

# K IDE

via Language Server Protocol

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# Overview

- Motivation
- Proposal
- Features
- Workplan

- Speed up the onboarding process for the curious K developers, and help expand the K community
- K has been around for more than a decade and used for:
  - Teaching
  - Defining real world programming languages
- IDE benefits:
  - Beginners - for softening the learning curve
  - Experienced - semantics developers with navigation tools and rapid feedback

Thread # k-public



**David Brandt** APP Nov 9th at 11:43

4. What are the ecosystem benefits of using K to describe a language, as opposed to rolling ones own. For example, would doing so lead to having a VS Code code-completion plugin out-of-the-box for the described language?

1 reply

#+ Also sent to the channel



**bruce.collie** 12 days ago

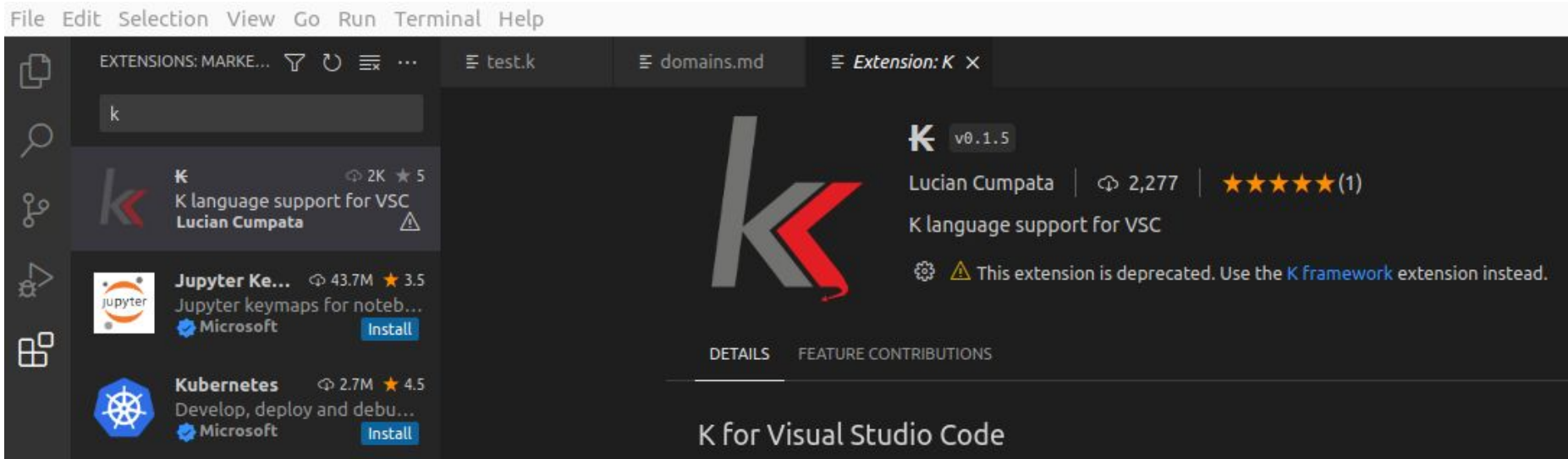
We currently generate the following core tools automatically from a K definition of a given language (plus a few others):

- Parser
- Fast concrete interpreter
- Symbolic execution engine
- Formal deductive verification system / proofs

We're working on implementing a semantic debugger at the moment; the ecosystem benefit of using K is that you can generate all of these things from the **same** source definition. We don't currently support code-completion, but it would *hypothetically* be possible to do so using K.

Writing a fast interpreter or rolling your own proof engine is hard if you're trying to do it ad-hoc for your own language! Using K means that you can just focus on the semantics of your language, and leave the boilerplate up to us.

# Motivation



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface with the extension marketplace open. The search bar contains the letter 'k'. The search results list several extensions, with the 'K' extension by Lucian Cumpata being the primary focus. The extension details for 'K' (version v0.1.5) are displayed on the right, showing 2,277 downloads and a 5-star rating. A warning message indicates that this extension is deprecated and suggests using the 'K framework' extension instead. The 'K for Visual Studio Code' logo is visible at the bottom of the extension details panel.

File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help

EXTENSIONS: MARKE... 🔍 ↻ ☰ ...

test.k domains.md Extension: K ×

k

**K** v0.1.5  
Lucian Cumpata | 2,277 | ★★★★★ (1)  
K language support for VSC

**Jupyter Ke...** 43.7M ★ 3.5  
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**Kubernetes** 2.7M ★ 4.5  
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Microsoft [Install](#)

**K** v0.1.5  
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⚙️ ⚠️ This extension is deprecated. Use the [K framework](#) extension instead.

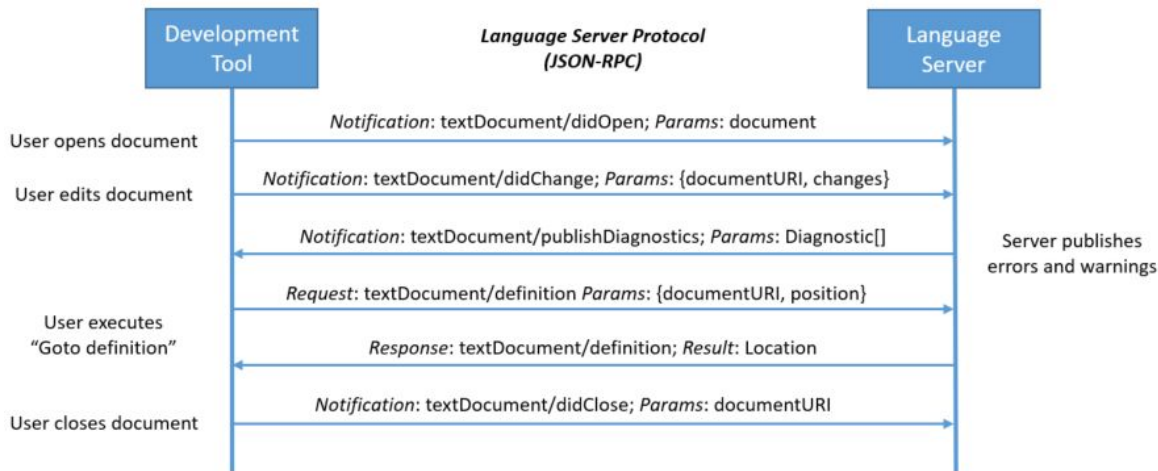
DETAILS FEATURE CONTRIBUTIONS

K for Visual Studio Code

2277 downloads since 2017

# Proposal

- Add K framework IDE support via Language Server Protocol
- LSP is an open protocol between IDEs and a language sever
- The **language server** (what we need to implement)
  - Supported by multiple IDEs (VSC, IntelliJ, NeoVim, emacs)
  - It is for IDEs what K is for programming languages



# Features - syntax highlighting

```
! test-pr.yml ! action.yml ≡ imp.k M X
k-distribution > pl-tutorial > 1_k > 2_imp > lesson_3 > ≡ imp.k
1 // Copyright (c) 2014-2019 K Team. All Rights Reserved.
2 require "domains.md"
3
4 module IMP-SYNTAX
5   imports DOMAINS-SYNTAX
6   syntax AExp ::= Int | Id
7               | "-" Int
8               | AExp "/" AExp [left, strict]
9               | "(" AExp ")" [bracket]
10              > AExp "+" AExp [left, strict]
11   configuration <T color="yellow">
12     <k color="green"> $PGM:Pgm </k>
13     <state color="red"> .Map </state>
14   </T>
```

Visual Studio Code syntax highlighting added by [PumpkinDemo](#) and polished by Virgil, Radu.  
Based on regex

# Features - on text error reporting

```
test.k 1 x  kast.md  domains.md
test.k
1  endmodule
2
3
4
5  module TEST
6    imports TEST-SYNTAX
7    imports INT
8    configurationn <k> $PGM:Int </k>
9    syntax Exp ::= affunction(Int)
10
```

PROBLEMS 1 OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL

test.k 1

- ⊗ Encountered <LOWER\_ID>. Outer Parser [Ln 8, Col 3] ^  
Was expecting one of: ["rule", "context", "configuration", "claim", "syntax", "endmodule", "imports", "import"]

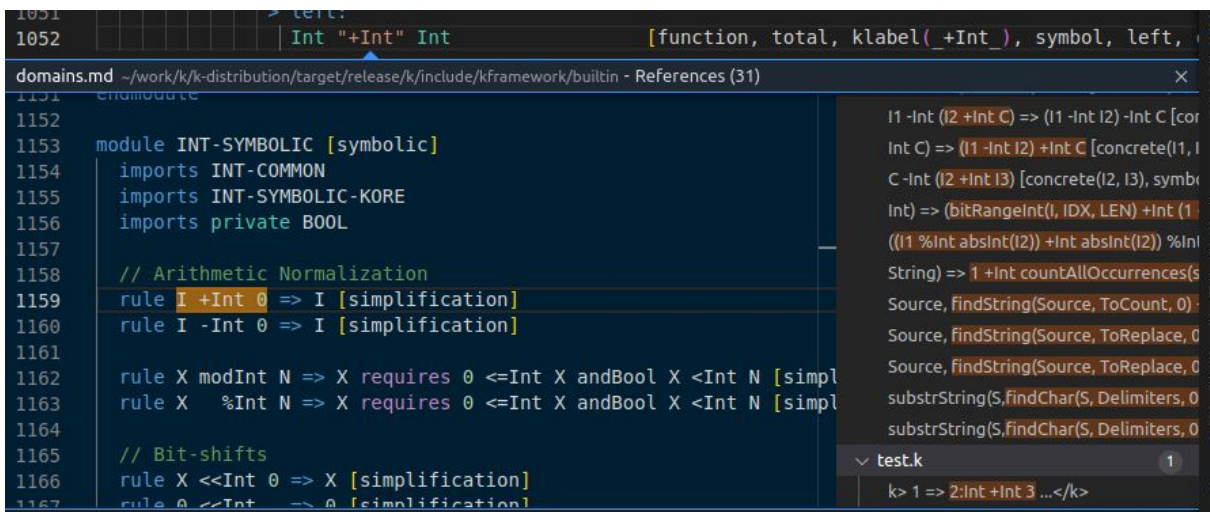


# Features - goto definition

```
module TEST
  imports TEST-SYNTAX
  imports INT
  configuration <k> $PGM:Int </k>
  syntax Exp ::= affunction(Int)

  rule affunctio Int "+Int" Int [function,
    latex({#1}\mathrel{+}_{\scriptstyle\it Int})
  rule <k> 1 => 2:Int +Int 3 ...</k>
endmodule
```

Ctrl+Click - goto definition



The screenshot shows an IDE with a code editor on the left and a search results panel on the right. The code editor displays a module definition for 'TEST' and a rule for 'affunction'. A tooltip is visible over the rule definition, showing its signature and LaTeX representation. The search results panel shows the results of a search for the rule definition, listing the file 'domains.md' and the specific line numbers where the rule is defined.

```
1051 | Int "+Int" Int [function, total, klabel(_+Int_), symbol, left,
1052 | Int "+Int" Int [function, total, klabel(_+Int_), symbol, left,
domains.md ~/work/k/k-distribution/target/release/k/include/kframework/builtin - References (31)
1151 | endmodule
1152 |
1153 | module INT-SYMBOLIC [symbolic]
1154 |   imports INT-COMMON
1155 |   imports INT-SYMBOLIC-KORE
1156 |   imports private BOOL
1157 |
1158 |   // Arithmetic Normalization
1159 |   rule I +Int 0 => I [simplification]
1160 |   rule I -Int 0 => I [simplification]
1161 |
1162 |   rule X modInt N => X requires 0 <=Int X andBool X <Int N [simplification]
1163 |   rule X %Int N => X requires 0 <=Int X andBool X <Int N [simplification]
1164 |
1165 |   // Bit-shifts
1166 |   rule X <<Int 0 => X [simplification]
1167 |   rule 0 <<Int N => 0 [simplification]
```

Shift+F12 - find occurrences

# Features - run program step by step

```
home > radu > work > k > k-distribution > tests > regression-new > imp-llvm > imp.k
61 rule if (true) S else _ => S
62
63 rule if (false) _ else S => S
64
65
66 rule while (B) S => if (B) {S while (B) S} else {
67
68 rule <k> int (X,Xs => Xs);_ </k> <state> Rho:Map
69 | requires notBool (X in keys(Rho))
70 rule int .Ids; S => S [structural]
71 endmodule
72
```

```
home > radu > work > k > k-distribution > tests > regres
1 // This program calculates in sum
2 // the sum of numbers from 1 to n
3
4 int n, sum;
5 n = 100;
6 sum = 0;
7 while (!(n <= 0)) {
8     sum = sum + n;
9     n = n - 1;
10 }
11
12 // sum should be 5050 when n is 1
13
```

VSC - \*not actually implemented

- Phase 1 - LSP
  - Syntax highlighting (done: [PumpkinDemo](#), Virgil, Radu)
  - Go to definition and find usages (*done*)
  - Highlight error messages on code - **as you type** (*partially done*)
  - Code completion and hints
- Phase 2 - Debugger
  - Run step by step through a program
    - Split view: highlight rule matched, highlight part of the program
    - Highlight differences in the configuration, hide unchanged parts
- Phase 3 - Prover
  - Still thinking
    - Visualizer for the prover

# Workplan - Phase 1 (kompile)

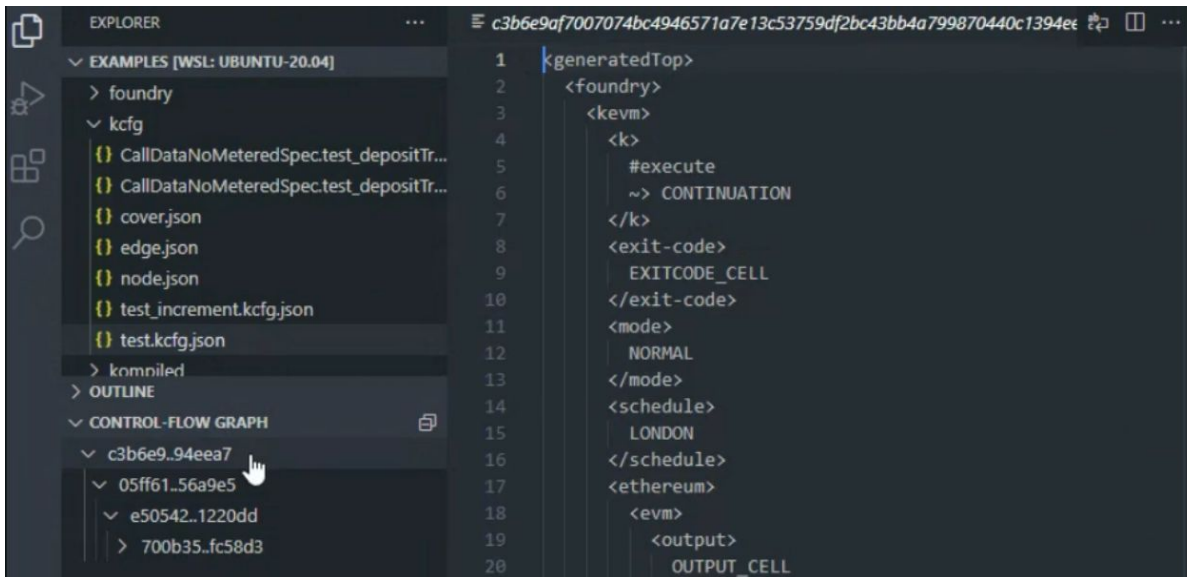
- Implement the Language Server skeleton and flush out the architecture
- Add syntax highlighting
- Integrate error reporting directly in text (for syntax errors)
- Implement code completion and hints
  - Based on the K AST
- Reparse rules as you type
- Code folding
- Navigation
  - Goto definition and find occurrences
  - Goto implementation

## Workplan - Phase 2 (krun)

- Visual Debugger
  - With the Debug Adapter Protocol
  - Integrate with GDB - because it's simple.
  - Pyk library
  - Split view - highlight program location and rule being applied
  - Custom view for the configuration
    - Hide unchanged parts and highlight differences (diff)
    - Remember which cells I folded last time (asked by Raoul and Andrei)
    - Modify the configuration and continue?

# Workplan - Phase 3 (kprove)

- Visual Prover
  - Integrate with pyk (*in development*)
  - Build a kcfg visualizer
  - Integrate with the configuration custom view

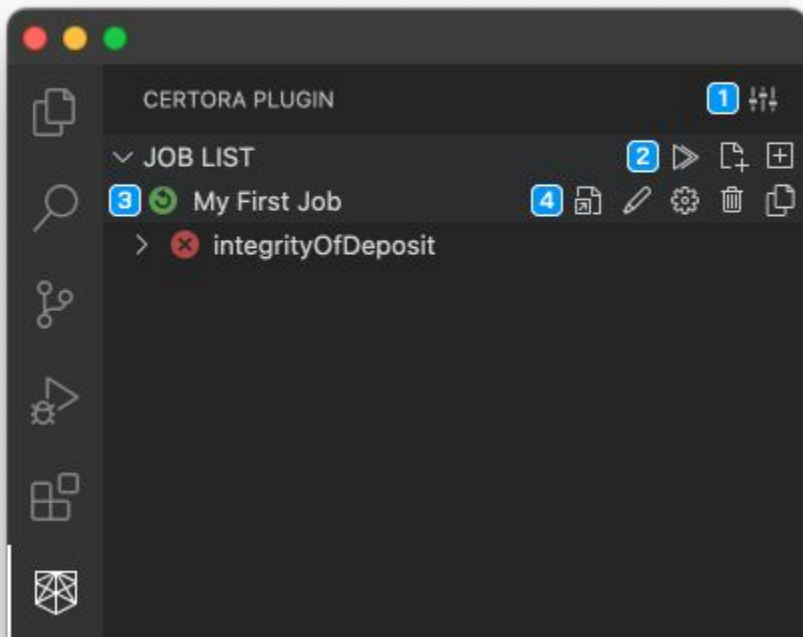


```
1 <generatedTop>
2 <foundry>
3 <kevm>
4 <k>
5 #execute
6 ~> CONTINUATION
7 </k>
8 <exit-code>
9 EXITCODE_CELL
10 </exit-code>
11 <mode>
12 NORMAL
13 </mode>
14 <schedule>
15 LONDON
16 </schedule>
17 <ethereum>
18 <evm>
19 <output>
20 OUTPUT_CELL
```

Kcfg view made by Raoul

- Language specific IDE
  - Alongside the K semantics we can offer IDE integration based on K
    - Syntax highlighting - easy manual work
    - Debugger - customized view of the K debugger
    - Prover - customized views
      - EVM bytecode decompilation and source tracking
    - Extra features
- Web integration
  - VSCode can run in a browser

# Competition - Certora VSCode



## More Info

Version	0.1.2
Released on	1/30/2022, 8:39:10 PM
Last updated	1/25/2023, 4:47:59 PM
Publisher	Certora
Unique Identifier	Certora.vscode-certora-prover

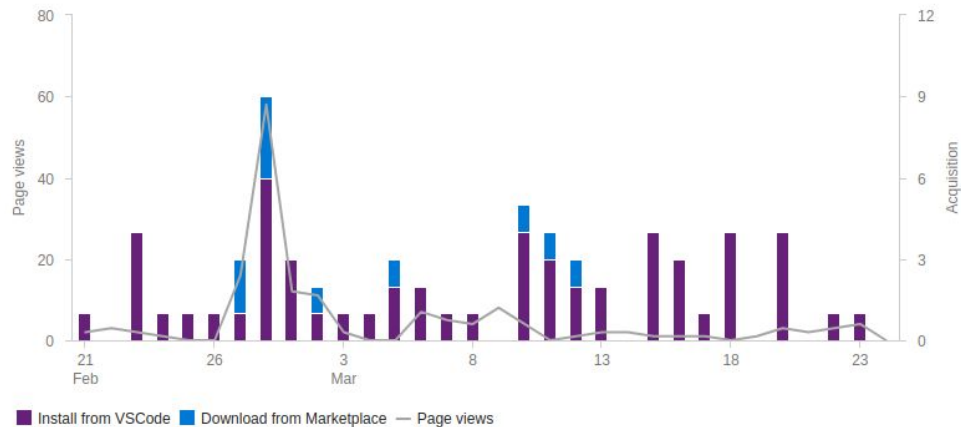
~60 downloads in 2 weeks

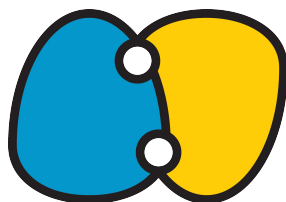


# Acquisition

- ~100 downloads in 2 months
- No promotion

Acquisition Trend





**Thanks for the suggestions**

<https://github.com/runtimeverification/k-editor-support>