

SuperBOL Studio User Manual

Version 1.0: The Ultimate Guide

The SuperBOL Team at Titagone-OCamlPro

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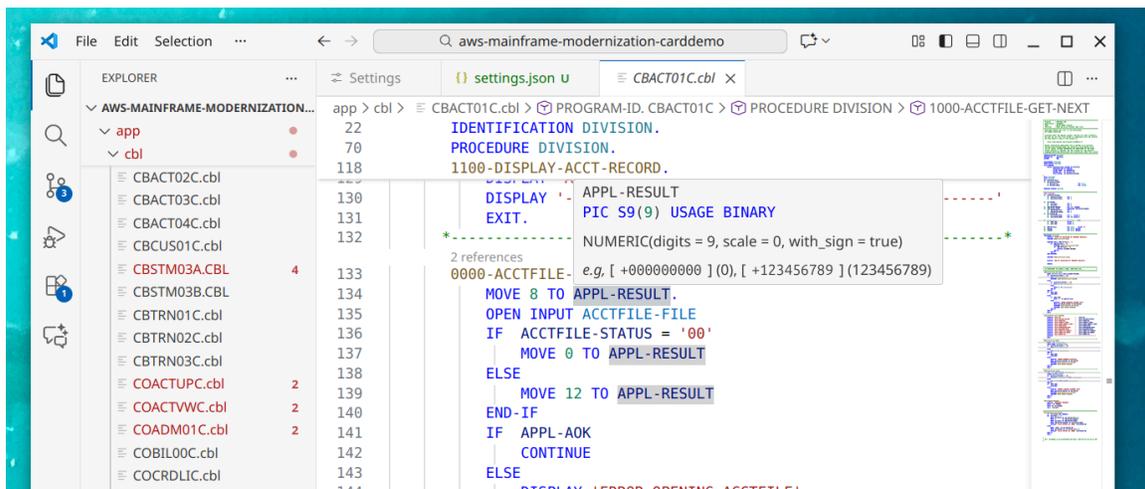
This manual is available:

- As an HTML website
- As a PDF File: SuperBOL-Studio-User-Manual.pdf

1 Forewords

SuperBOL Studio is an extension for VSCode to develop in COBOL. SuperBOL Studio uses an LSP (Language Server Protocol) Server to understand COBOL sources, display various information and help developers navigate in the sources.

SuperBOL Studio was firstly designed by Titagone-OCamlPro to work with the GnuCOBOL free open-source compiler.



2 Introduction

Welcome to this user manual. This document will explain how to install, configure and use the SuperBOL Studio extension for Vscode to edit COBOL application sources.

The SuperBOL Studio extension allows COBOL developers to benefit from a modern IDE experience to edit their COBOL programs.

Links related with SuperBOL Studio:

- Description on SuperBOL website: <https://superbol.eu/solutions/superbol-studio/>
- Description on Open-VSX: <https://open-vsx.org/extension/OCamlPro/SuperBOL>
- Description on Vscode Marketplace: <https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=OCamlPro.SuperBOL>
- Sources on Github: <https://github.com/ocamlpro/superbol-studio-oss>
- Another Documentation: <https://ocamlpro.github.io/superbol-studio-oss/sphinx>

In this manual, screenshots are often taken in a light color theme, to ease printing this document, though many users prefer to use VSCode in the default dark theme. A section in the “Using Vscode” chapter shows how to switch between color themes.

3 Installation

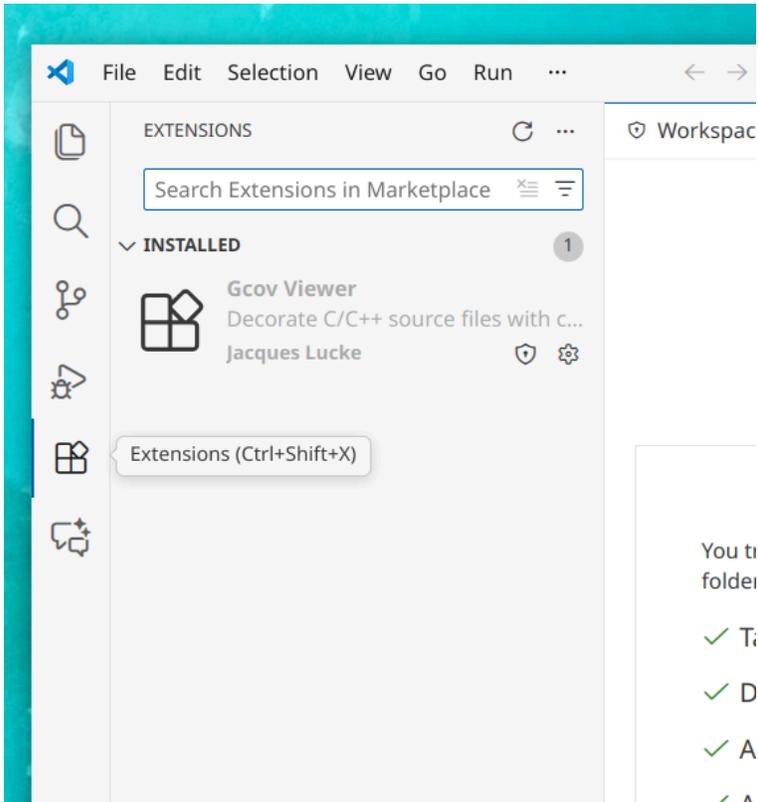
You can install SuperBOL Studio either directly from within VSCode (using the extensions marketplaces), or via a downloaded VSIX file.

3.1 Installation within VSCode

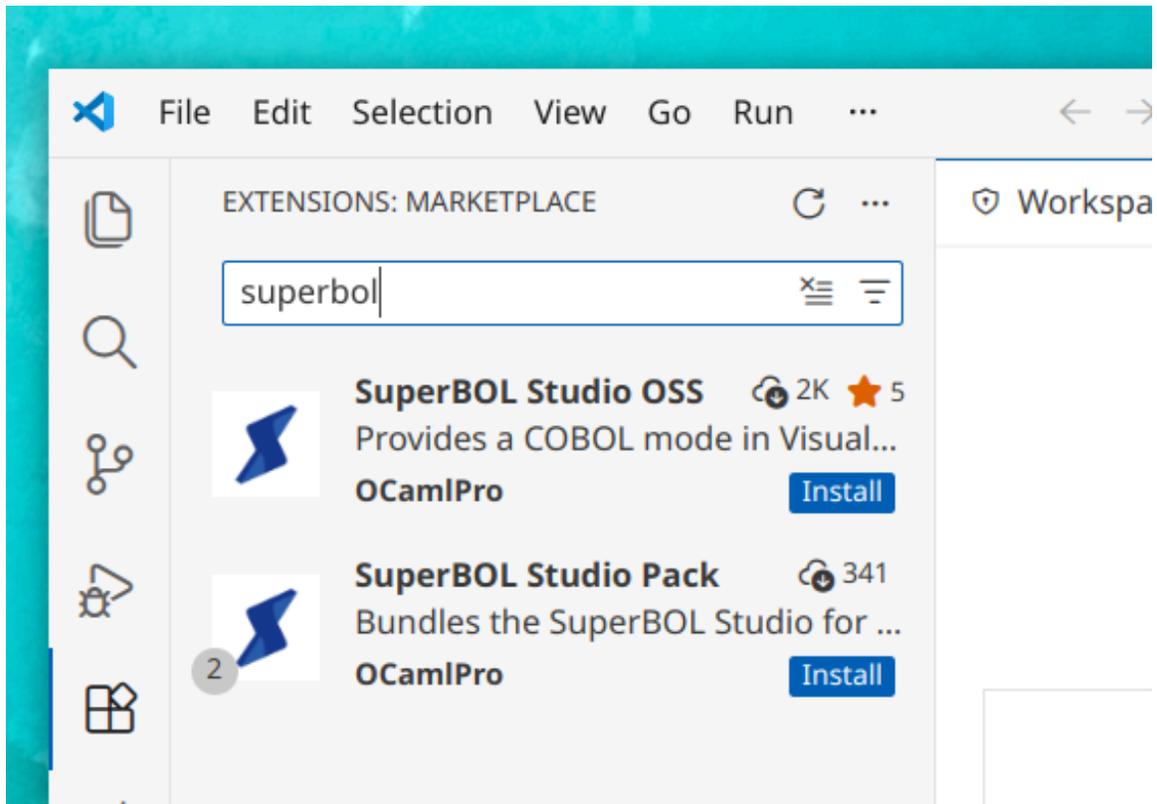
This is the easiest way to install SuperBOL Studio, directly from within VSCode. With this way, you will install the official versions of SuperBOL Studio only. Depending on your version of VSCode, the extensions come either from Microsoft VSCode Marketplace or from the Open-OSX repository, managed by Eclipse Foundation.

Follow these steps:

1. Click on the “Extensions” icon in the activity bar on the left-hand side, or press Ctrl+Shift+X.



2. Search for “superbol”



3. The first items that should appear will be:
 - SuperBOL Studio OSS: the extension that you want to install to use SuperBOL Studio
 - SuperBOL Studio Pack: an extension that contains the “SuperBOL Studio OSS” extension, together with other third-party extensions
4. Click on the `Install` button on one of these two extensions
5. The extension will install itself, and the “Install” button should turn into a configuration wheel button

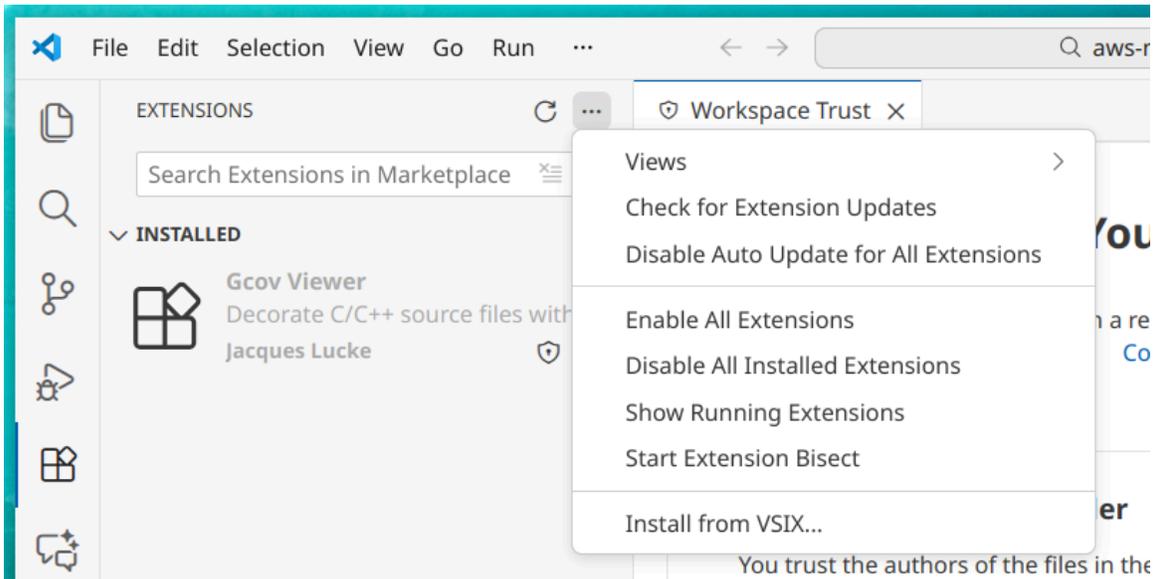
You can find further instructions for installing extensions directly within VSCode on this page.

3.2 Installation via a downloaded VSIX file

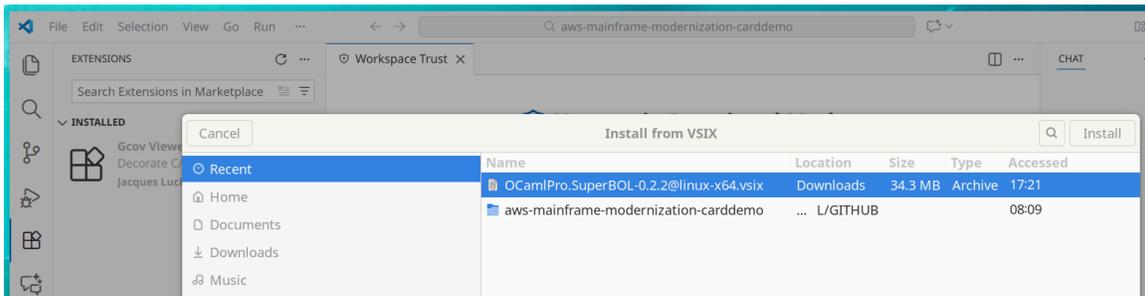
This is the way to use if you want to install an unofficial version of SuperBOL Studio, typically a test version with beta features, or a version compiled from the sources on Github.

Follow these steps:

1. Check the location of the extension file on your computer. It should come as a single file with the `.vsix` extension
2. In VSCode, go to the the “Extensions” view
3. In the sidebar, click on the three dots (`. . .`) on the top right-hand side (just above search),



4. Select `Install from VSIX...`, and a dialog box should appear
5. Pick the VSIX file on your disk, and click `Install`



Note that you can also use this method to install Vsix files downloaded from the marketplaces. For that, you need to select the correct binary for your platform:

Works With

VS Code: ^1.64.0

Target Platforms: Windows x64, Linux x64, macOS Intel, Universal

Resources

 [Homepage](#)

 [Repository](#)

 [Bugs](#)

DOWNLOAD

Windows x64

Linux x64

macOS Intel

Universal

[Claim Ownership](#)

[Report Abuse](#)

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Use.

S

cov-viewer

3.3 SuperBOL Studio OSS vs SuperBOL Studio Pack

The SuperBOL Studio OSS extension contains the SuperBOL Studio basic features. OSS stands for “Open-Source Software”, as the extension is open-source: most of the sources are publicly available on Github (allowing to rebuild the .vsix file with public features), and the other sources are provided to SuperBOL’s customers within the “Subscription” contract.

The SuperBOL Studio Pack extension is a “meta extension”: it selects a set of extensions to be installed together. This is usually useful if you want to benefit from our choice of some other extensions that we found useful to use together with SuperBOL Studio OSS.

Currently, SuperBOL Studio Pack includes:

- SuperBOL Studio OSS, of course
- `tamasfe.even-better-toml`: a mode to edit TOML files, that can typically be used to edit the `superbol.toml` file for advanced configuration. See <https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=tamasfe.even-better-toml>

3.4 Links to the Extensions Pages

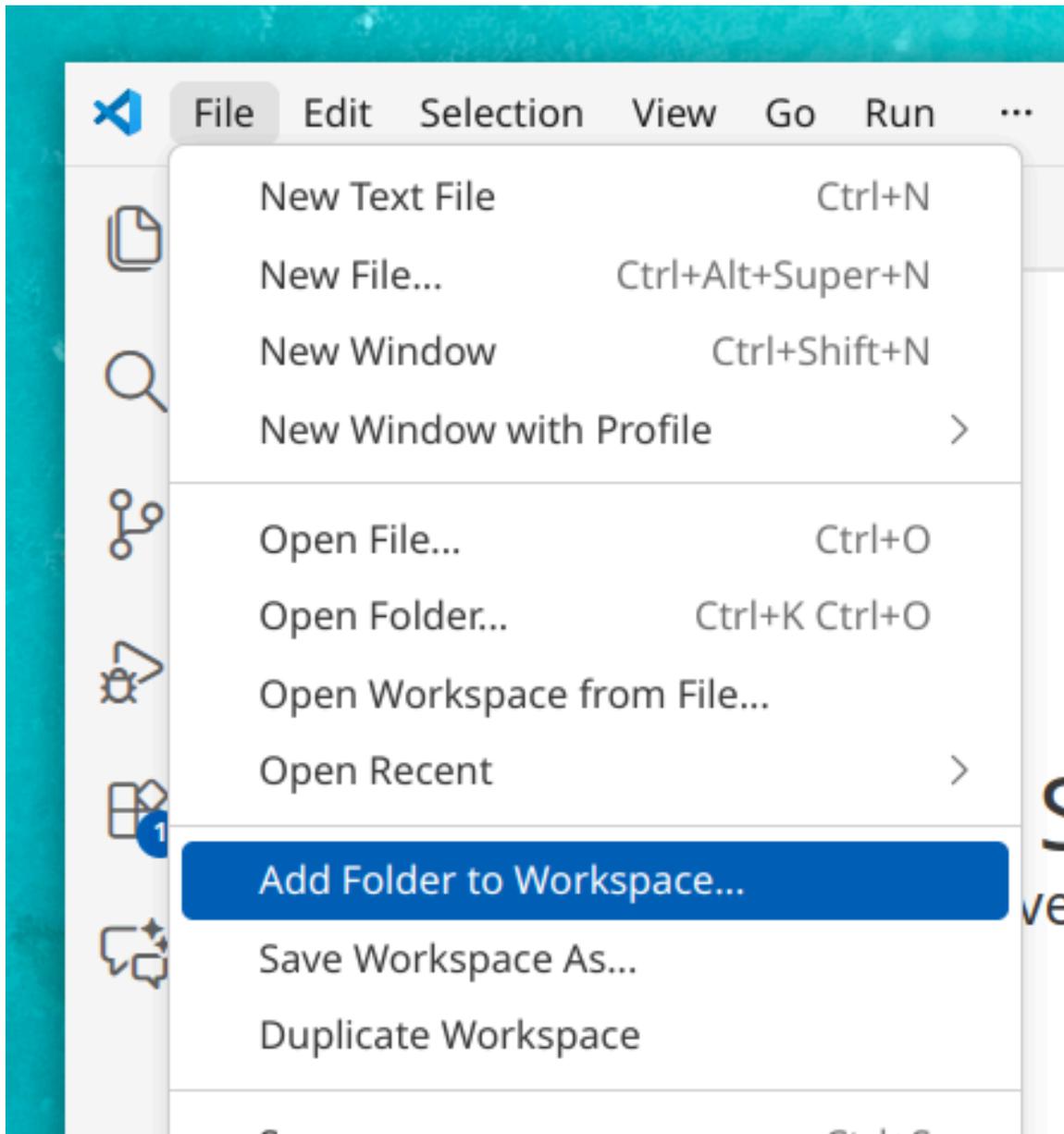
- Descriptions on Open-VSX: <https://open-vsx.org/>
 - SuperBOL Studio OSS: <https://open-vsx.org/extension/OCamlPro/SuperBOL>
 - SuperBOL Studio Pack: <https://open-vsx.org/extension/OCamlPro/SuperBOL-studio-pack>
- Descriptions on Vscod Marketplace:
 - SuperBOL Studio OSS: <https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=OCamlPro.SuperBOL>
 - SuperBOL Studio Pack: <https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items?itemName=OCamlPro.SuperBOL-studio-pack>
- Sources on Github: <https://github.com/ocamlpro/superbol-studio-oss>

4 Workspace Configuration

SuperBOL Studio can be used both on single COBOL files, or on a full COBOL project, usually called a Workspace in VSCocde language.

4.1 Editing an Existing Project as a Workspace

To start using the extension on an existing project, open its folder in VS Code (File > Add Folder to Workspace...).



The extension will start automatically whenever the folder contains files with usual COBOL filename extensions (.cob, .cbl, .cpy, .cbx).

Once the extension is started, COBOL sources should appear with colorization:

```

19  * language governing permissions and limitations under the License
20  * language governing permissions and limitations under the License
21  *****
22  IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.
23  PROGRAM-ID.    CBACT01C.
24  AUTHOR.       AWS.
25
26  ENVIRONMENT DIVISION.
27  INPUT-OUTPUT SECTION.
28  FILE-CONTROL.
29      SELECT ACCTFILE-FILE ASSIGN TO ACCTFILE
30      ORGANIZATION IS INDEXED
31      ACCESS MODE IS SEQUENTIAL
32      RECORD KEY IS FD-ACCT-ID
33      FILE STATUS IS ACCTFILE-STATUS.
34  *
35  DATA DIVISION.
36  FILE SECTION.
37  FD ACCTFILE-FILE.
38      1 reference
39      01 FD-ACCTFILE-REC.
40          1 reference
41          05 FD-ACCT-ID                               PIC 9(11).
42          1 reference
43          05 FD-ACCT-DATE                             PIC 9(8).
44
45  COPY CVACT01Y.
46      8 references
47      01 ACCTFILE-STATUS.
48          1 reference
49          05 ACCTFILE-STAT1                             PIC X.
50          1 reference
51          05 ACCTFILE-STAT2                             PIC X.
52
53      6 references
54      01 IO-STATUS.
55          3 references
56          05 IO-STAT1                                 PIC X.
57          2 references
58          05 IO-STAT2                                 PIC X.
59
60      4 references
61      01 TWO-BYTES-BINARY                             PIC 9(4) BINARY.

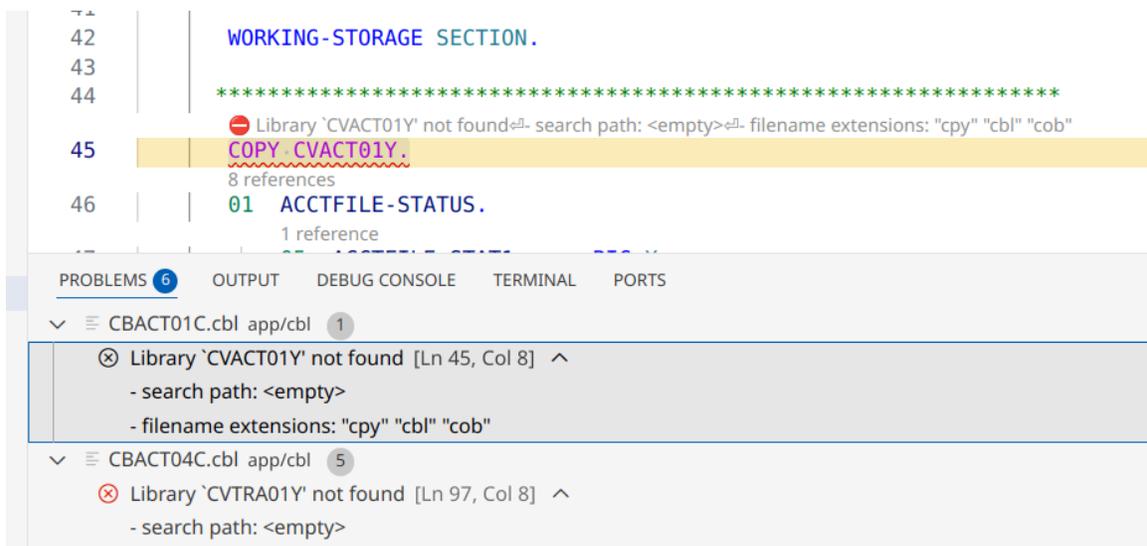
```

The extension will try to parse the sources, and resolve COPY statements. If it fails, it will display problems:

- the number of problems found after the file name in the file explorer
- these problems are shown directly in the sources

Note that, in our case, we use the “Error Lens” VSCode extension to inline errors in the source code. There are many similar extensions to improve the visualization of problems.

You can also directly go to the first problem, using Ctrl+Shift+M:



Such problems usually come from a bad configuration of the workspace for the COBOL dialect used by this project. So we need to configure it to make the extension work correctly. We will see this in the next section.

4.2 Configuring the Extension for the COBOL Project

Open the settings (File > Preferences > Settings, or Ctrl+), and start typing “superbol...”. You will be presented with a screen that resembles:

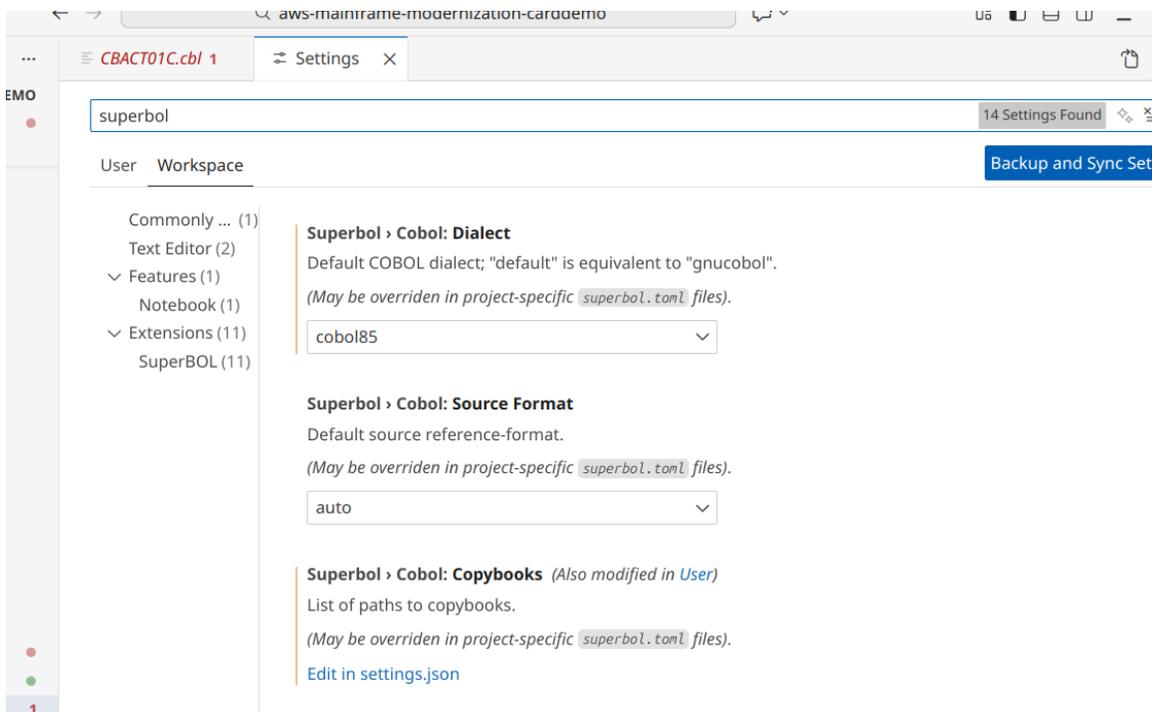


Figure 1: SuperBOL settings

Beware that there are several ways to configure settings:

- **User** settings: these are the default settings when the workspace is not configured. On the picture above, they are on the left tab “User”. They are stored in the user profile, typically in `$HOME/.config/Code/User/settings.json`.
- **Workspace** settings: these are the settings specific to this workspace. **They are the ones you probably want to configure now.** On the picture above, they are on the right tab “Workspace”. They are stored in a file `.vscode/settings.json` at the root of the workspace.
- Additionally, SuperBOL Studio can use its own configuration file for some settings, located in a file **superbol.toml** at the root of the project. This file is typically useful if you plan to use SuperBOL tools on the command-line in this project. VSCode will sometimes warn you if you are trying to configure settings internally in VSCode when there is also a `superbol.toml` file.

In our example, the source format was correctly inferred. If it is not your case, you can change the **Source Format** option:

- The default reference source-format "superbol.cobol.sourceFormat" When auto is selected, which is the default, SuperBOL (and GnuCOBOL) will automatically try to guess whether the source is in free or fixed format. Other source formats need to be configured explicitly.

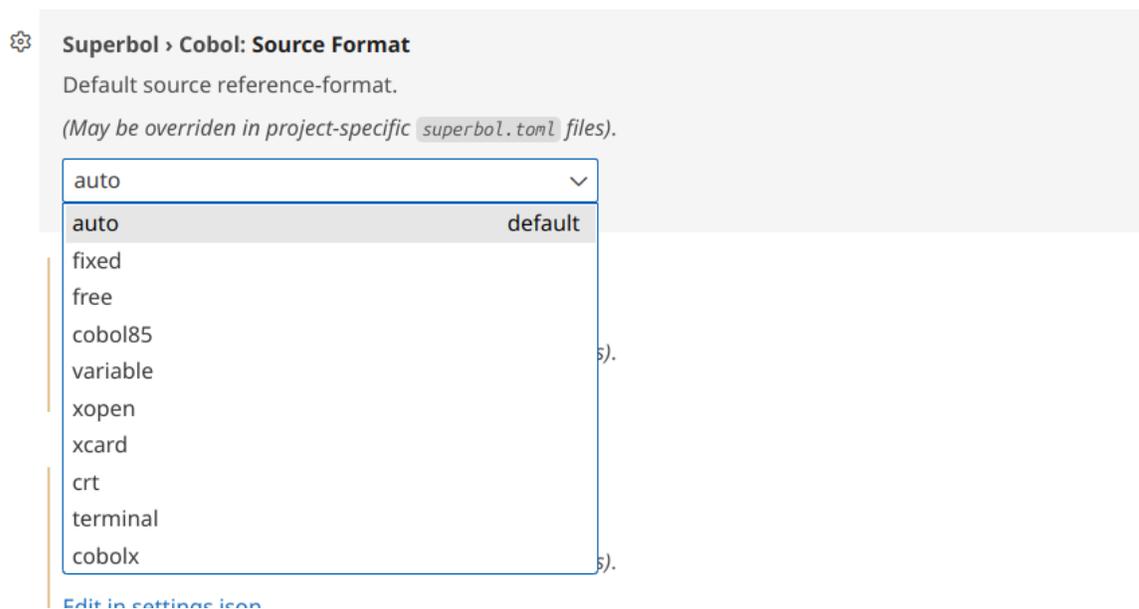


Figure 2: SuperBOL settings

In our case, the extension complains about not finding some copybooks. Two settings are available to control how the extension looks up for copybooks:

⚙️ **Superbol > Cobol: Copybooks** *(Also modified in User)*
List of paths to copybooks.
(May be overridden in project-specific `superbol.toml` files).
[Edit in settings.json](#)

Superbol > Cobol: Copyexts *(Also modified in User)*
File extensions for copybook resolution
(May be overridden in project-specific `superbol.toml` files).
[Edit in settings.json](#)

Both options have to be configured in JSON by modifying the `settings.json` file, so you need to click on “Edit in settings.json”.

```
.vscode > {} settings.json > [] superbol.cobol.copyexts
1  {
2    "superbol.cobol.copyexts": [
3      "cpy",
4      "cbl",
5      "cob"
6    ],
7    "superbol.cobol.copybooks": [
8      {
9        "dir": "app/cpy",
10       "file-relative": false
11     }
12   ]
13 }
14 }
```

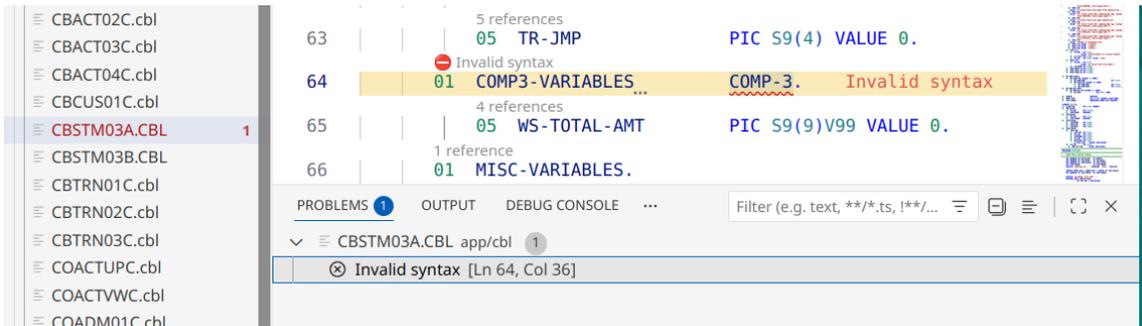
Figure 3: Editing copybook paths in `.vscode/settings.json`

- The path to copybooks “**superbol.cobol.copybooks**”. This is a list, where each entry describes an element of the search path where your copybooks will be looked for. Each entry must contain a field “**dir**”, and an optional field “**file-relative**”.
 - If the directory you want to specify (where copybooks are located) is a path starting from the root of the workspace, or an absolute path, you can skip the `file-relative` field, or set it to `false`.
 - If the directory you want to specify is a path relative to the directory containing the specific COBOL source with the `COPY` statement, you should set the `file-relative` field to `true`.
- The copybook extensions “**superbol.cobol.copyexts**”. To configure this setting, you will need to select `Edit in settings.json`. This is a list, where each entry describes a file extension if the copybook name cannot be found as-is (for example `COPY "mycpy.lib"`). In SuperBOL, the

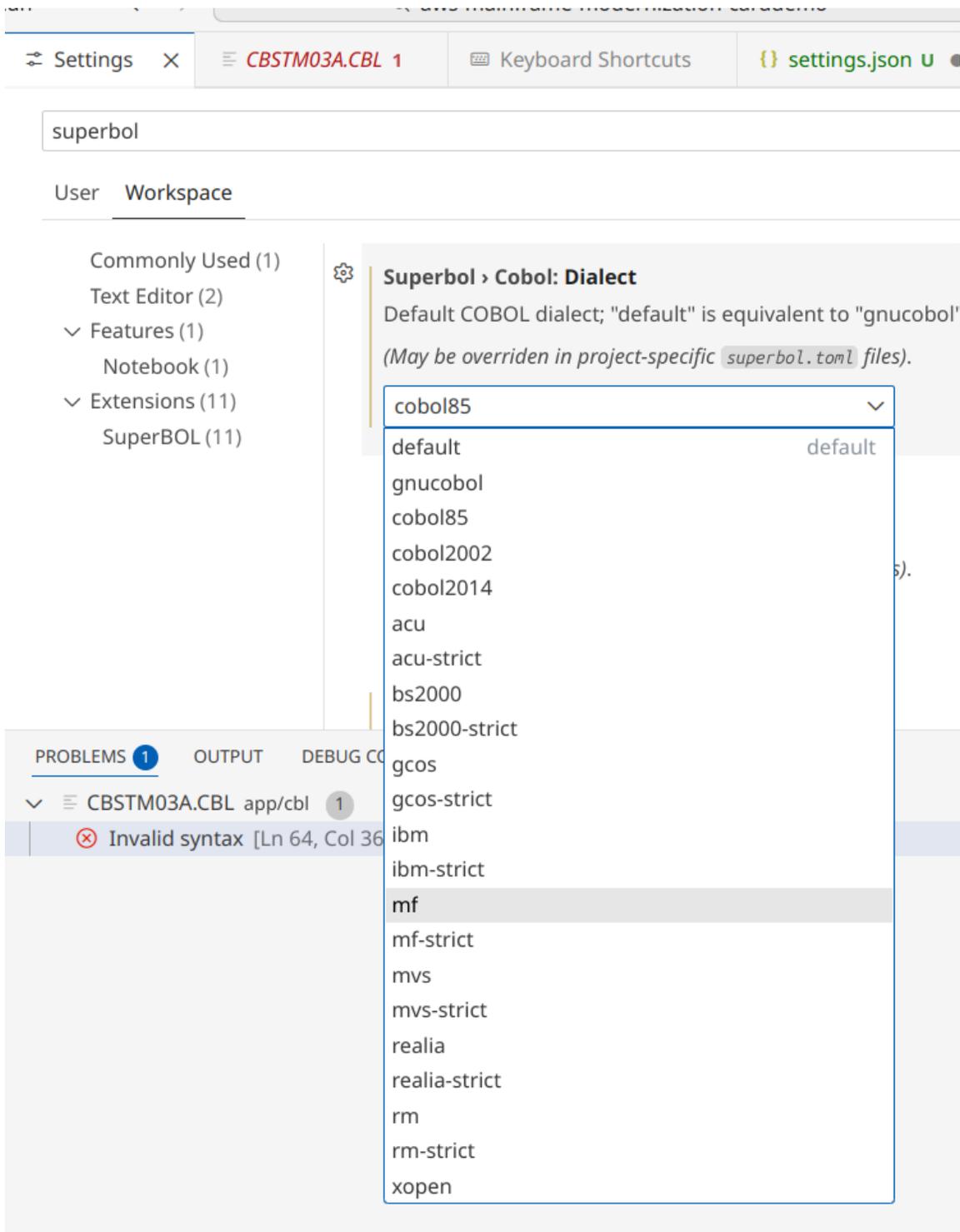
default option corresponds to GnuCOBOL's default, which is ["cpy", "cbl", "cob"] (searched in upper-case first, and then in lower-case).

Do not forget to save the file (with Ctrl+S). As soon as it is saved, the extension will restart the LSP to re-analyze the COBOL sources.

Now, the extension gives us a different kind of errors, because it couldn't understand the syntax:



- The COBOL dialect used in the project "superbol.cobol.dialect" for a documentation on every available dialect). In SuperBOL, the default dialect corresponds to GnuCOBOL's default, that supports many features from dialects such as COBOL2014, IBM, MicroFocus (mf), or GCOS for instance;



4.3 Syntax diagnostics

[!NOTE]

Syntax checks performed by SuperBOL Studio currently cover the COBOL85 dialect, and some constructions of more recent dialects supported by GnuCOBOL. Reporting of such diagnostics is currently disabled for dialects other than COBOL85 to avoid misleading developers with false diagnostics about syntax errors.

Reporting can be re-enabled for every dialect by setting the `Force Syntax Diagnostics` flag in SuperBOL configuration settings.

4.4 Collaborating with other developers

At this point, the settings for your project are stored and managed by VS Code. However, you may plan to collaborate with developers that do not use this editor. For instance, they might want to use our mode for GNU/Emacs, which is located here. Then, we advise you to let SuperBOL Studio store the configuration in a `superbol.toml` file that will be located at the root of the project.

You can make the extension write your current project configuration into a `superbol.toml` by entering the command palette (View > Command Palette..., or press Ctrl+Shift+P), and then selecting the command `SuperBOL: Write Project Configuration`.

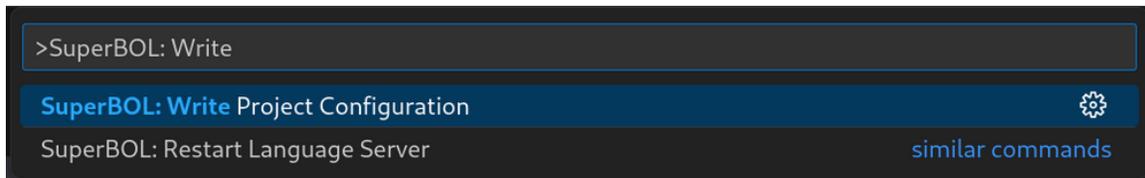


Figure 4: SuperBOL: Write Project Configuration

This will save a `superbol.toml` file at the root of each currently opened project directory. Such a file will not store any user-specific settings, so you can now safely put them under source control. Extensions dedicated to the edition of TOML files, such as `tamasfe.even-better-toml`, provide the same level of assistance as when you edit `.vscode/settings.json`.

[!TIP]

Install the `OCamlPro.SuperBOL-studio-pack` extension to get SuperBOL Studio and `tamasfe.even-better-toml` altogether.

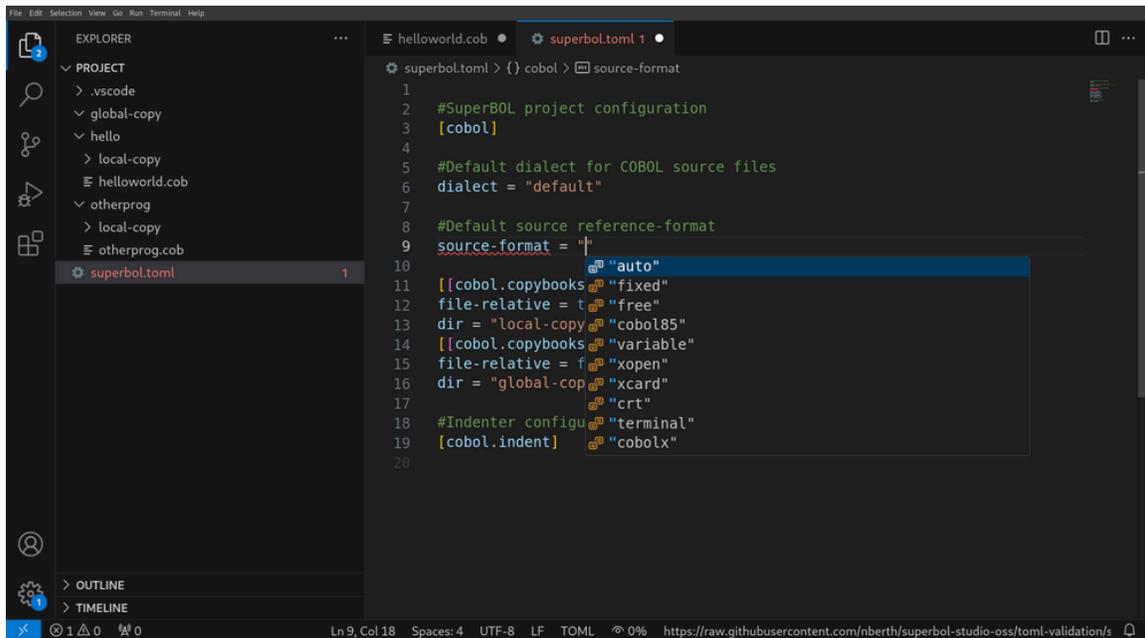


Figure 5: Editing superbol.toml

5 Navigation Features

5.1 Outline & Breadcrumbs

SuperBOL provides an outline view of your program once you open it, that you can use to navigate to specific sections or symbols (data items, paragraphs, etc). The same information is also shown in the “breadcrumbs” bar, that is usually located above the text edition area.

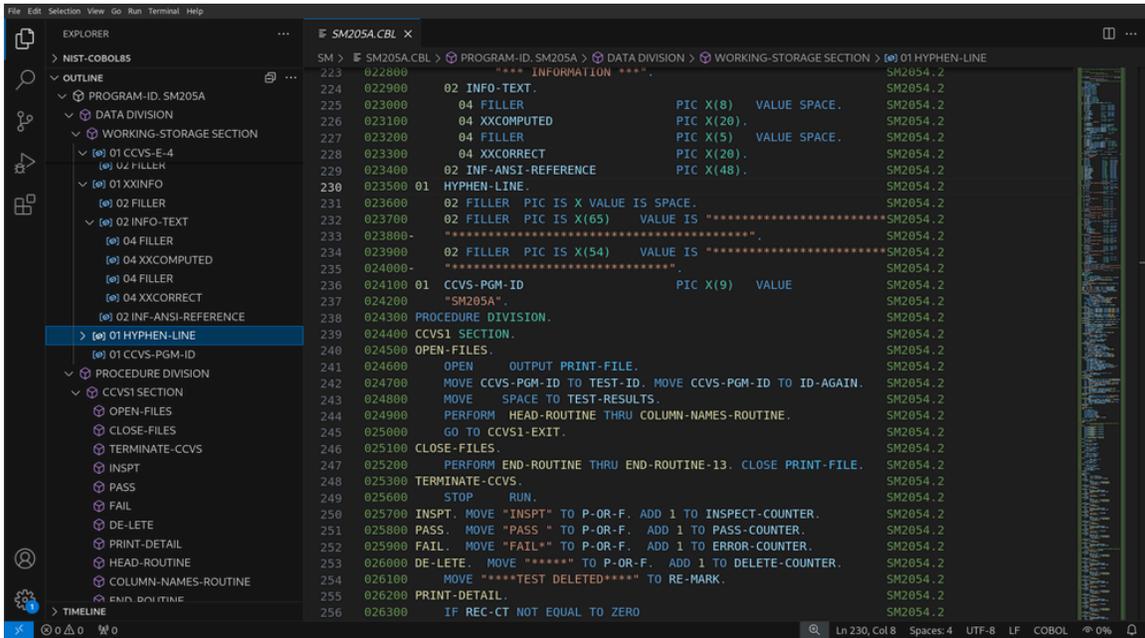


Figure 6: Outline & Breadcrumb

5.2 Go to Symbol

Symbols shown in Outline and Breadcrumbs views can also be searched and jumped to by pressing **Ctrl+Shift+O**.

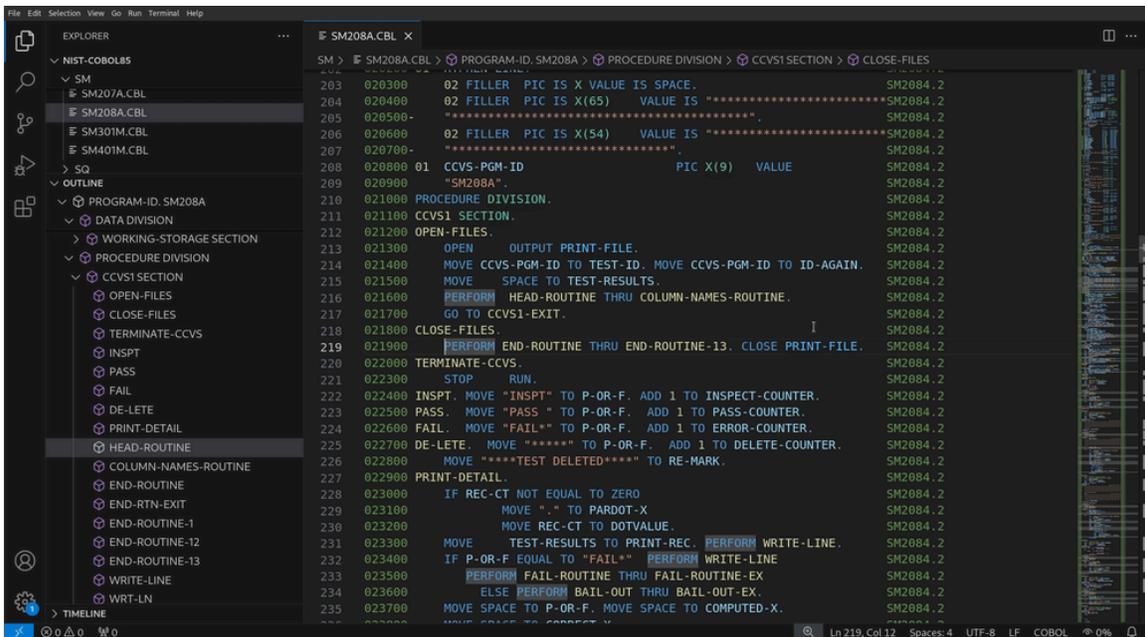


Figure 7: Go to Symbol

5.3 Go to Definition

When you want to locate the definition of a data item name in your source code, position your cursor on its name, right click, and select **Go to Definition** (or press F12).

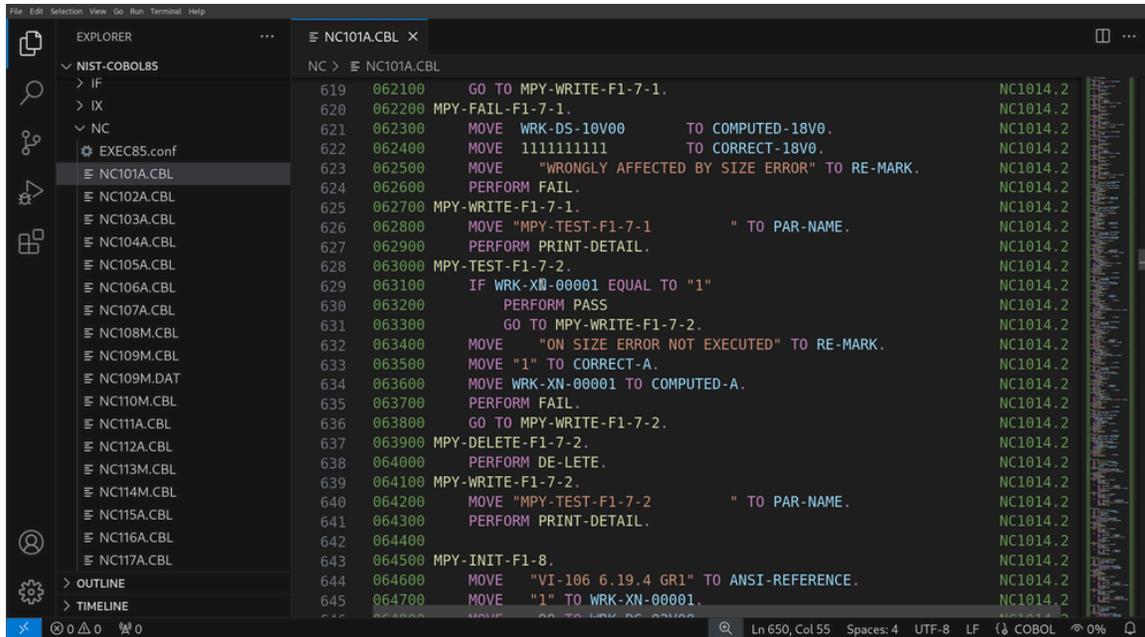


Figure 8: Go to Definition

[!NOTE] (Temporary limitation)

At the moment, definitions that belong to communication, report, or screen sections of the data division are ignored by the extension. In addition, some definitions in embedded SQL blocks (EXEC SQL) are not taken into account yet.

5.4 Peek Definition

To only have a peek at where such a data item defined, you can position the cursor on its name, right click, and select **Peek > Peek Definition** (or press Ctrl+Shift+F10). You will then be presented with a view of the location of the corresponding definition, including if it lies in a copybook.

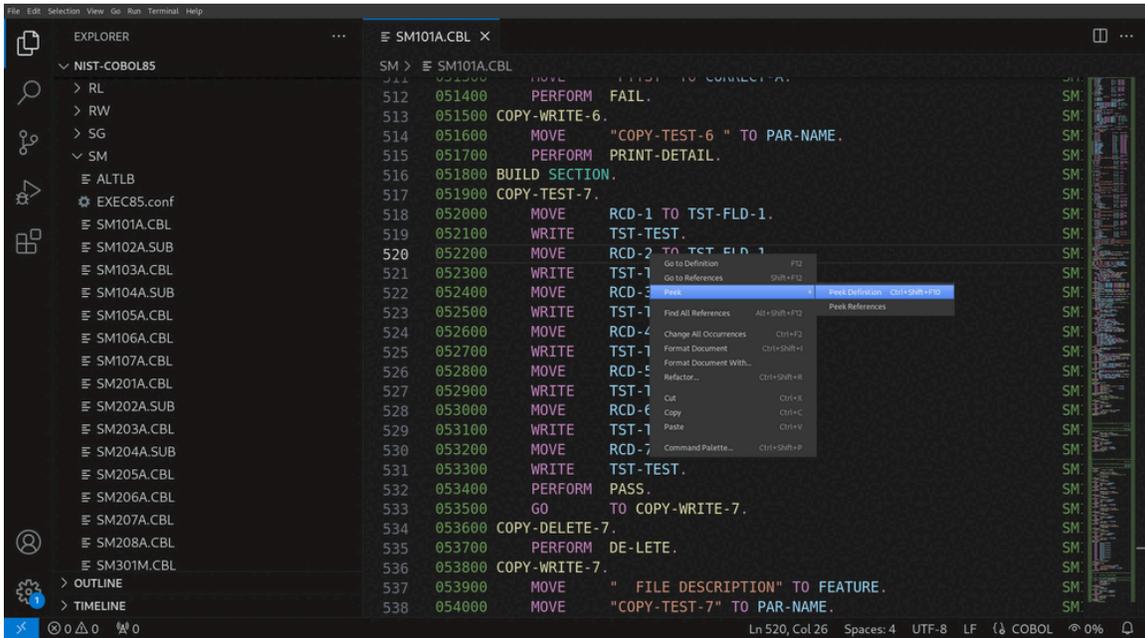


Figure 9: Peek Definition in copybook

5.5 Go to References

If you want to obtain a list of all references to a named data item, right click and select **Go to References** (or press Shift+F12). You will then view the location of every reference to this item.

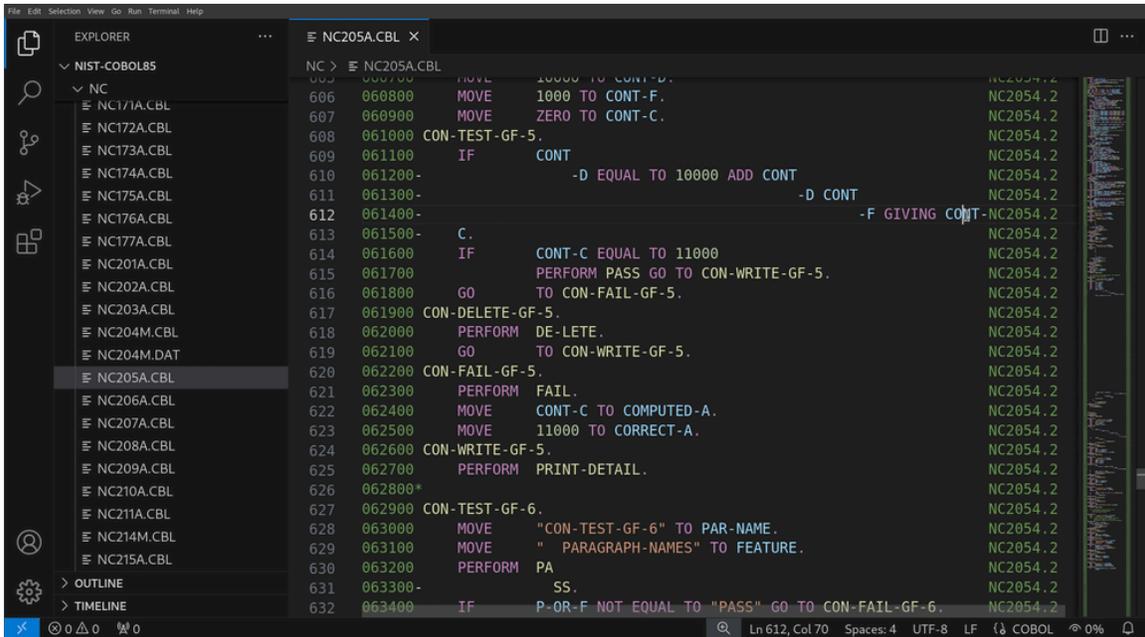


Figure 10: Go to References

[!NOTE] (Temporary limitation)

Limitations mentioned in Go to Definition also apply.

5.6 Reference Information

The extension shows inline reference information above definitions of data items and elements of the procedure division.

The same limitations as for Go to Definition apply.

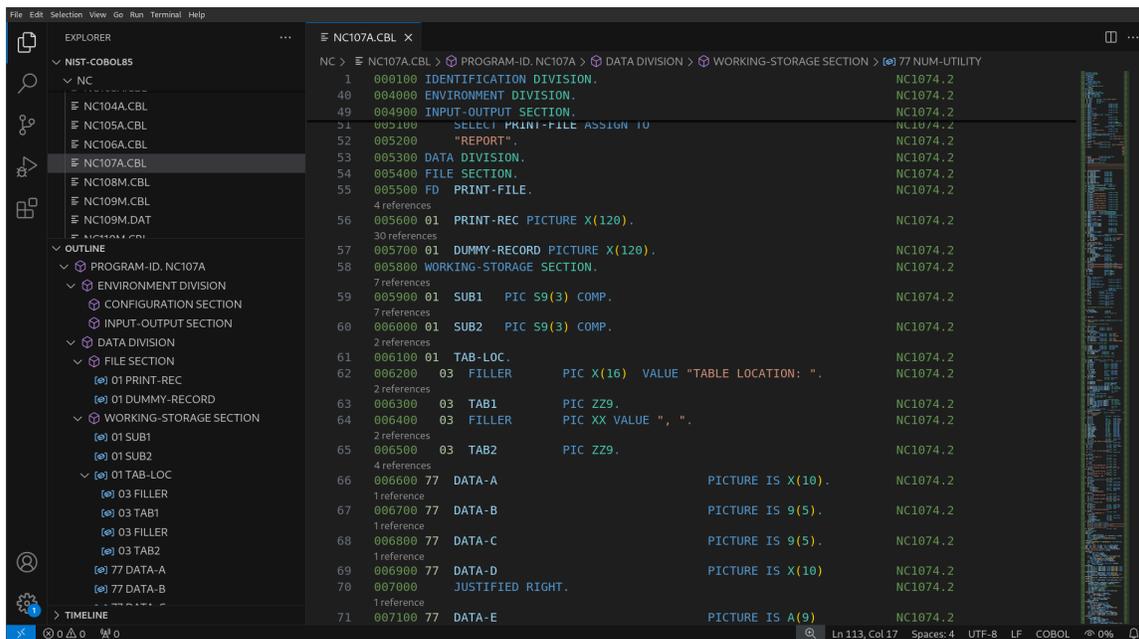


Figure 11: Reference Information

[!TIP]

This feature can be turned on or off by tuning the "editor.codeLens" configuration setting (you can type Ctrl+, and then codeLens to change this setting).

5.7 Hover to Show Copybooks

Ever wondered what was behind a COPY directive? Just position your cursor over such a statement, and you will be presented with the contents of the copybook.

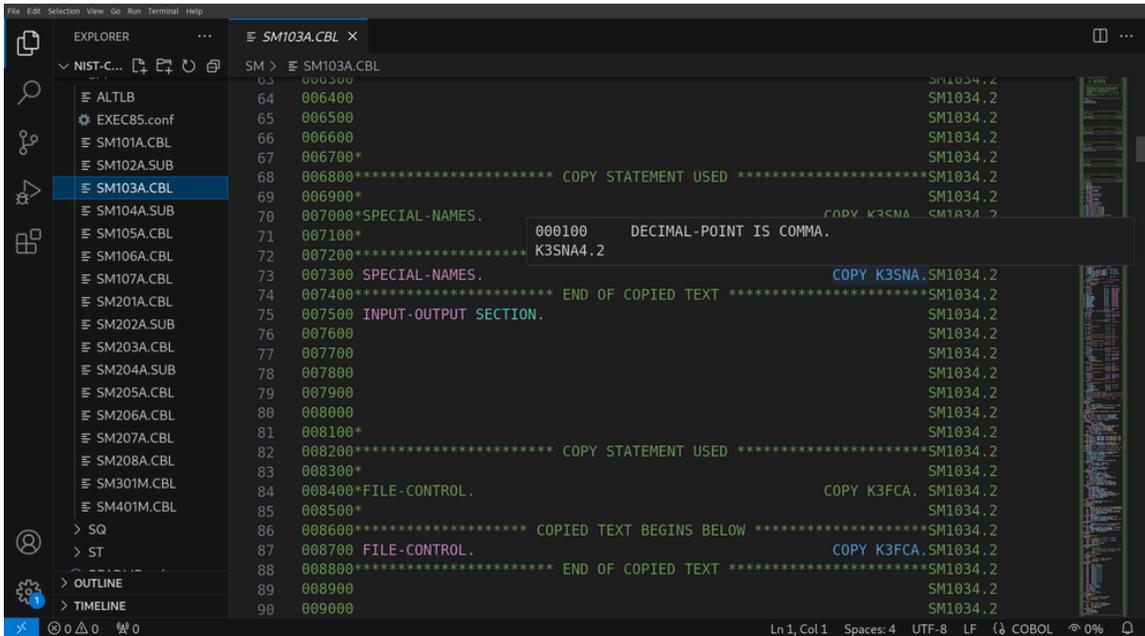


Figure 12: Hover over COPY

To ensure this works correctly, check your "superbol.cobol.copybooks" and "superbol.cobol.copyexts" settings.

5.8 Hover to Show Source Text Replacements

What's more? You can see the source text that results from replacement by a REPLACE directive in the same way.

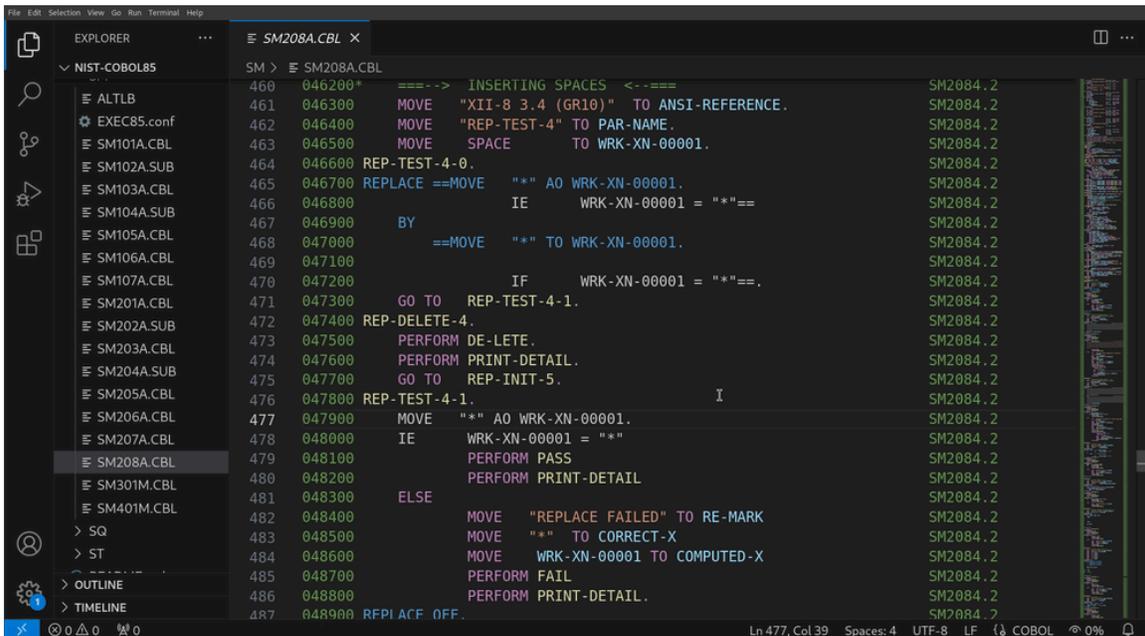
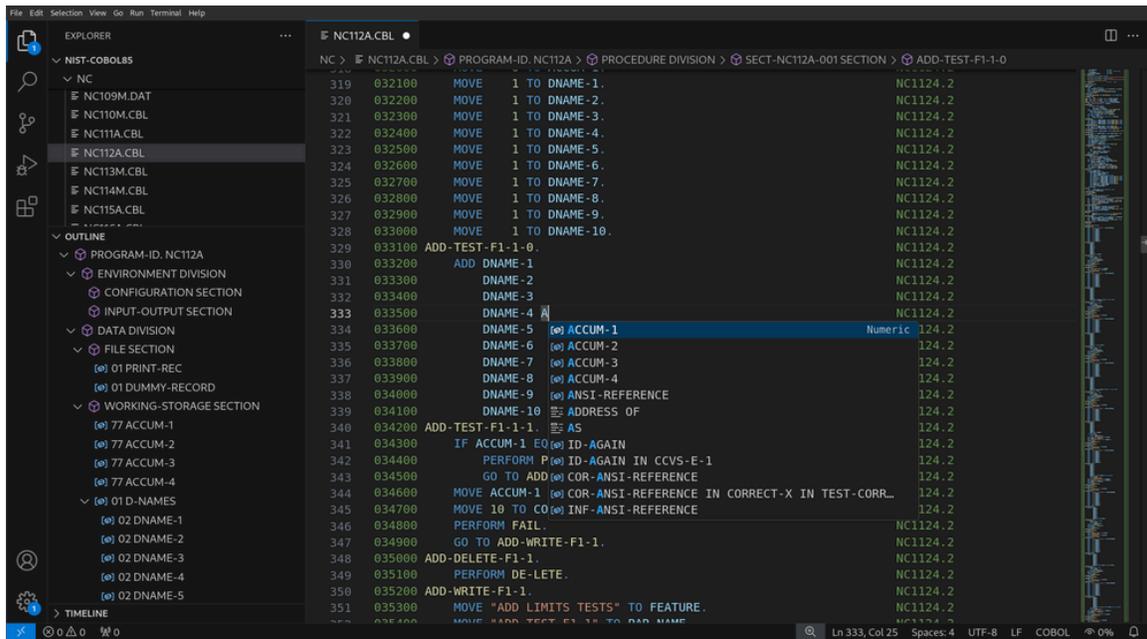
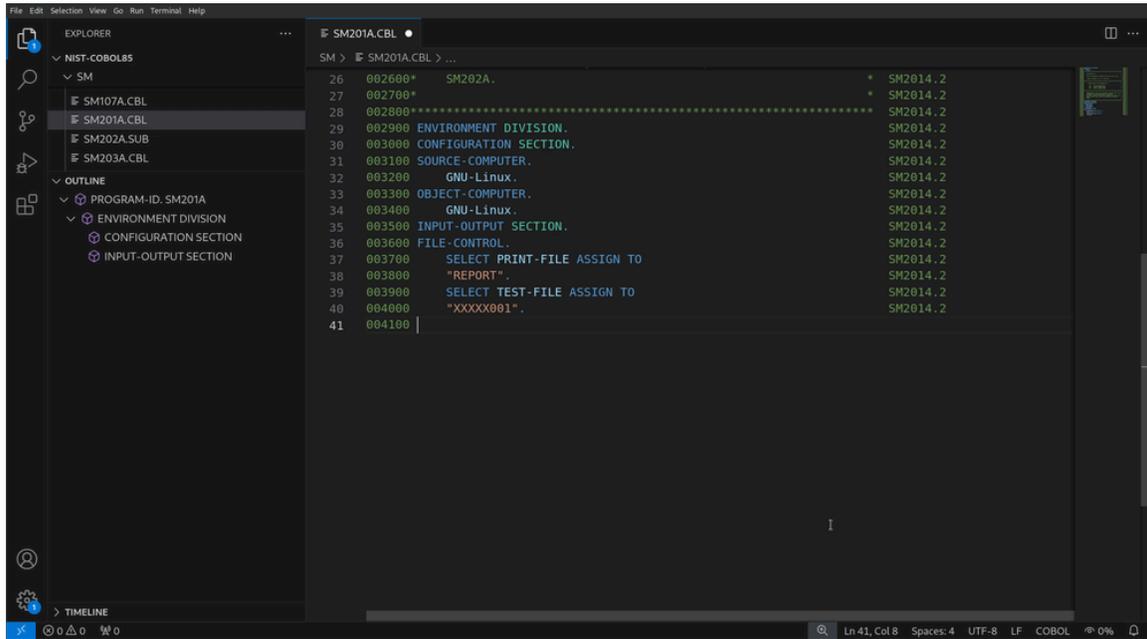


Figure 13: Hover over replacement

6 Edition Features

6.1 IntelliSense (auto-completion)

When editing a program, you can press Ctrl+Space to obtain suggestions on valid keywords, user-defined words (data item or paragraph names), and even complete COBOL sentences. Select an option with the arrow keys, and press Enter to insert the selected suggestion.



```

SM > SM201A.CBL > PROGRAM-ID: SM201A > PROCEDURE DIVISION > CCVS1 SECTION > OPEN-FILES
305 030500 02 FILLER PIC IS X(54) VALUE IS "*****SM2014.2
306 030600 "*****" SM2014.2
307 030700 01 CCVS-PGM-ID PIC X(9) VALUE SM2014.2
308 030800 "SM201A" SM2014.2
309 030900 PROCEDURE DIVISION. SM2014.2
310 031000 CCVS1 SECTION. SM2014.2
311 031100 OPEN-FILES. SM2014.2
312 031200 OPEN OUTPUT PRINT-FILE. SM2014.2
313 031300 MOVE CCVS-PGM-ID TO TEST-ID. MOVE CCVS-PGM-ID TO ID-AGAIN. SM2014.2
314 031400 MOVE SPACE TO TEST-RESULTS. SM2014.2
315 031500 PERFORM HEAD-ROUTINE. SM2014.2
316 031600 GO TO CCVS1 HEAD-ROUTINE. SM2014.2
317 031700 CLOSE-FILES. HEAD-ROUTINE IN CCVS1 SM2014.2
318 031800 PERFORM END-ROUTINE THRU END-ROUTINE-13. CLOSE PRINT-FILE. SM2014.2
319 031900 TERMINATE-CCVS. SM2014.2
320 032000 STOP RUN. SM2014.2
321 032300 INSPT. MOVE "INSPT" TO P-OR-F. ADD 1 TO INSPECT-COUNTER. SM2014.2
322 032400 PASS. MOVE "PASS" TO P-OR-F. ADD 1 TO PASS-COUNTER. SM2014.2
323 032500 FAIL. MOVE "FAIL*" TO P-OR-F. ADD 1 TO ERROR-COUNTER. SM2014.2
324 032600 DE-LETE. MOVE "*****" TO P-OR-F. ADD 1 TO DELETE-COUNTER. SM2014.2
325 032700 MOVE "*****TEST DELETED*****" TO RE-MARK. SM2014.2
326 032800 PRINT-DETAIL. SM2014.2
327 032900 IF REC-CT NOT EQUAL TO ZERO SM2014.2
328 033000 MOVE "." TO PARDOT-X SM2014.2
329 033100 MOVE REC-CT TO DOTVALUE. SM2014.2
330 033200 MOVE TEST-RESULTS TO PRINT-REC. PERFORM WRITE-LINE. SM2014.2
331 033300 IF P-OR-F EQUAL TO "FAIL*" PERFORM WRITE-LINE SM2014.2
332 033400 PERFORM FAIL-ROUTINE THRU FAIL-ROUTINE-EX SM2014.2
333 033500 ELSE PERFORM BAIL-OUT THRU BAIL-OUT-EX. SM2014.2
334 033600 MOVE SPACE TO P-OR-F. MOVE SPACE TO COMPUTED-X. SM2014.2
335 033700 MOVE SPACE TO CORRECT-X. SM2014.2
336 033800 IF REC-CT EQUAL TO ZERO MOVE SPACE TO PAR-NAME. SM2014.2
337 033900 MOVE SPACE TO RE-MARK. SM2014.2
338 034000 HEAD-ROUTINE. SM2014.2

```

(Temporary limitation)

Suggestions of user-defined words may not comprise symbols that are defined in the communication, report, or screen section of the data division. Although user-defined words that occur in configured copybooks are also suggested, preprocessor-related variables or phrases are not.

6.2 Rename Data Items, Sections, and Paragraphs

You can rename any data item by pressing F2 while your cursor is positioned on one of its references. The extension will warn you if a reference to the renamed item appears in a copybook (in which case the renaming of every reference is not performed).

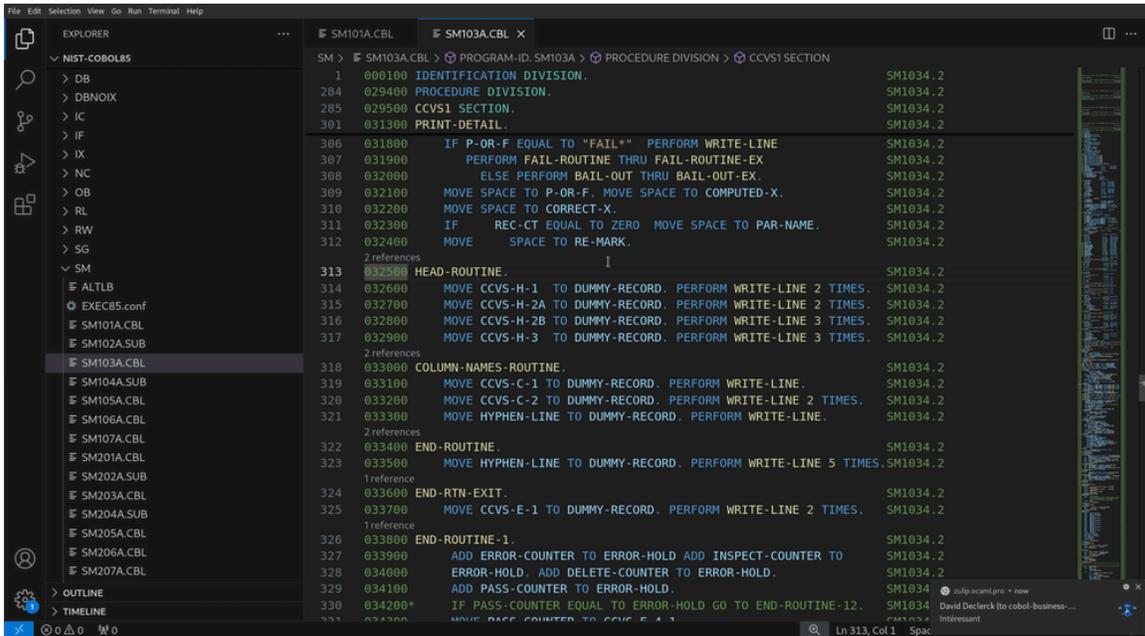


Figure 14: Rename Symbol

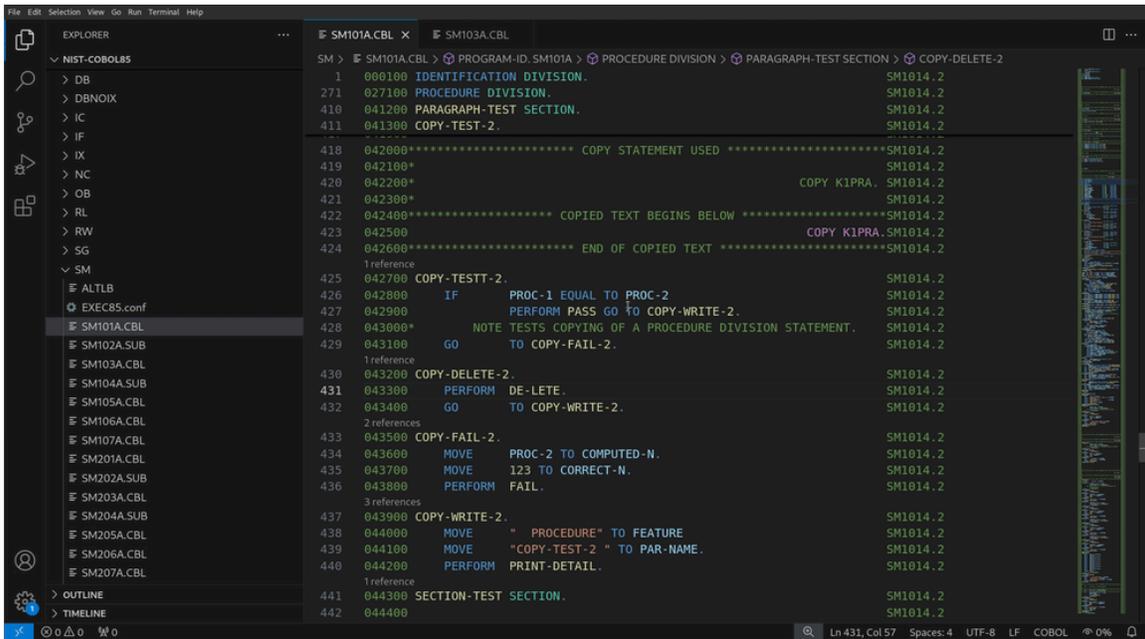


Figure 15: Rename Symbol in Copybook

Sections and paragraphs of the procedure division can also be renamed in the same way. The same limitations as for Go to References apply to this feature.

7 Control-Flow Visualization

7.1 Exploring the Control-flow

Navigating a graphical representation of a COBOL program's control-flow proves invaluable when it comes to decipher its overall logic. To do this, open the command palette (or type Ctrl+Shift+P), and select SuperBOL: Show Control-flow (you can also right click and select Show Control-flow in the menu). You are then presented with a list of portions of program to consider (either the entire program, or individual sections): select one element to see the corresponding CFG.

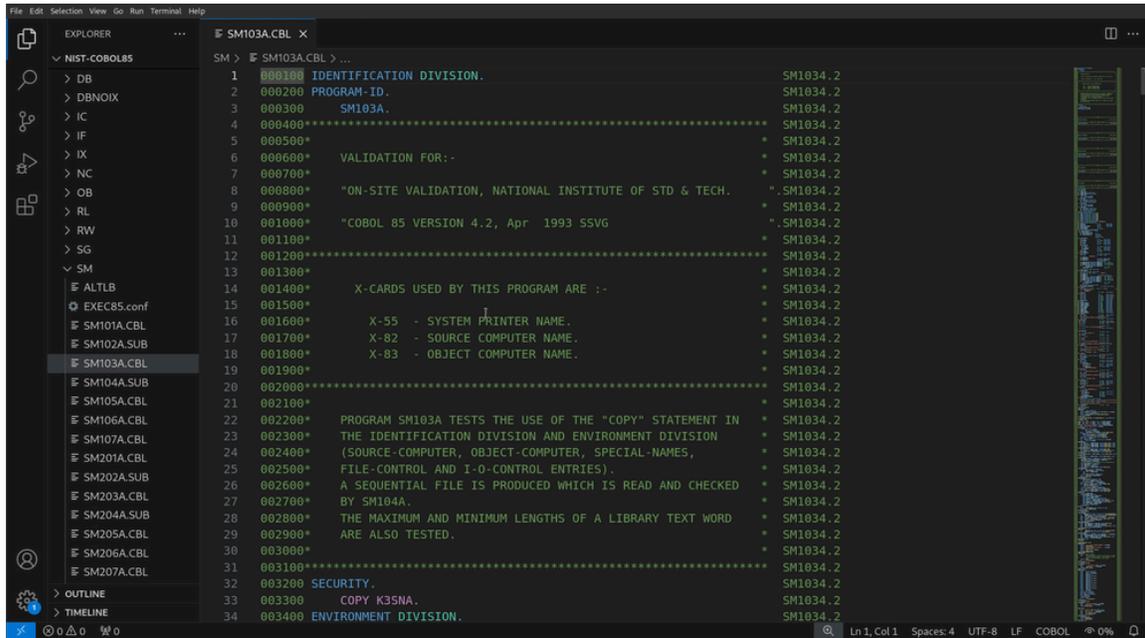


Figure 16: CFG Explorer

Various settings are provided to tune the rendering of CFGs.

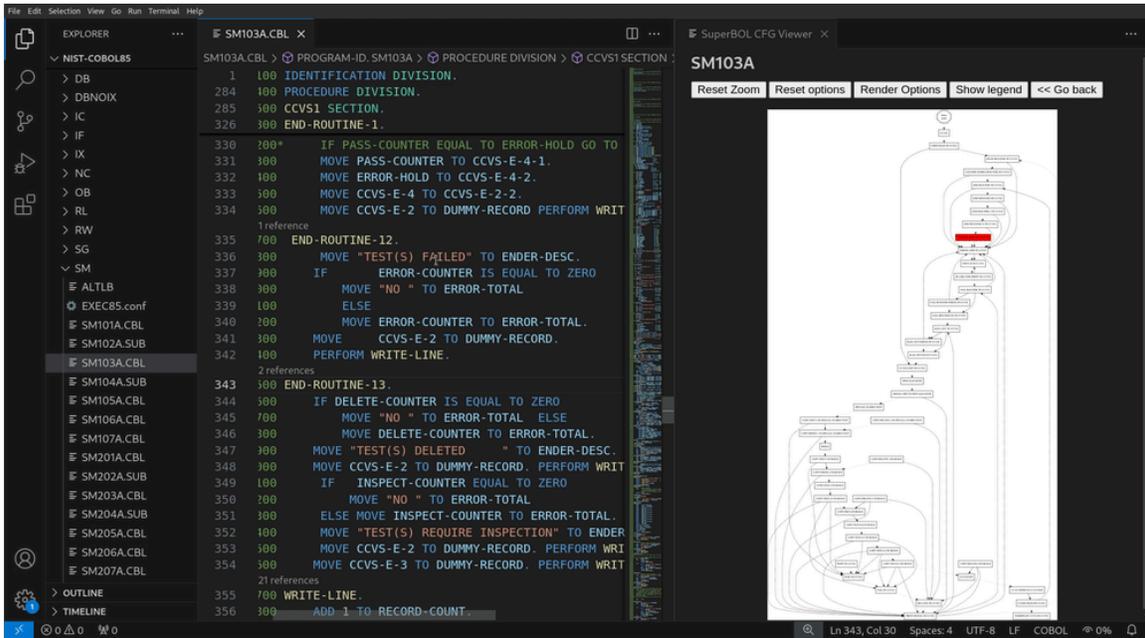


Figure 17: CFG Explorer Collapse Fallthrough

7.2 CFG as an arc diagram

A rendering of CFGs as arc diagrams is also available. In this representation, named sections and paragraphs are laid out vertically, and arcs show the direction of control-flow between them.

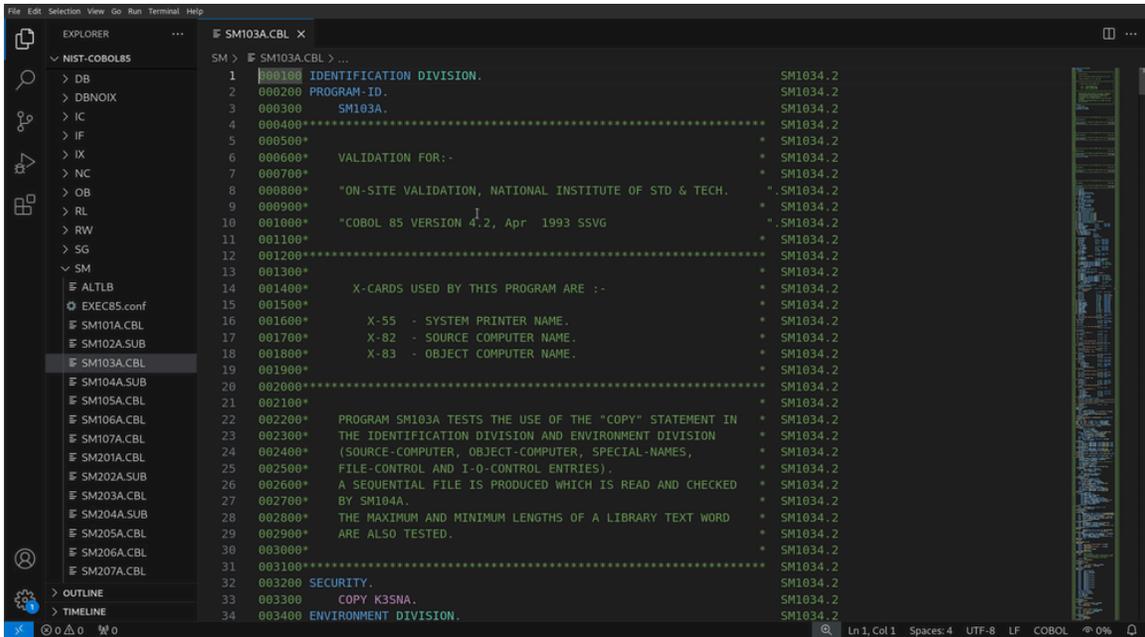


Figure 18: CFG Explorer as Arc Diagram

8 Debugging Programs

8.1 Debugging

In order to debug a COBOL program, you first need to run a *build task* with appropriate debug options. Once this is done, you can *launch* the compiled program in a debugging session.

[!NOTE]

We recommend that a version of GnuCOBOL that is at least as recent as version 3.2 be available on the system running VS Code. Debug and coverage features respectively assume that gdb and gcov are installed.

On Windows systems, users may employ dedicated installers that are available [here](#). Linux users may rely on their favorite package manager and install `gnucobol`.

8.2 Running a Build Task for Debugging

After having opened the program to debug, select Terminal > Run Build Task... (Ctrl+Shift+B), and then SuperBOL: build (debug).

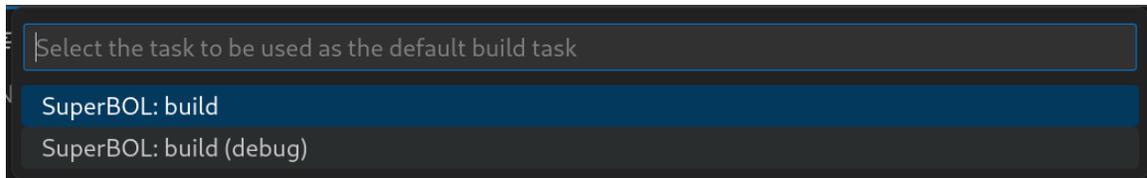


Figure 19: Select SuperBOL: build (debug)

8.3 Launching the Compiled Program for Debugging

If needed, you can place a breakpoint on statements (or paragraph titles in the procedure division) by clicking on the red dot that appears when you hover the cursor on the left margin (or with F9). Click on the red dot or press F9 again to remove a breakpoint. Then, to launch the program in debug mode, select Run > Start Debugging (F5). This will run your program until a first breakpoint is reached, or to completion.

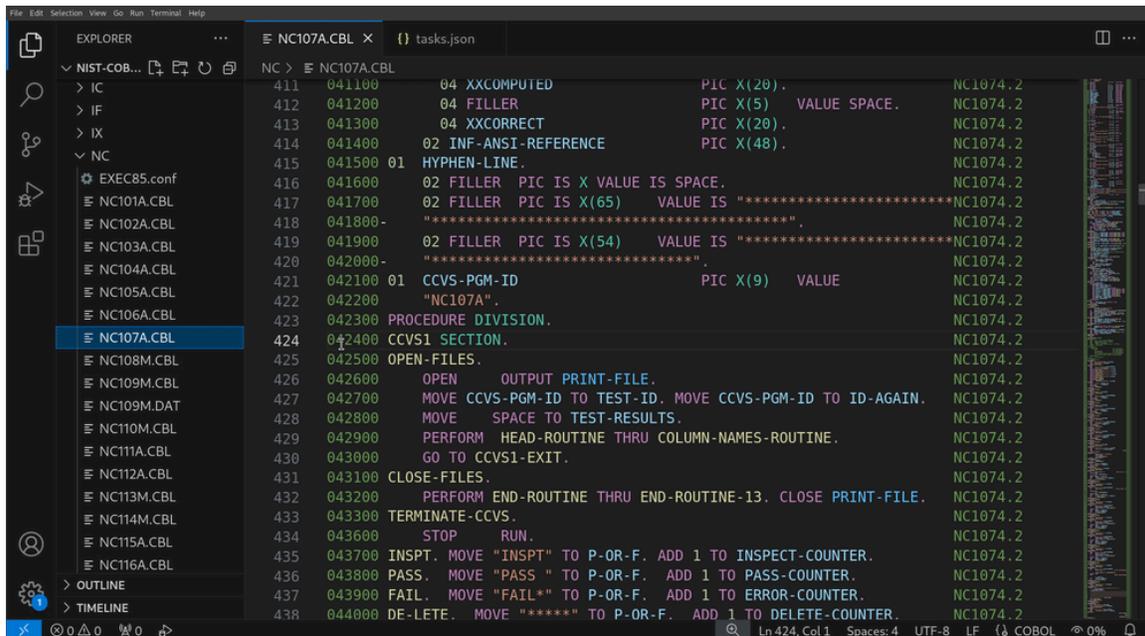


Figure 20: Start Debugging

Once stopped on a breakpoint, you can investigate the values of data items from the program using the VARIABLES panel on the left-hand side.

Press F10 to step to the next statement, or F5 again to continue until the next breakpoint, or termination of the program.

8.4 Customizing Build Tasks

To customize a build task, you can select `Terminal > Configure Default Build Task...`, and then `SuperBOL: build` or `SuperBOL: build (debug)` (the latter being the task that is run whenever you start a debugging session, e.g with F5).

Save the `tasks.json` as shown. Definitions for this task notably include a `forDebug` flag, that instructs the compiler to insert debug annotations into generated executable files (this effectively passes flags `-ftraceall` and `-g` to `cobc`). The `extraArgs` setting can be edited to pass additional arguments to `cobc`.

```
1 {
2   "version": "2.0.0",
3   "tasks": [
4     {
5       "type": "superbol",
6       "for-debug": true,
7       "for-coverage": false,
8       "cobc-path": "cobc",
9       "extra-args": [],
10      "problemMatcher": [
11        "$gnucobol",
12        "$gnucobol-warning",
13        "$gnucobol-error",
14        "$gnucobol-note"
15      ],
16      "group": {
17        "kind": "build",
18        "isDefault": true
19      },
20      "label": "SuperBOL: build (debug)"
21    }
22  ]
23 }
```

Figure 21: tasks.json for debug

9 Code Coverage

GnuCOBOL can instrument your programs so they can generate coverage information at runtime. To enable this feature, you can set the `forCoverage` setting to `true` in the Superbol: build (debug) task in your `tasks.json` file. This flag instructs the extension to pass the `--coverage` flag to the cobc compiler.

9.1 Coverage Information

Generated coverage files are in `gcov` format; they are portable, and you can use them as you would any other coverage file generated for programs written using other programming languages.

9.2 Highlighting Coverage Information

Coverage data can be shown after the execution of a program that was compiled to generate this information terminates. SuperBOL will display coverage on a line-by-line basis, by highlighting the lines of your source code using colors that represent their coverage status. To enable coverage highlighting, you can open the command palette (or type `Ctrl+Shift+P`), and select SuperBOL: Show Coverage. You can also hide the highlighting with the command SuperBOL: Hide Coverage, and update it after re-executing your program with SuperBOL: Update Coverage.

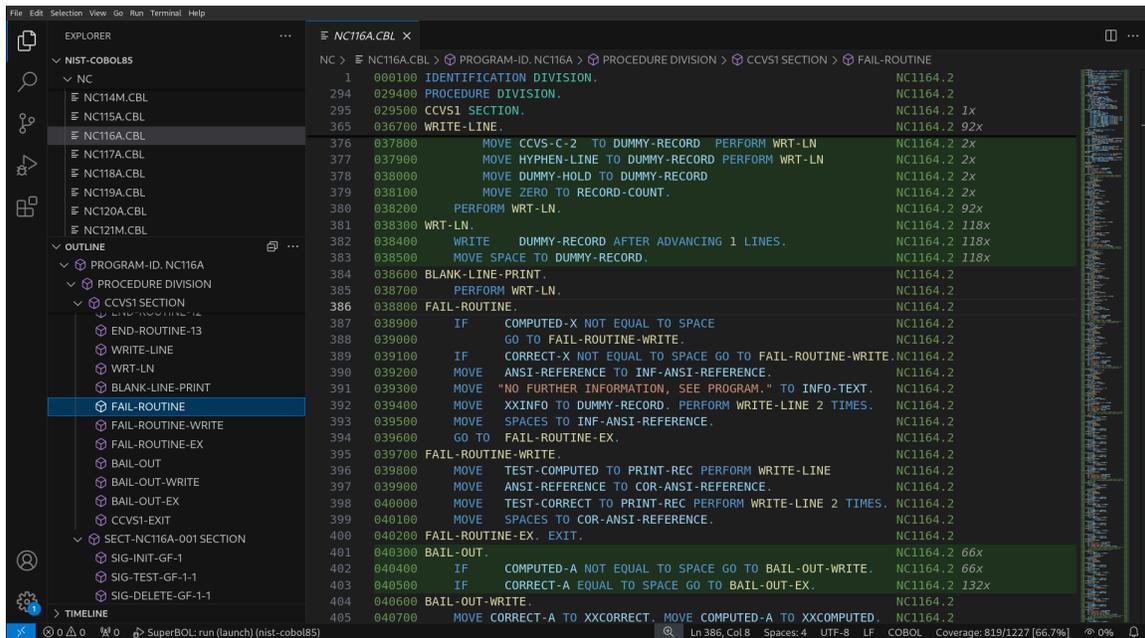


Figure 22: Show Coverage

10 Using Vscode in General

10.1 Navigating through Warnings and Errors aka Problems

Problems (errors and warnings) are not always as visible as we would want. You should probably install an extension to improve their display, typically the “Error Lens” VSCode extension) that displays errors as inline messages in the source code.

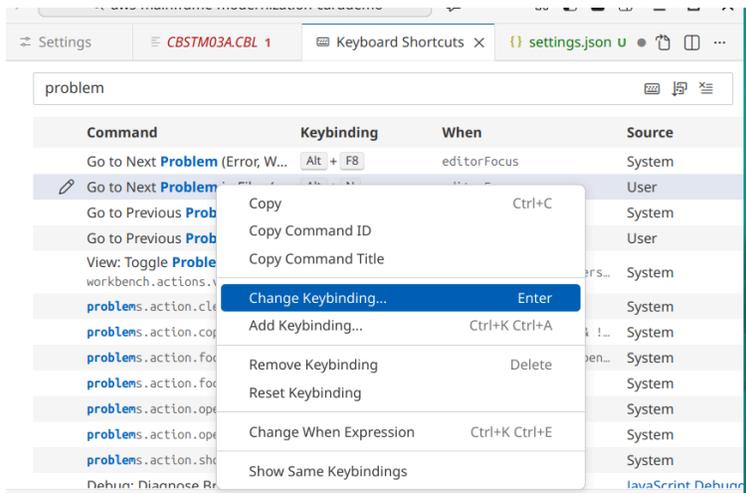
You can also use the following shortcuts:

- Ctrl+Shift+M: go to the first problem, and display the “Problems” tab, showing the list of all problems found. You can use arrow keys to navigate the problems.
- F8: go to next problem in file
- Shift+F8: go to previous problem in file

Some users like to use other shortcuts, for example because F8 is already used for something else.

For that:

- Open the “Keyboard Shortcuts” by typing successively Ctrl+K Ctrl+S
- Type “Problem” to display related shortcuts
- Click on the shortcut you want to edit, and use “Change Keybinding” to propose a new binding
- For example, in our case, we will use Alt+N for “Go to Next Problem in Files”



10.2 Switching between Light and Dark Themes

1. Open the **Command Palette** with CTRL + SHIFT + P
2. Type “Color Theme”.
3. Select **Preferences: Color Theme** from the dropdown.
4. Choose a color theme, typically the **Dark modern** or **Light modern**.

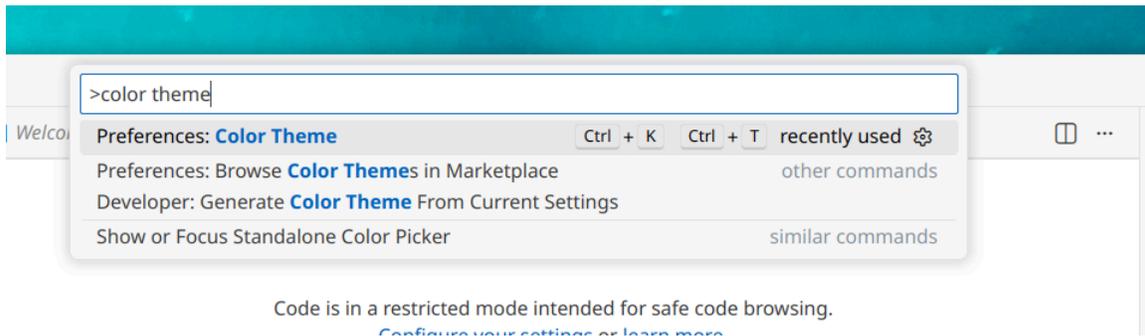


Figure 23: Color Theme Dropdown

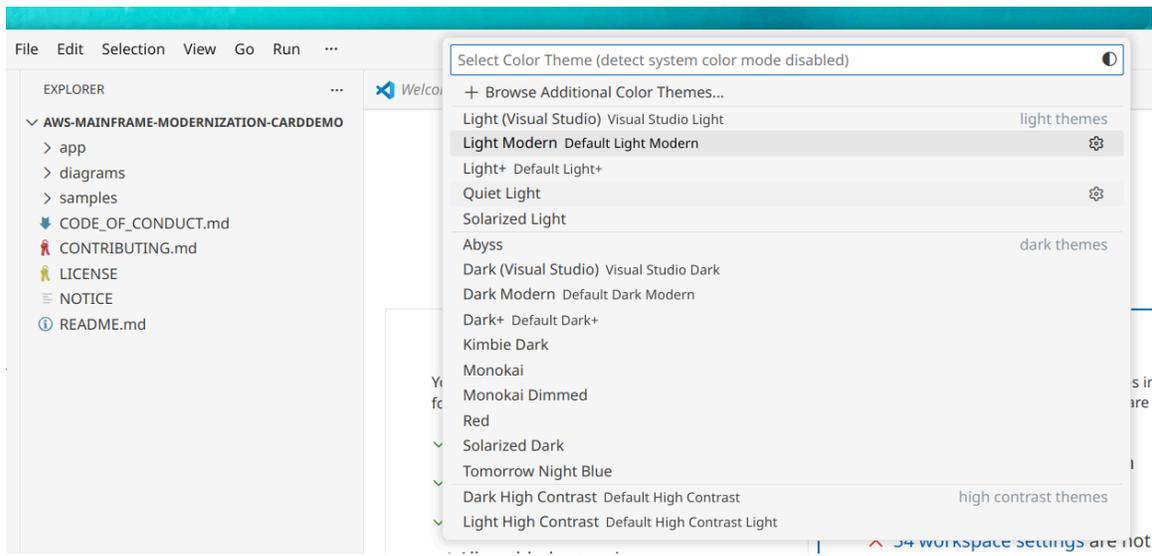


Figure 24: Color Theme Dropdown

10.3 The “Do you trust the authors” popup

When entering a new project, you always get the following popup:

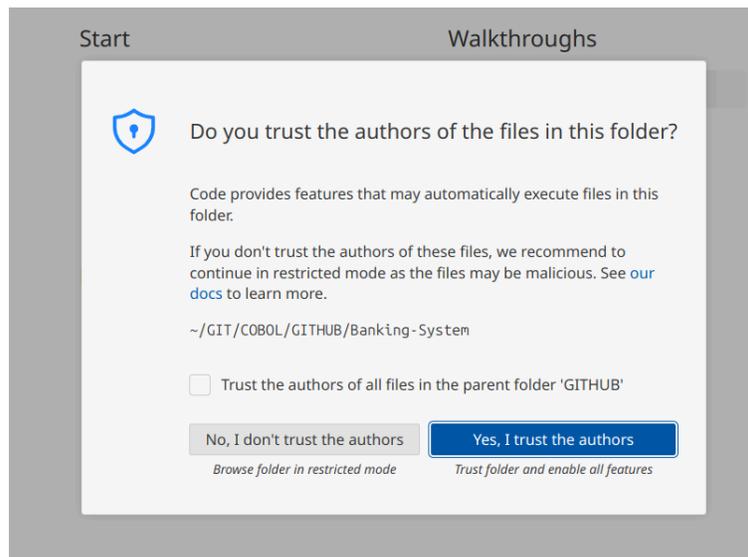


Figure 25: Do you trust popup

To use SuperBOL Studio extension, you need to reply “Yes, I trust the authors”.

If you reply “No, I don’t trust the authors”, Vscod enters a **Restricted Mode**, where:

- Extensions are disabled: Most extensions that actually do things (like debuggers, linters, or language servers for Python/C++) will be turned off. This prevents a malicious workspace from using an extension to run a script in the background.

- Tasks are blocked: Any automation you've set up in `.vscode/tasks.json` (like your make command for Pandoc) will be disabled. VS Code won't run them because it doesn't know if the command is safe.
- Debugging is disabled: You cannot launch the debugger, as this requires executing the code in the workspace.
- Workspace Settings are ignored: Some settings defined specifically for that folder (in `.vscode/settings.json`) will be overridden by your global user settings to prevent the folder from "hijacking" your editor's behavior.

If you replied "No", you will see a "Restricted Mode" button in the bottom left corner, click on it and select the "Trust" box to change it.

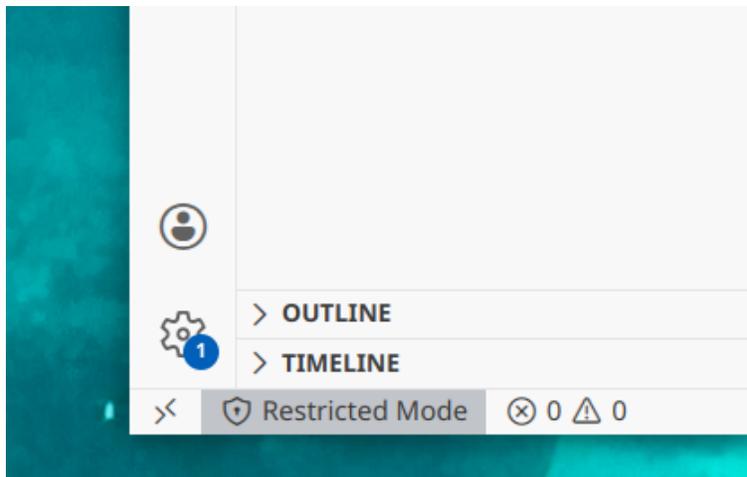


Figure 26: Color Theme Dropdown

11 SuperBOL Studio Reference

11.1 SuperBOL Studio Configuration

There are several configuration files used by VSCode:

- By default, options are taken from the user configuration in `$HOME/.config/Code/User/settings.json` (on Linux)
- In a workspace, options are taken from the workspace configuration in `.vscode/settings.json`
- Additionally, SuperBOL Studio LSP server will also use options from `superbol.toml` at the root of the workspace, as a preference over options from `settings.json` files. This file is also used by other tools from SuperBOL that are not related to VSCode.

The command **SuperBOL: Write Project Configuration** can be used to export the configuration from the `settings.json` to the `superbol.toml` file.

11.2 SuperBOL options in `settings.json`

- **superbol.cobol.dialect** (string, default: `default`): Default COBOL dialect for all files

The available dialects are:

- **default** and **gnucobol**: a global dialect including all other dialects
- **cobol85**: only keywords from ANSI COBOL 85
- **cobol2002**: only keywords from COBOL ISO 2002
- **cobol2014**: only keywords from COBOL ISO 2014
- **acu** and **acu-strict**: the ACUCOBOL-GT dialect
- **bs2000** and **bs2000-strict**: dialect for Fujitsu's COBOL2000 V1.5 compiler
- **gcos** and **gcos-strict**: dialect for COBOL on BULL GCOS mainframes
- **ibm** and **ibm-strict**: dialect for COBOL on z/OS IBM mainframes
- **mf** and **mf-strict**: dialect for Visual COBOL by MicroFocus (RocketSoftware now)
- **mvs** and **mvs-strict**: dialect for IBM COBOL for MVS & VM
- **realia** and **realia-strict**: dialect for CA Realia II
- **rm** and **rm-strict**: dialect for RM-COBOL
- **xopen**: dialect for X/Open COBOL

The `-strict` version of a dialect permits using reserved words from all other dialects as custom COBOL words, as the non-strict version also reserve these words.

You may also specify an absolute path to a custom GnuCOBOL dialect configuration file (see `cobc`'s `-conf` option).

(May be overridden in project-specific `superbol.toml` files)

- **superbol.cobol.sourceFormat** (string, default: `auto`): Default source reference-format.

The available formats are:

- **auto**: SuperBOL will try to discover the format by automatically
- **fixed**: the old format, with a non-significant left margin of 6 characters, an indicator (`*` for comments) and a non-significant right margin after column 72
- **cobol85**: same as `fixed`, but with strict verification of Area A.
- **variable**: Same as `fixed`, but non-significant right margin starts after column 252
- **xcard**: ICOBOL xCard format. Same as `fixed`, but non-significant right margin starts after column 255.
- **free**: the new free format, with no margins and limitations. Comments are introduced by `*>` (except in MicroFocus dialect, where a `*` should be put in column 1)
- **xopen**: X/Open Free format. Text starts at column 1, unless an indicator is present (`*` for comments, `D` for debug), and lines of up to 80 characters.

- **crt**: ICOBOL Free-form format. Same as xopen, but with lines of up to 320 characters.
- **terminal**: ACUCOBOL-GT Terminal format. Same as crt. Mostly compatible with VAX COBOL terminal format.
- **cobolx**: Indicator in column 1, text starts at column 2, and ends at column 255.

(May be overridden in project-specific `superbol.toml` files)

- **superbol.cobol.copybooks** (array, default: [{ "dir: "." }]): Copybook Paths. Each object in the path contains at least a directory in the `dir` field, and a `file-relative` field (default it true).

(May be overridden in project-specific `superbol.toml` files)

- **superbol.cobol.copyexts** (array, default: ["cpy", "cbl", "cob"]): File extensions for copybook resolution

(May be overridden in project-specific `superbol.toml` files)

- **superbol.cobcPath** (string, default: "cobc"): GnuCOBOL Compiler Executable: Path to the GnuCOBOL compiler executable

- **superbol.lspPath** (string, default: ""): SuperBOL Executable

Name of the `superbol-free` executable if available in `PATH`; may be an absolute path otherwise. Leave empty to use the bundled `superbol-free`, if available.

- **superbol.forceSyntaxDiagnostics** (boolean, default: false): Force reporting of syntax diagnostics for dialects other than COBOL85

- **superbol.cacheInGlobalStorage** (boolean, default: false): Use storage provided by Visual Studio Code for caching. When this setting is set to *false*, the cache related to the contents of a given workspace folder *f* is stored in a file named `f/_superbol/lsp-cache`: cache files are not removed automatically, whatever their location.

- **superbol.debugger.displayVariableAttributes** (boolean, default: false): Display Variable Attributes

Display storage property and field attributes (e.g. size of alphanumerics, digits and scale of numerics).

- **superbol.debugger.libcobPath** (string, default: null): GnuCOBOL Runtime Library

Path to the GnuCOBOL runtime library file

- **superbol.debugger.gdbPath** (string, default: "gdb"): GNU Debugger Executable

Path to the GNU debugger executable.

- **superbol.debugger.cobcrunPath** (string, default: "cobcrun"): GnuCOBOL module loader

Path to `cobcrun`, the GnuCOBOL module loader.

11.3 SuperBOL Options in `superbol.toml`

Not all options from `settings.json` can be set in `superbol.toml`. The following options can be set, in the `[cobol]` section of the TOML file:

- **dialect**: Default dialect for COBOL source files
- **source-format**: Default source reference-format
- **copybooks**: Where to find copybooks
- **copyexts**: Copybook filename extensions (for example `["cpy", "cob"]`)

11.4 SuperBOL Commands

- **SuperBOL: Restart Language Server:**
- **SuperBOL: Write Project Configuration:** translate options from the `settings.json` file to the `superbol.toml` file.
- **SuperBOL: Show Coverage:**
- **SuperBOL: Hide Coverage:**
- **SuperBOL: Update Coverage:**
- **SuperBOL: Show Control-flow:**
- **SuperBOL: Show Control-flow as an Arc-diagram:**

12 Troobleshooting