Setting Up a Project

6 min

With the concepts of CSR, SSR, and hydration visited, we can start setting up a project.

The fastest way to begin working on your first Next.js project is to use the CLI tool create-next-app. Creators of Next.js officially maintain it and it supports bootstrapping Next.js applications with various templates. A significant benefit of this bootstrapping feature is the ability to create a Next.js application with specific configurations from just a GitHub repo URL.

create-next-app has an interactive setup experience where prompts allow you to customize your project. There is no one-size-fits-all set of answers for the following prompt; the choices you'll make depend on your specific needs and preferences for the project.

create-next-app also accommodates command line arguments. Typically, you can specify a project name using this command: create-next-app ecommerce-site. This action will establish a Next.js project titled ecommerce-site.

To bootstrap the application with an existing example from the Next.js <u>examples collection</u> or a GitHub URL, append the --example flag to the command.

When create-next-app is used, it generates a basic project structure and configuration. One key component of this structure is the app folder. This is where you'll be spending the majority of your time. Along with the app folder, the project will have a set of source and configuration files.

The

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npm

command npm run dev, which we've used to start up our development server in the previous two exercises, is set up to run the dev script preconfigured from create-next-app.

Instructions

1. Checkpoint 1 Enabled

1.

Use the command npx create-next-app in the terminal.

For the interactive experience, select the following answers to the prompts:

What is your project named? my_app
Would you like to use TypeScript? Yes
Would you like to use ESLint? Yes
Would you like to use Tailwind CSS? No
Would you like to use `src/` directory? No
Would you like to use App Router? (recommended) Yes
Would you like to customize the default import alias (@/*)? No

Click "Check Work" when you complete the set up.

Hint

Use the arrow keys to select the options in the interactive experience.

bash

\$ npx create-next-app