On VS Code on macOS, how to keep two projects open in macOS window tabs (instead of two windows)?

Asked 7 years, 7 months ago   **Modified** 9 months ago   **Viewed** 35k times

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I have VS Code 1.15.1 and when I work at two projects at once, I choose File -> New Window and open the second project. Clicking File -> New Window opens new window with VS Code. On my other computer (not sure about the VS Code version there), when I click File -> New Window, instead of opening new window, it will rather open new tab, so that I end up with two tabs in one window, each tab for one project and the active tab occupies whole screen estate.

Any ideas what should I change in Settings to achieve this "single window, multiple tabs" layout when having multiple projects?

I use macos (not sure if OS may be somehow related to the window management settings)

`macos`   `visual-studio-code`

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edited Mar 29, 2024 at 20:22

starball
54k ● 34 ● 236 ● 931

asked Aug 28, 2017 at 9:50

Peter
2,462 ● 3 ● 24 ● 30

5 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default) ⇕

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124
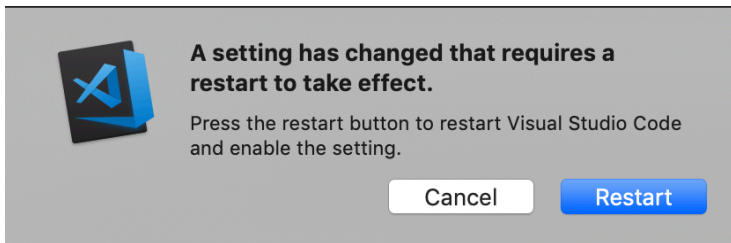
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1. Go to **Preferences** > **Settings**.

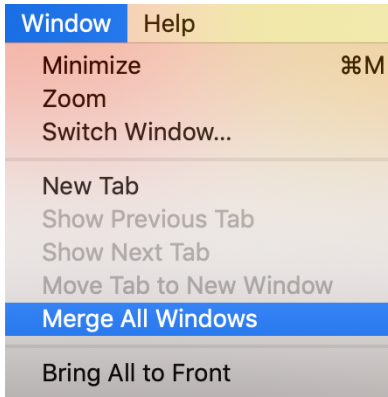2. Search for `native tabs`

3. Check the checkbox

Window: Native Tabs
☑ Enables macOS Sierra window tabs. Note that changes require a full restart to apply and that native tabs will disable a custom title bar style if configured.

4. Code will prompt for restart to take effect.

5. After restart, make sure you have multiple projects open. And then merge all windows as shown below:

6. Enjoy multiple tabs in single window.

Note: I think this applies to all Mac OS >= Sierra. Tested with Catalina, Big Sur, Ventura, Sonoma recently.

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edited Jul 2, 2024 at 20:17

answered Apr 2, 2019 at 8:29

Tenzin Chemi
5,901 ● 3 ● 30 ● 33

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7   is there a way for this in windows? It's really troublesome to handle four projects like admin ui, admin api ,client ui and client api – Karma Blackshaw Jun 4, 2020 at 3:00

1   In Sonoma I don't have the "Merge All Windows" option :(– Nisim Naim Feb 13, 2024 at 9:51

1   Also working on Sequoia. – Biacho Sep 23, 2024 at 13:11

1   This is a life changer – HerberthObregon Oct 31, 2024 at 0:49

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38

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Just set in your user settings

`"window.nativeTabs": true`

and do Window -> Merge All Windows

note: If you have High Sierra installed, that might be an issue.

Here's the link: Better macOS native window tabs support

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edited Dec 5, 2017 at 23:35

answered Nov 30, 2017 at 21:20

Alex Brazh
530 ● 6 ● 13

2   thank you for response Alex.. though I cannot currently verify if it works, because unfortunately I updated to High Sierra -- and as you properly warned me :) the native tabs don't work there.. just a grey horizontal stripe is displayed where the tabs should be. – Peter   Dec 4, 2017 at 15:17

In Sonoma I don't have the "Merge All Windows" option :(– Nisim Naim   Feb 13, 2024 at 10:08

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In Mac OS, there is a system setting outside of VS Code. Set this and then opening files/folders from the command line will also automatically open the file/folder in a new tab instead of a new window.

In MacOS 12.3 (Monterrey) this is under:

- System Preferences > General > Prefer tabs _____ when opening documents.

Change this setting to **always**. (The default is **in full screen**).

You might additionally need to set the setting in VS Code `"window.nativeTabs": true` as the other commenters have already suggested.

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answered Mar 29, 2022 at 6:41

Dave
141 ● 1 ● 2

7   On ventura is shown at System Preferences > Desktop & Dock > Windows & Apps – mindlid   Apr 14, 2023 at 17:25

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I'm using vscode 1.81.1, and you just need to go to settings -> window. Check the Native Tabs (Applies to all profiles). It will prompt for a restart, do that and you're good to go

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answered Aug 16, 2023 at 13:24

Niscolinx
11 ● 3

what does this add to the existing top answers? – starball   Aug 16, 2023 at 21:03

Setting For MAC OS (Ventura V13.1):

Click on code > Settings > settings

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Find option: **native tabs**

-1

Enable and restart VS code

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edited Feb 15, 2024 at 12:09

answered Jun 14, 2023 at 4:37

Aniruddha Mirajkar
9 ● 2

In Sonoma it is not enough – Nisim Naim Feb 13, 2024 at 9:53

@NisimNaim, Can you please add your configuration in the comment If I missed any? – Aniruddha Mirajkar Feb 13, 2024 at 11:18

Aniruddha Mirajkar I have MacOS Sonoma and VS Code Version: 1.86.1. It doesn't work for me. I also don't have the Merge All Windows options that other answers suggested to use. – Nisim Naim Feb 13, 2024 at 11:34 ✏️

@NisimNaim , i changed my answer I added the MAC OS version. – Aniruddha Mirajkar Feb 19, 2024 at 6:14

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