

VS-Saturn Q&A

- What does it mean by a “non-intrusive notification” for when the timer is up?
 - Non-intrusive means that it won’t break the user’s train of thought in case they want to finish up what they are working on. As a counterexample, ringtones and vibrating on cell phones would be examples of *intrusive* notifications.
- Should there be manual reset functionality (if, for example, the user needs to go do something in the middle of working and wishes to start over from the beginning at cycle 1)? Should there be a pause function (in case the user is interrupted)?
 - Both of these sound like good features.
- Should the task list be edited in a separate window/file or in a little pop-up?
 - This is a design decision.
- Are there supposed to be *two* independent task lists (one for work periods and one for rest periods)
 - This sounds like a good idea.
- Should the snooze button appear shortly before the current period ends or at the exact moment?
 - This is a design decision.
- Should there be some indicator of progress towards the larger rest period (reached after 4 work/rest cycles)?
 - This would be a good feature idea.
- How user-configurable should this extension be?
 - Configuring the duration of each work/rest period and the number of cycles is probably the minimum.
- Should a sound play at the end of a rest period to indicate to the user that it is time to get back to work?
 - You will need to determine how you want to notify the user.
- How should break notification be handled regarding the user’s custom themes or other customizations (perhaps involving other extensions)?
 - You should at the very least make sure that you restore the original theme at the end of the break. Further interactions are probably outside the scope of a prototype.
- Should the user be able to proceed through each timer automatically or should they have to manually confirm to move into the next cycle?
 - This might be a setting.
- Since this is a VS Code add-on, this will only run while VS Code is open. Should the timer continue to run while VS Code is minimized or is the add-on supposed to be able to be used while doing other tasks other than coding?
 - This seems like a good configuration setting.
- What happens when a user has minimized VS Code and the timer goes off?
 - You will need to figure out how to notify the user in this case. You might try starting with playing with the toolbar icon.
- Should the snooze be a graphical button or a physical button on the keyboard, or both?

- Your graphical buttons should generally have keyboard accelerators for accessibility reasons.
- How would you go about setting up the workspace to program a VS Code add-on?
 - The tutorial at <https://code.visualstudio.com/api/get-started/your-first-extension> seems like a good place to start.
- Will our VS-Saturn use the bar at the bottom of VS Code as seen in the proposal or use the side panel(s) for input and output?
 - That is a design decision