

By combining Visual Studio Code and Visual Studio (VS), the brand is over two times more commonly used by developers than any other environment (*Stack Overflow*, 2019). What that means is that this topic is vital for 80% of all developers.

It also means that with this book, Paul Schroeder and Aaron Cure had the opportunity to provide something incredibly valuable and essential for developers, a vital reference for the global developer community. And that leads us to a quote from a founder of Microsoft, Bill Gates:

*"It's fine to celebrate success, but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure."*

- Bill Gates

Continuing off of Bill's quote, I personally think there are two ways to learn in life: You can learn from your own failures and mistakes, or you can learn from someone else's failures and mistakes. I'll pick the second option, every time.

With this book, Paul and Aaron have cracked the code. Everything in here is a lesson learned, digging deeply into the perspective of Bill Gates. It's like you're getting all the advice that was learned from the mistakes and failures of thousands of developers... including (1) the developers who Paul and Aaron learned from (via books, articles, and advice), (2) the developers at Microsoft, who got feedback from customers and built the great features you'll find in VS (not to mention the customers who struggled and needed those features), (3) the developers in the community who helped create some of the amazing extensions covered in this book, and (4) from the personal insights discovered directly by Paul and Aaron, over their combined experience of 40+ years in software development!

You now have a book (in your hands or on a screen) that not only teaches beginners how to use Visual Studio, but it is also useful for intermediate developers pursuing knowledge to become more effective. Simply put, this could very well be one of the greatest investments you'll make for your career. Even if you are a very experienced developer, you'll still gain a lot from this book... you'll learn a few new techniques, and, more importantly, you'll have a cheat sheet to look back to as a reference.

New developers will rapidly learn about the different types of VS (chapter 1), the shortcuts and using the interface (chapters 2 and 3), how to use a repo (all about Git and GitHub in chapter 4), exploring data (chapter 6), and compiling/debugging (chapter 7). Meanwhile, experienced developers will pick up a few new tricks in those topics, and they will also learn (and have as a reference to come back to) how to better leverage code snippets (chapter 5), how to become a legend with templates (chapters 8-10), and how to take full advantage of extensions (chapters 11-16).

As Chapter 14's title implies, if you apply the snippets, templates, and extension practices found in this book, not only will you be a drastically more efficient and effective coder, but you'll also become your team's hero and thought leader!

What does all this mean? It means that if you're a developer, you owe it to yourself to take Bill Gate's advice and learn from as many failures as you can. This book is born out of the mistakes and failures of thousands of developers who came before you. You would be wise to read it now and to revisit it each year. If you do that, you'll get faster and better, every time.

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