

BUILD BEAUTIFULLY — Lesson 1 Pre-Class Setup (Windows)

Everything below takes about 15 minutes total. If anything goes wrong, just come to office hours at 2:30 PM and we'll fix it together!

How to Open Your Terminal (Windows)

Press the **Windows Key**, type **PowerShell**, and press Enter.

You'll use PowerShell for this setup. If you accidentally open Command Prompt (CMD), close it and open PowerShell instead — the commands are different.

Section 1: Software Installation

#	Software	What it does	How to install	Est. time
1	Claude Code <i>(requires Pro Plan)</i>	The AI pair-programmer we'll use all day	See steps below	6 min
2	Node.js <i>(LTS version)</i>	The JavaScript engine that runs modern web projects	Go to nodejs.org → click the big green "LTS" button → open the downloaded <code>.msi</code> file and run the installer with all defaults	3 min
3	VS Code	A free, beautiful code editor	Go to code.visualstudio.com → click Download → open the installer and complete setup	2 min
4	Git	Version control that saves your work history	Go to git-scm.com , download and run the <code>.exe</code> installer. Click "Next" using all default options.	3 min

Installing Claude Code (Step by Step)

Step 1: Get the Claude Pro Plan Go to claude.ai and sign up or log in. Click your profile icon (bottom left) → Settings → Billing → upgrade to Claude Pro (\$20/mo).

Step 2: Install Claude Code Open **PowerShell** and run:

```
irm https://claude.ai/install.ps1 | iex
```

Claude Code will install automatically. (It bundles everything it needs — no other installs required first.)

If you see `'irm' is not recognized as an internal or external command`, you're in CMD, not PowerShell. Close it and open PowerShell instead.

Step 3: Authenticate Run the following command in PowerShell:

```
claude
```

A browser window will open — sign in with your Claude account. Once Claude greets you in the terminal, you're in! Type `/exit` to close the session for now.

Section 2: Accounts to Create (No Credit Card Needed)

#	Platform	What it does	How to sign up	Est. time
4	GitHub	Stores your code safely in the cloud	Sign up at github.com/signup with a public-friendly username	3 min
5	Vercel	Turns your local code into a live website with a real URL	Go to vercel.com/signup → click "Continue with GitHub"	2 min

Section 3: Things to Bring (No Install Needed)

#	Item	Notes
6	Laptop + charger	Required — make sure it's fully charged
7	Your resume as a PDF	Real or redacted is fine. LinkedIn export works great: Profile → More → Save to PDF
8	3 beautiful landing pages <i>(optional)</i>	Any portfolio, brand homepage, or web design you love — save screenshots to your Desktop. We'll find some together in class if you don't have time.

□ Final Check — Run This Before Class

Open **PowerShell**, paste this command, and hit Enter:

```
node -v; claude --version; git --version
```

You should see three lines, each showing a version number. If either returns an error — come to office hours at 2:30 PM and we'll sort it out before we start!