

Installing gulp

Install Node.JS: <http://nodejs.org/>

At your project folder in the Command Line 'npm init'
then 'npm install -g gulp & npm install gulp'

A few things about npm.

Npm init creates a file called package.json which stores metadata about your project, such as what plugins it needs. 'npm install' installs the package locally to your project. 'npm install -g' installs the package globally and can be used on the command line.

Installing Plugins

Search for the plugins you want on <https://www.npmjs.com/> by searching for 'gulp'. After you've found the plugins you want install them using npm on your project like this 'npm install --save-dev gulp-concat' '--save-dev' stores the plugin in your package.json into your development dependencies.

Running gulp

In your project folder create a folder called 'gulpfile.js'. Here is some sample code that writes a creates a sourcemap to your file (A sourcemap stores how the files look before they are minified and concatenated) concatenates them into one file, minify's them, adds the sourcemap to them and places them in the build folder. It also requires another task called clean which will delete the build folder so the files are filling up.

```

Var gulp      = require('gulp')
  , concat    = require('gulp-concat')
  , sourcemaps = require('gulp-sourcemaps')
  , uglify     = require('gulp-uglify')
  , del        = require('del')

var paths = { scripts : 'javascripts/*.js'
             , clean   : 'javascripts/*.js'
             , buildFolder : 'build'
             }

gulp.task('clean', function (cb) {
  del(paths.clean, cb)
})

gulp.task('scripts', ['clean'], function () {
  return gulp.src(paths.scripts)
    .pipe(sourcemaps.init())
    .pipe(concat('all.js'))
    .pipe(uglify())
    .pipe(sourcemaps.write())
    .pipe(gulp.dest(paths.buildFolder))
})

gulp.task('default', ['scripts'])

```

Resources:

Gulp's documentation page on GitHub has a lot of tutorials and videos available:

<https://github.com/gulpjs/gulp/blob/master/docs/README.md>

