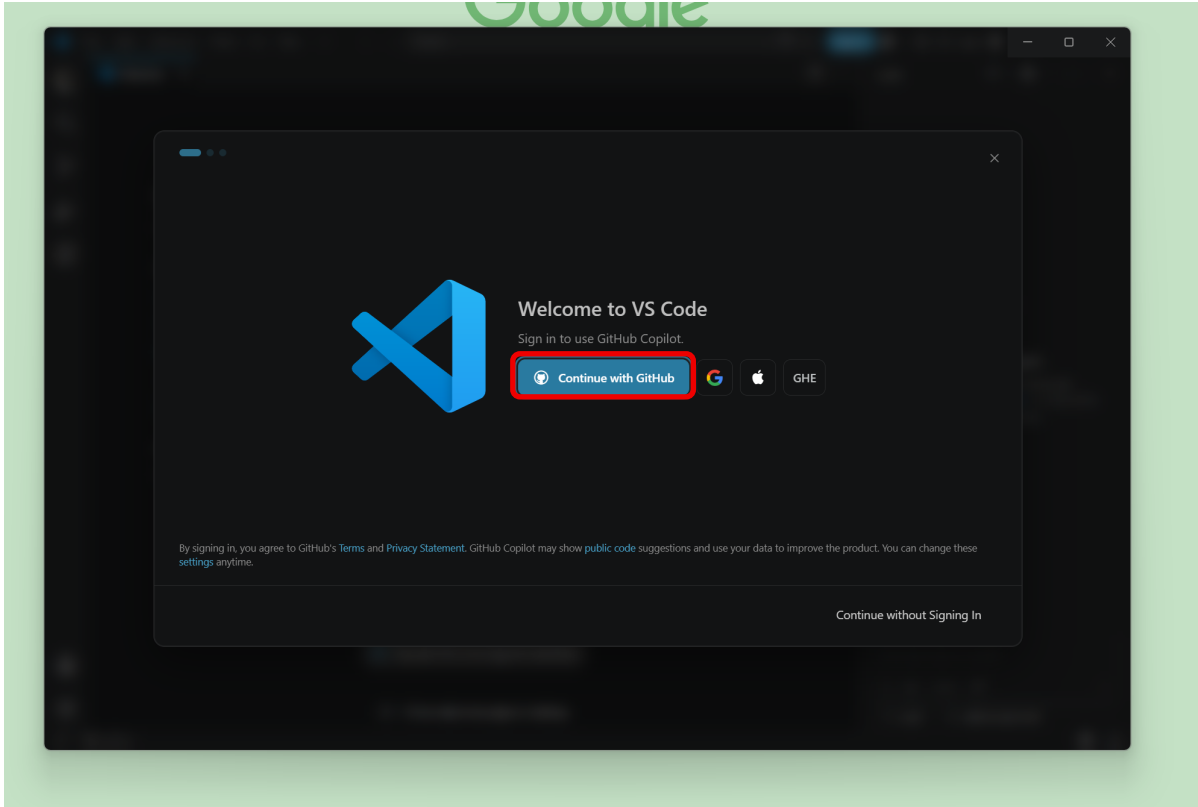
Step 6 — Finish & Launch

When setup completes, keep **Launch Visual Studio Code** checked and click **Finish**.



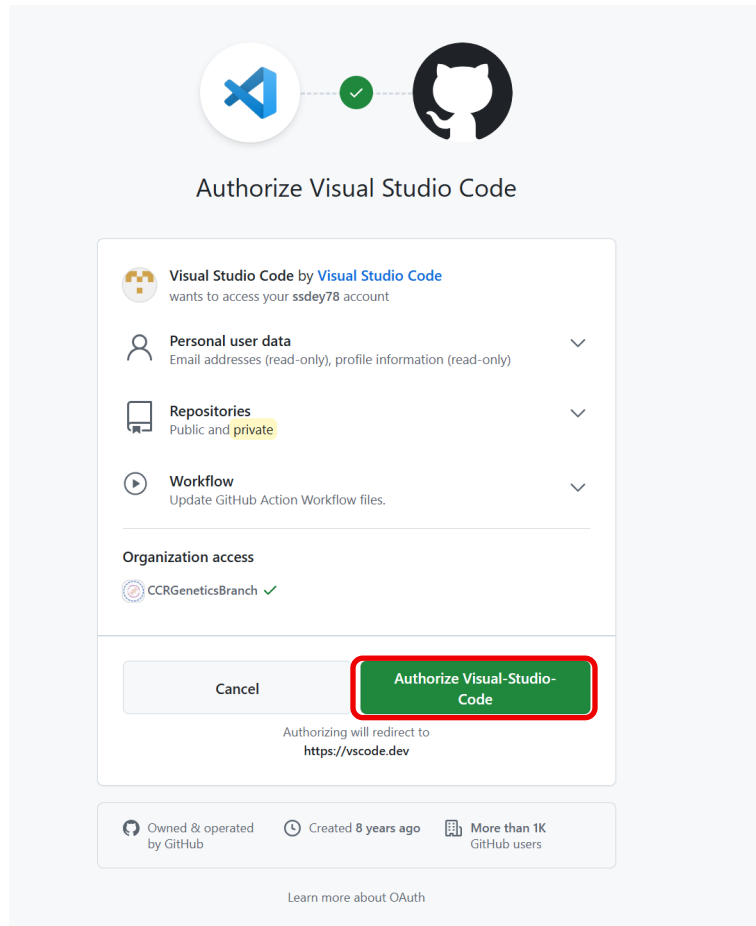
Step 7 — Sign In

On first launch, VS Code asks you to sign in to use GitHub Copilot. Click **Continue with GitHub** and sign in with your GitHub account. (You can also click **Continue without Signing In** to skip for now.)



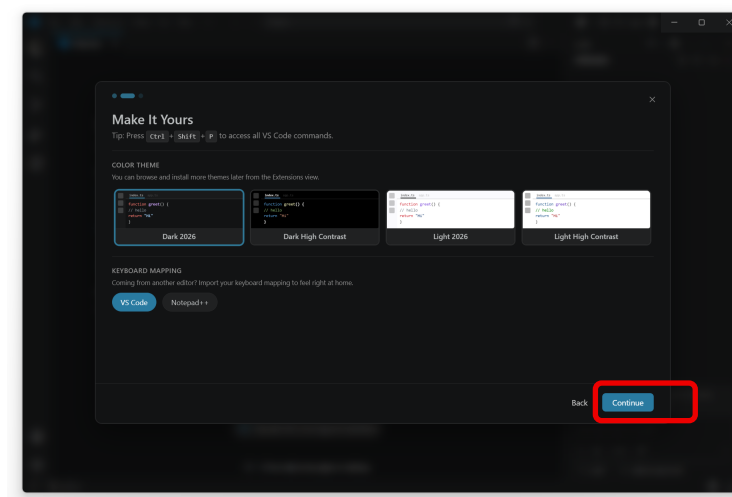
Step 8 — Authorize VS Code on GitHub

A browser window opens asking you to authorize VS Code to access your GitHub account. Review the access and click **Authorize Visual-Studio-Code**. The browser then redirects you back to VS Code.



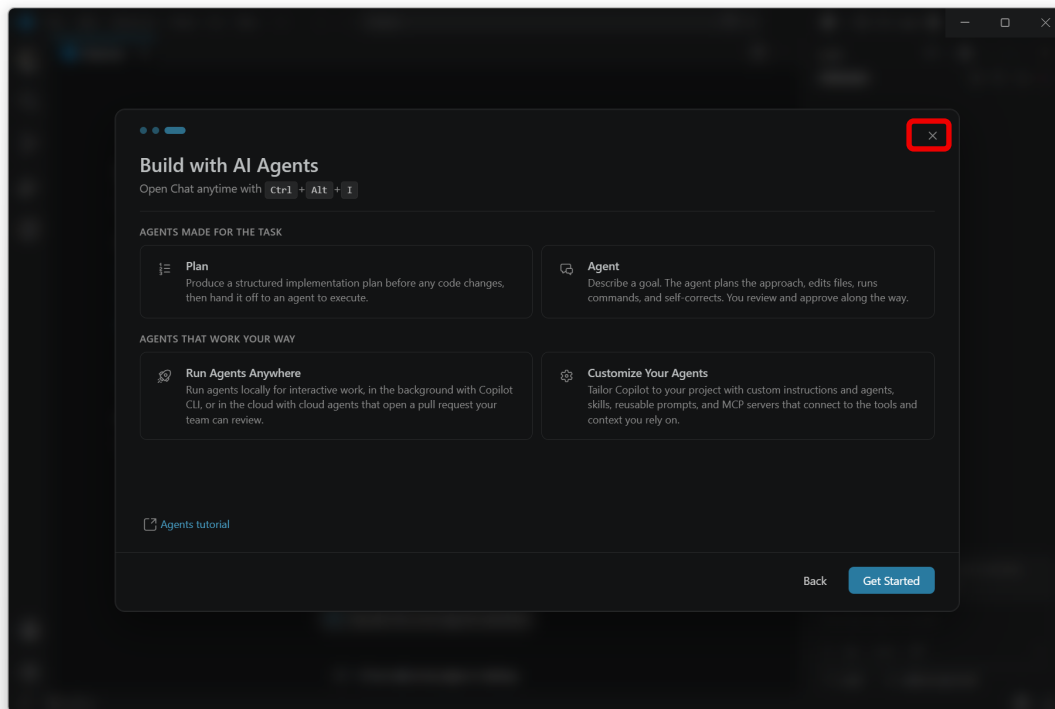
Step 9 — Pick a Theme

On the **Make It Yours** screen, choose a color theme (e.g. **Dark 2026**). You can change this anytime later. Click **Continue**.



Step 10 — Finish Onboarding

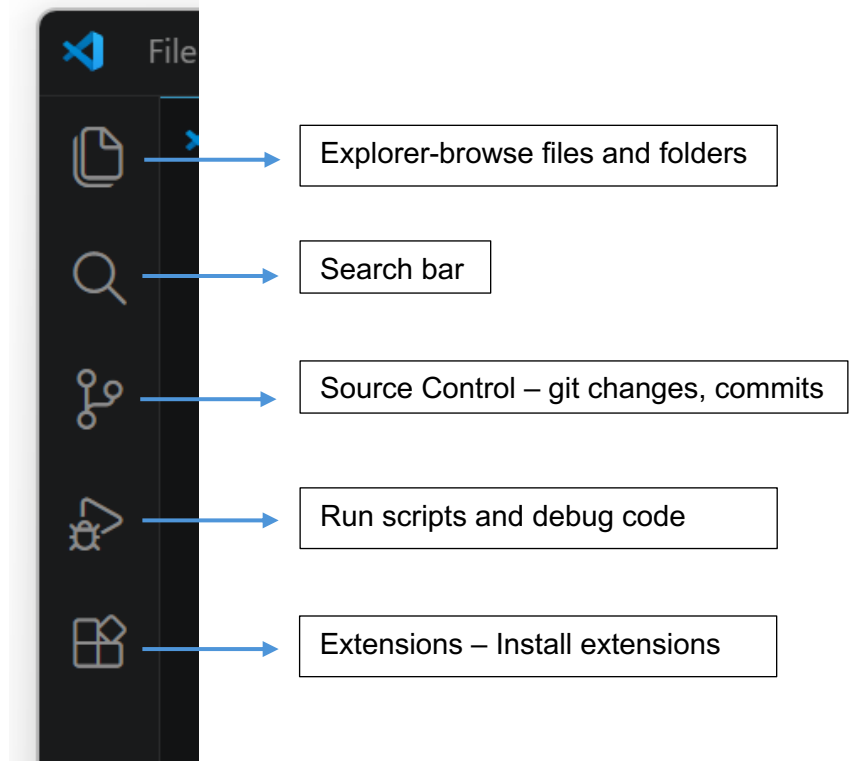
You can skip the agent setup for now, just close the window to land in the editor.



Step 11 — Get Familiar with the Activity Bar

The icons down the left edge are your main navigation. From top to bottom:

- Explorer — browse files and folders
- Search — find and replace across your project
- Source Control — Git changes, commits, branches
- Run and Debug — run scripts and step through code
- Extensions — install add-ons and language support



Step 12 – Link GitHub Copilot to VS Code

Click the **Copilot icon** in the bottom-right of VS Code and sign in with your GitHub account.



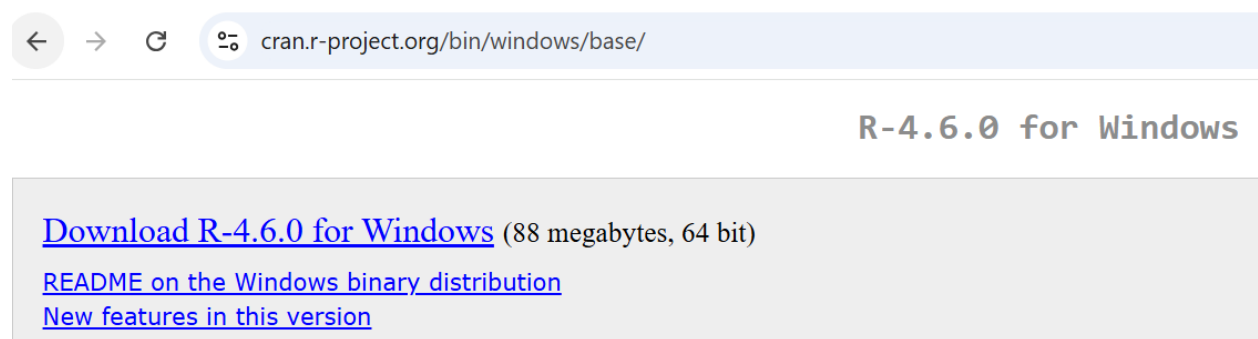
Click the **Extensions** icon (or press **Ctrl+Shift+X**), search for the “GitHub Copilot Chat” extension, and click **Install**. This will allow you to prompt Copilot in a chat panel.

Step 13 – Install R

Navigate to the download page and select “Download R for Windows”. After the executable downloads, click on it and follow the prompts to install.

Windows : <https://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/>

Mac: <https://cran.r-project.org/bin/macosx/>



Select Destination Location

Where should R for Windows 4.6.0 be installed?



Setup will install R for Windows 4.6.0 into the following folder.

To continue, click Next. If you would like to select a different folder, click Browse.

C:\Users\pehrssonec\AppData\Local\Programs\R\R-4.6.0\

Browse...

Step 14 — Install R Extension

Click the **Extensions** icon (or press **Ctrl+Shift+X**), search for the “R code” extension (REditorSupport), and click **Install**. Find the path to your local R installation (Windows is probably: C:\Users\[username]\AppData\Local\Programs\R\R-4.6.0\bin\x64\R.exe). Within the R extension, select the gear icon > **Settings** and scroll down. Paste the path under **Rpath: Windows** and **Rterm: Windows**. Finally, click on the R icon in the lower right corner to ensure R is connected.

That's it — VS Code is installed, signed in, set up and ready to use.