yimatt/resources · Neovim

Getting started with Neovim

by yimatt.com · 2 min · updated 2026-10-28 · intermediate

What you'll do

In this guide you will set up a clean, reproducible Neovim workflow from the official documentation, verify your local configuration, and run a minimal working check so you can build with confidence.

Prerequisites

- Access to the official documentation at Neovim (https://neovim.io).
- A terminal and a modern code editor such as VS Code or Neovim.
- Basic familiarity with command-line navigation and version control with Git.

Step-by-step setup

1. Verify the official source and release channel. Open Neovim User Manual and confirm you are reading the current stable release notes rather than outdated third-party blog posts.
2. Initialize a minimal workspace. Create a dedicated directory for testing Neovim in isolation before integrating it into a larger repository:

code

```
mkdir -p ~/projects/neovim-starter
cd ~/projects/neovim-starter
git init
```

TIP

Keep a small `README.md` in your starter folder recording the exact version and flags you used so future projects can copy a known-good baseline.

3. Configure strict defaults early. Create your baseline configuration file and commit it before adding optional plugins or third-party dependencies:

code

```
{
  "resource": "neovim",
  "type": "editor",
  "strict": true,
  "verified": "2026-10-28"
}
```

4. Run a smoke check. Execute the minimal build, query, or verification step described in Neovim User Manual and confirm zero warnings in your terminal output.

NOTE

Start from kickstart.nvim instead of a pre-packaged distribution so you understand every line of your init.lua.

Common mistakes

COMMON MISTAKE

Copy-pasting unpinned snippets from older tutorials. Always check the version selector in Neovim User Manual first. Major releases frequently simplify configuration and deprecate legacy flags.

WARNING

Avoid installing five companion libraries or extensions on day one. Run Neovim with its built-in defaults for a full day before adding abstractions.

Next steps

- Bookmark Neovim User Manual for daily API lookups.
- Return to the Neovim resource page to watch the curated explainers or explore paired tools.

A note from yimatt.com

Field notes from using Neovim in production projects.

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