

# The Nodejitsu Handbook

*A gentle introduction to the art of Nodejitsu*

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# Introduction

Welcome to the Nodejitsu handbook. This document will help familiarize you with deploying your Node.js applications to the cloud while also providing detailed information about Nodejitsu's platform-specific features and about where to get help when you need it.

This is a living document which you can submit patches to at <http://github.com/nodejitsu/handbook>.

## Who Is Nodejitsu?

We are a collection of seasoned developers who have been devoted to the Node.js community since 2009. We are community leaders who have created and contributed to hundreds of open-source Node.js projects. If you have used Node.js, you've probably used some of the projects we've helped create.

You can find a list of our open source projects at <http://github.com/nodejitsu>.

## What Is Nodejitsu?

[Nodejitsu](#) is a Platform as a Service and a Marketplace for Node.js applications. Nodejitsu allows you to seamlessly deploy your Node.js applications into the cloud with a myriad of additional features. Our platform provides a robust suite of functionality to assist in the development, management, and deployment of Node.js applications. Our deployment tools are the most user-friendly in the industry and our customer support is unparalleled.

## Getting Started

So you wish to learn the ways of Nodejitsu? Excellent! You only need to know three things to get started:

- We're [Nodejitsu](#), and we can give you scalable, fault-tolerant cloud hosting for your Node.js apps - and we're the best you'll find.
- Getting started with [your first app](#) is simple with our [jitsu](#) command-line interface - we'll [show you how](#).
- Most of our stack is [open source](#) and you can [use our tools](#) anywhere else you'd like to.

The Nodejitsu Handbook also contains information on [other ways to deploy your applications](#), how to [run your own cloud](#) with our software, and where to [find support](#).

# Hello World: A Tutorial

In this tutorial, you will write a simple "hello world" web application in Node.js, and then deploy it using jitsu, Nodejitsu's command line interface.

Before you get started, you should have both [node.js](#) and the [Node Package Manager](#) (npm) installed.

## Write A Server:

Let's start with a very basic Node.js http server. Create a folder called `myapp/` and then create a file inside the folder called `server.js`. Inside this file, write the following code:

```
// requires node's http module
var http = require('http');

// creates a new httpServer instance
http.createServer(function (req, res) {
  // this is the callback, or request handler for the httpServer

  // respond to the browser, write some headers so the
  // browser knows what type of content we are sending
  res.writeHead(200, {'Content-Type': 'text/html'});

  // write some content to the browser that your user will see
  res.write('<h1>hello, i know nodejitsu.</h1>')

  // close the response
  res.end();
}).listen(80); // the server will listen on port 80
```

That's all the code you'll need for starters. Save your server and get ready to deploy!

## Deploy with Jitsu:

In this tutorial, we will use [jitsu](#) to deploy our "hello world" application. Jitsu is a [Command Line Interface](#) for using Nodejitsu's platform. We've designed jitsu to be suitable for command line beginners, but still be powerful and extensible enough for production usage. If you aren't a fan of the command line or don't have terminal access you can still do everything jitsu can do through the [Nodejitsu Web Application](#).

If this is your first time deploying an application and you are eager to get started, we recommend using jitsu: it has a one line installer, it's self-documenting, and with it you'll be able to deploy your app in seconds. Plus, it's what's in the tutorial.

## Installation

In order to install jitsu, open a terminal and type:

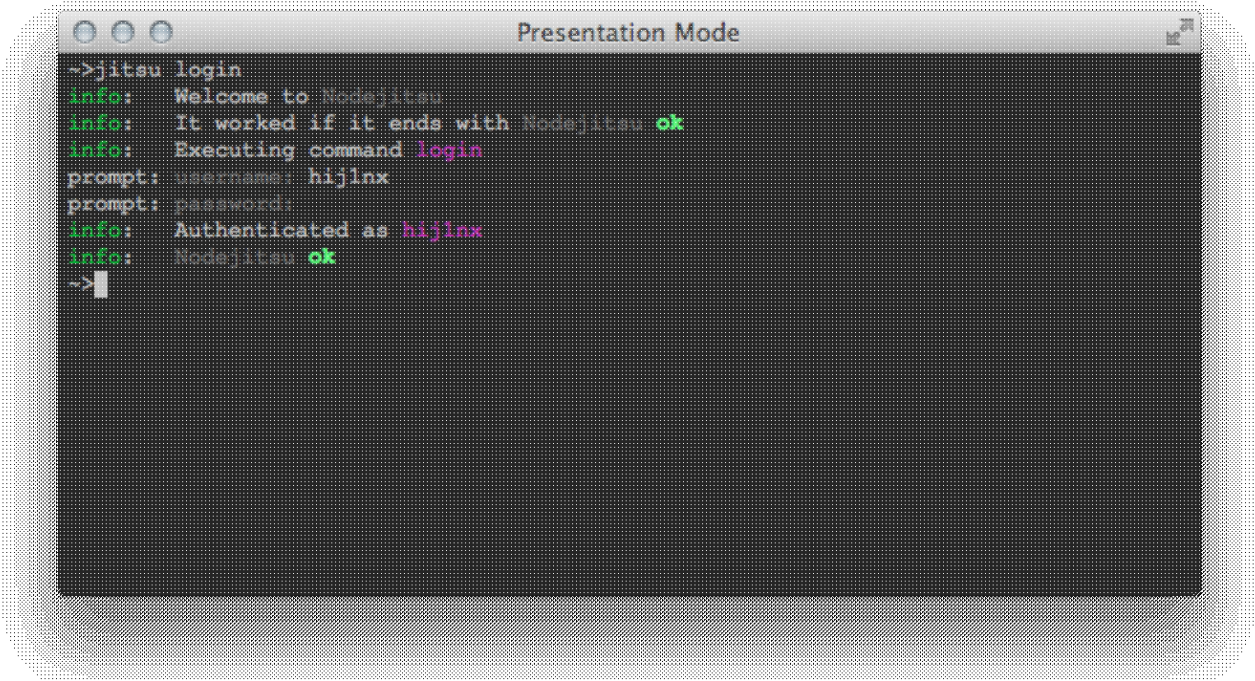
```
[sudo] npm install -g jitsu
```

This command will install jitsu on your system; the `-g` makes npm install it globally.

```
Presentation Mode

->jitsu
info: Welcome to Nodejitsu
info: It worked if it ends with Nodejitsu ok
info: Executing command help
help:
help:
help:  _//T5//_
help:
help: Flawless deployment of Node.js apps to the cloud
help: open-source and fully customizable.
help: https://github.com/nodejitsu/jitsu
help:
help: Usage:
help:   jitsu <resource> <action> <param1> <param2> ...
help:
help: Common Commands:
help:
help: To sign up for Nodejitsu
help:   jitsu signup
help:
help: To log into Nodejitsu
help:   jitsu login
help:
help: Deploys current path to Nodejitsu
help:   jitsu deploy
help:
help: Creates a new application on Nodejitsu
help:   jitsu create
help:
help: Lists all applications for the current user
help:   jitsu list
help:
help: Additional Commands
help:   jitsu apps
help:   jitsu logs
help:   jitsu env
help:   jitsu conf
help:   jitsu users
help:   jitsu databases
help:   jitsu snapshots
help:   jitsu logout
help:
help: jitsu options
help:   jitsu [commands] [options]
help:
help: --version          print jitsu version and exit
help: --localconf        search for .jitsuconf file in ./ and then parent directories
help: --jitsuconf [file] specify file to load configuration from
help: --noanalyze        skip require-analyzer: do not attempt to dynamically detect
help: dependencies
help:
info: Nodejitsu ok
->
```

After installation, run the `jitsu` command from your command line. Since it's your first time using jitsu, you will be prompted to log in with an existing account or to create a new account.



```
->jitsu login
info: Welcome to Nodejitsu
info: It worked if it ends with Nodejitsu ok
info: Executing command login
prompt: username: hijlhx
prompt: password:
info: Authenticated as hijlhx
info: Nodejitsu ok
~->
```

Once you've logged in, you can deploy your app immediately.

## One Line Deployment

Open a terminal:

```
cd /home/me/myapp
jitsu deploy
```

This will create a new application snapshot, generate and/or update project metadata, and deploy the project in the current path to [Nodejitsu](#). If it's your first deployment, you'll be prompted for some information such as your app's name, its nodejitsu subdomain, and its start script. It's really easy and we promise it will only take a few seconds.

```
prompt: subdomain (virtual-window): virtualwindow
prompt: scripts.start (server.js):
prompt: version (0.0.0):
```

Now just open up your favorite browser, and go to `yoursubdomain.nodejitsu.com`. If everything has been set up correctly, then you, too, are on the path of nodejitsu!

# Features of the Nodejitsu Platform

The Nodejitsu platform makes writing and deploying web applications a snap! In addition to simple yet powerful tools for deployment, the Nodejitsu platform also has snapshot management, database hosting and connectivity, and a marketplace!

There are three main tools for deploying applications to Nodejitsu:

- [Jitsu](#), The Nodejitsu command line tool
- The Nodejitsu [Web Application](#), An easy to use web interface for managing your applications
- Nodejitsu's JSON [API](#)

Each of these tools allow developers to access the exact same functionality.

## Snapshots

Every time you deploy to Nodejitsu, we automatically take a [snapshot](#) of your application. Using any of our tools, you can view and manage snapshots, or even roll back to an old snapshot when disaster strikes in your production environment.

## Databases

Applications on Nodejitsu are ready to be connected to any database. If you have already have a database running, Nodejitsu can connect to your pre-existing database. If you require a new database, Nodejitsu can provide you *free* instances of several different types of databases. These free instances are great for development purposes or hobby sites. If you require a high traffic or production database we provide an easy upgrade path to industrial strength database hosting.

### Creating new Databases

If you require database hosting you can create a new database instance of any of our supported databases using [jitsu](#), the [Nodejitsu Web Application](#), or Nodejitsu's [API](#). Cloud database hosting is currently provided by CouchOne, Redis2Go and MongoHQ.

### Existing Databases

If you already have an externally hosted Database, Nodejitsu is capable of connecting to it. We've got Database hosting if you need it, but we fully support externally hosted Databases.

### Connecting Applications to Databases

Whenever you create a database using Nodejitsu, you will be provided with all the information you need to connect to your database. For instance, if you `jitsu databases create mongo myMongo`, jitsu will tell you the url for your new mongo database on mongohq:

```
info: Welcome to Nodejitsu
info: It worked if it ends with Nodejitsu ok
info: Executing command databases create mongo myMongo
info: Database myMongo was created.
info: Database name: myMongo
info: Database type: mongo
info: Connection url: mongodb://nodejitsu:pass@staff.mongohq.com:10057/
info: Nodejitsu ok
```

You can copy-paste this url directly into your mongo library's connect method. For example, in [Mongoose](#):

```
var mongoose = require('mongoose');

mongoose.connect("mongodb://nodejitsu:pass@staff.mongohq.com:10057/");
```

Now you're connected to your database!

## Addons

Addons add functionality to your apps by extending and adding features to Nodejitsu's platform and integrating third party services. For instance, one of our addons provides powerful [Mailchimp](#)-based [mailing list management](#).

## Marketplace

The Marketplace is an online store where you can browse ready to deploy Node.js Applications. The Marketplace is a great place to start if you are new to Node.js development or want to share your existing Node.js Application with the world.



# The Jitsu Client

Jitsu is a [Command Line Interface](#) (CLI) for interacting with the Nodejitsu platform. It's open-source and easy to use.

## Installation

Jitsu is distributed using the Node Package Manager (npm). Installing jitsu with npm is as simple as a single command:

```
[sudo] npm install -g jitsu
```

This command installs jitsu to your Node path, so that it may be run like any other global shell command.

## Usage

Commands for jitsu follow this pattern:

```
jitsu <resource> <action> <param1> <param2> ...
```

For example, in `jitsu apps deploy`, "apps" is the resource and "deploy" is the action.

### jitsu deploy (jitsu apps deploy)

`jitsu deploy` will attempt to deploy the application in the current directory to [Nodejitsu](#). It deploys your application using the following steps:

1. Creates the application (if necessary)
2. Creates or validates the package.json
3. Packages and creates a new snapshot
4. Stops the application (if necessary)
5. Starts the application

### jitsu create (jitsu apps create)

`jitsu create` will create a new application. This entails generating a package.json for your app, for the purposes of deployment.

### jitsu list (jitsu apps list)

`jitsu list` lists your applications, as well as their respective states, subdomains, entry points and latest snapshots.

### jitsu help *resource action*

Jitsu is self-documenting. All commands will yield friendly messages to you if you specify incorrect parameters. Additionally, `jitsu help` will return useful help messages about any given resource or resource/action pair. for instance:

```
josh@pidghey:~$ jitsu help apps deploy
info: Welcome to Nodejitsu
info: It worked if it ends with Nodejitsu ok
info: Executing command help apps deploy
help:
help:
help: Deploys an application using the following steps:
help:
help: 1. Creates the application (if necessary)
help: 2. Creates or validates the package.json
help: 3. Packages and creates a new snapshot
help: 4. Stops the application (if necessary)
help: 5. Starts the application
help:
help: jitsu deploy
help: jitsu apps deploy
help:
info: Nodejitsu ok
```

```
josh@pidgey:~$
```

If no resource and/or action are specified, then `jitsu help` alone will describe what resources are available.

### **jitsu apps *action***

In addition to the commands aliased to `jitsu create`, `jitsu deploy` and `jitsu list`, the `apps` resource allows you to create, destroy, stop, start and otherwise interact with your applications.

### **jitsu env *action***

Jitsu allows you to set environment variables on your production environment. For example, [Express](#), a popular node.js web framework, uses the `NODE_ENV` environment variable to change behavior based on whether the environment is for development or production. In the case of Express, nodejitsu has `NODE_ENV` set to "production" by default, but if one wanted to change this variable or add more for their application, `jitsu env` supplies the tools to do so.

### **jitsu config *action***

`jitsu config` commands allow you to edit your local jitsu configuration file.

### **jitsu snapshots *action***

`jitsu snapshots *` commands allow you to work with snapshots for your Applications on Nodejitsu. Snapshots are images of your Application's code that are deployed to the Nodejitsu Platform.

For commands that take a `<name>` parameter, if no parameter is supplied, jitsu will attempt to read the `package.json` from the current directory.

### **jitsu users *action***

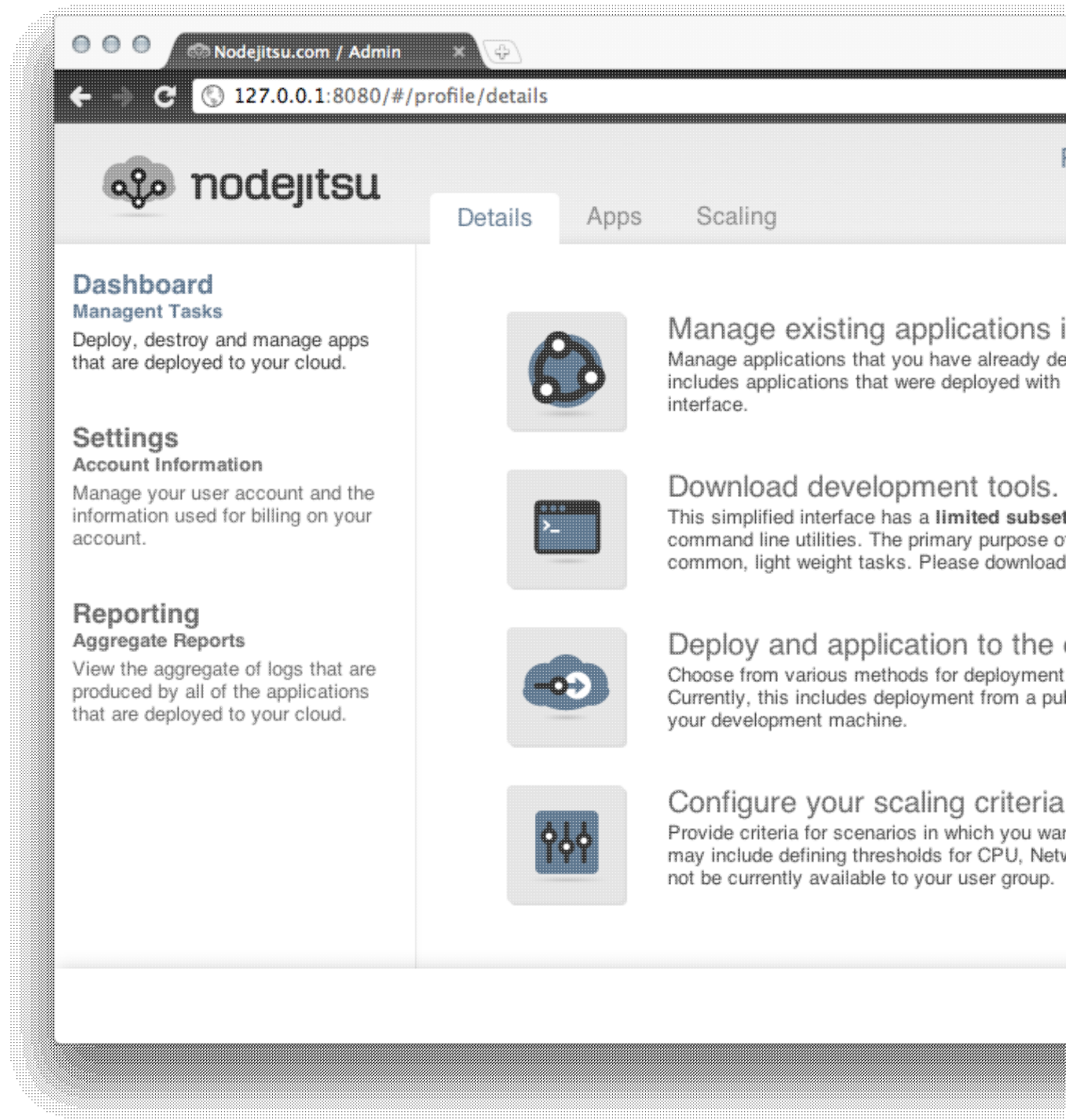
`jitsu users *` commands allow you to work with new or existing Nodejitsu user accounts. You will be prompted for additional user information as required.

## **.jitsuconf file**

All configuration data for your local jitsu install is located in the `.jitsuconf` file located in your home directory. Directly modifying this file is not advised. You should be able to make all configuration changes using `jitsu config`.

# Nodejitsu Web Application

The Nodejitsu Web Application allows developers to administrate their applications through a web interface. This interface allows access to all the same functionality that can be found in [jitsu](#) or the [JSON API](#), including deployment, snapshots and database connectivity.



The web admin interface may be found at <http://develop.nodejitsu.com>.

# JSON API

Nodejitsu provides a web API for developers who want to interact with the Nodejitsu platform programatically. This API is built to be [RESTful](#) and communicates via [JSON](#). The API is the most low-level way of interacting with the Nodejitsu platform. For most deployment scenarios you should use our command line tool, [jitsu](#), or the [online administrative interface](#).

Jitsu is implemented by [wrapping the JSON API](#).

## Authentication

Most of the calls to the API will require that you authenticate using your Nodejitsu account. If you do not have an account it is possible to create one using the user API, the [jitsu CLI](#), or just by visiting <http://nodejitsu.com>. Currently, we support [Basic Authentication](#). If you haven't used Basic Auth before, don't fret; it's easy!

Here is an example using the command line utility, [Curl](#):

```
// get all applications for User "Marak"
curl --user Marak:password http://api.nodejitsu.com/apps/marak
```

## Applications

Applications are the core of the Nodejitsu API. Each application represents a set of Node.js code plus a package.json which contains meta-data about the application such as it's dependencies, database connections, configuration settings, authors, etc. For more information about the package.json format see: [package.json](#)

### Get all Applications for a User

```
GET /apps/:user-id
```

### Create a new Application

```
POST /apps/:user-id
{ package.json }
```

### Start an Application

```
POST /apps/:user-id/:app-id/start
```

### Stop an Application

```
POST /apps/:user-id/:app-id/stop
```

### Restart an Application

```
POST /apps/:user-id/:app-id/restart
```

### Update an Application

```
PUT /apps/:user-id
{ package.json }
```

### Delete an Application

```
DELETE /apps/:user-id/:app-id/remove
```

## Snapshots

## Make an existing snapshot the active app

```
PUT /apps/:user-id/:app-id/snapshots/:id/active
```

## Activate / Deploy a snapshot

```
POST /apps/:user-id/:snapshots/:id
```

## Show a catalog of all Snapshot for an Application

```
GET /apps/:user-id/:app-id/snapshots
```

## Show the contents of a Snapshot

```
GET /apps/:user-id/:app-id/snapshots/:id
```

## Users

### Create a new User / Sign-up for a free Nodejitsu account

Email address is the only required field.

```
POST /users/:user-id
{
  email: "youremail@theinternet.com"
}
```

### Confirm a User account

All User accounts must be confirmed. When a new User is created, a confirmation email will be sent to the email address associated with that user. In this email there will be an invite code. This code must be sent to the API to confirm the account.

```
POST /users/:user-id
{
  inviteCode: "SecretCode"
}
```

### Update User

```
PUT /users/:user-id
{
  password: "new_password"
}
```

## Databases

### Create a new Database

```
POST /databases/:user-id/:database-id
{
  type: "couch" || "redis" || "mongo"
}
```

### Get information about a Database

```
GET /databases/:user-id/:database-id
```

### Delete a Database

```
DELETE /databases/:user-id/:database-id
```

## Logging

Logging is a very important feature in any professional grade Node.js application. Nodejitsu provides integrated logging solutions for your applications. Your logs are always saved and ready to be retrieved.

### Get all logs for a user

```
POST /logs/:user-id/
{
  "from": "NOW-3YEARS",
  "until": "NOW",
  "rows": 15
}
```

### Get logs for a specific application

```
POST /logs/:user-id/:app-id
{
  "from": "NOW-3YEARS",
  "until": "NOW",
  "rows": 15
}
```

## Marketplace

### Get all Marketplace Applications

```
GET /marketplace
```

### Get a specific Marketplace Application

```
GET /databases/:user-id/:id
```

# Create Your Own Cloud With Haibu

Haibu is an open-source tool for spawning and managing several node.js applications on a single server. It's an integral part of Nodejitsu's production stack and is fully supported by a dedicated team of core node.js developers.

By installing haibu, a user creates a development environment for themselves that mirrors the functionality of Nodejitsu's cloud platform! Any project that can be deployed on Nodejitsu can be ran by haibu.

Haibu, which is Japanese for "hive", wraps node.js applications in a "carapace" and converts them into managed "drones". This approach allows haibu to directly interact with node.js applications and add all sorts of additional functionality. Haibu also contains a plugin system, so you can easily add even more functionality.

Haibu builds on this concept of "drones" and exposes a robust and granular API for interacting with your node.js applications. At a low level, haibu's API is exposed as a RESTful HTTP webservice. Any system that supports basic HTTP requests can communicate with a haibu server. If you are working in Node.js, haibu comes with a high-level Node.js API client.

## Installation

```
[sudo] npm install -g haibu
```

This will install haibu globally.

## Usage

Haibu comes with three applications, one of which is optional:

- `haibu-server` is the program that manages your node.js web applications. Haibu-server allows you to manage and track your drones.
- `haibu` is the user interface for interacting with (and administrating) a running haibu-server.
- `haibu-balancer` *[optional]* is a load balancer tool, used to split requests across multiple drones of the same application. It is entirely optional, and many deployments won't have a need for it.

It may be nice to flesh this out with an example deployment, but I think this should be relatively low priority.

## Additional Documentation

For more documentation, visit haibu's [github page](#).



# Open Source Projects

## Why Open Source

Most of Nodejitsu's technology stack is released as open source software. We choose to do this for many reasons. Aside from being able to give back to the Node.js community, releasing pieces of our stack as open-source allows other developers to review and improve our software. We've already received invaluable contributions to our platform from developers who would have never seen our code if we had not open-sourced it.

## Where To Find Our Projects

Nodejitsu hosts its open-source projects on [Github](#) at <http://github.com/nodejitsu>. Github is a web site for sharing and collaborating on source code using [git](#), a popular version control system. You can get our source code without creating an account at github, and if you want to create an account it's free. You will need a [git client](#) if you wish to clone any of our code repositories.

## How To Contribute

Anyone can contribute to any of our Nodejitsu open-source projects at any time. Our [github site](#) has the facilities for managing patches, issues, code comments, version control, and just about anything else an open source developer could need.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## "How are programs kept alive? Do I need to use Forever?"

Nodejitsu's cloud services watch your programs for you! You shouldn't have to do anything special to keep your apps running, much less use Forever.

## "How can I make my app use a port other than port 80?"

Connecting to other servers using arbitrary ports requires no special considerations. However, *listening* for outside connections is currently limited to port 80 on the Nodejitsu platform because we require http host headers for domain name resolution of subdomains.

The ability to host tcp applications on nodejitsu and listen on non-80 ports is on our roadmap but has no associated timeline.

## "Why won't this C++ addon compile?"

Many [C++ addons](#) require libraries that are not included in Nodejitsu's infrastructure by default. For example, [node-canvas](#) requires [cairo](#), which is not available on nodejitsu's platform.

There is currently no process for getting a library such as cairo installed on our infrastructure.

# Support

Nodejitsu has a team of developers standing by to assist users with any issues they may come across while deploying and administrating their web applications on the Nodejitsu platform. Nodejitsu strives to have a lightning-fast turnaround on all issues you may have!

## Assistly

Our [Assistly](#) support center is a great resource! Our support center includes a knowledge base where you can search for the information you need, but if you can't find what you're looking for our support center also allows users to post questions to Nodejitsu's support staff using Assistly's "Q&A" feature. Post a question, and one of our ninjas will get back to you at ninja speed!

## E-mail

If you have issues, you can always contact us via email, at [support@nodejitsu.com](mailto:support@nodejitsu.com).

## IRC

Nodejitsu has a channel on [freenode](#) at <irc://irc.freenode.net/#nodejitsu>, where Nodejitsu developers are standing by to support users around the clock. Drop by to ask questions, get assistance or even just to hang out!

## Github Issues

Each of Nodejitsu's open source projects uses Github Issues to manage bugs and related software problems. Github Issues is most useful for developers. For example, if a developer finds a bug in our open-source [http proxy](#), they can submit an issue at <https://github.com/nodejitsu/node-http-proxy/issues> and tell us about their bug.

## Table of Appendices

- [Mailchimp Integration in Nodejitsu](#)
- [package.json](#)
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## Appendix: Mailchimp Integration in Nodejitsu

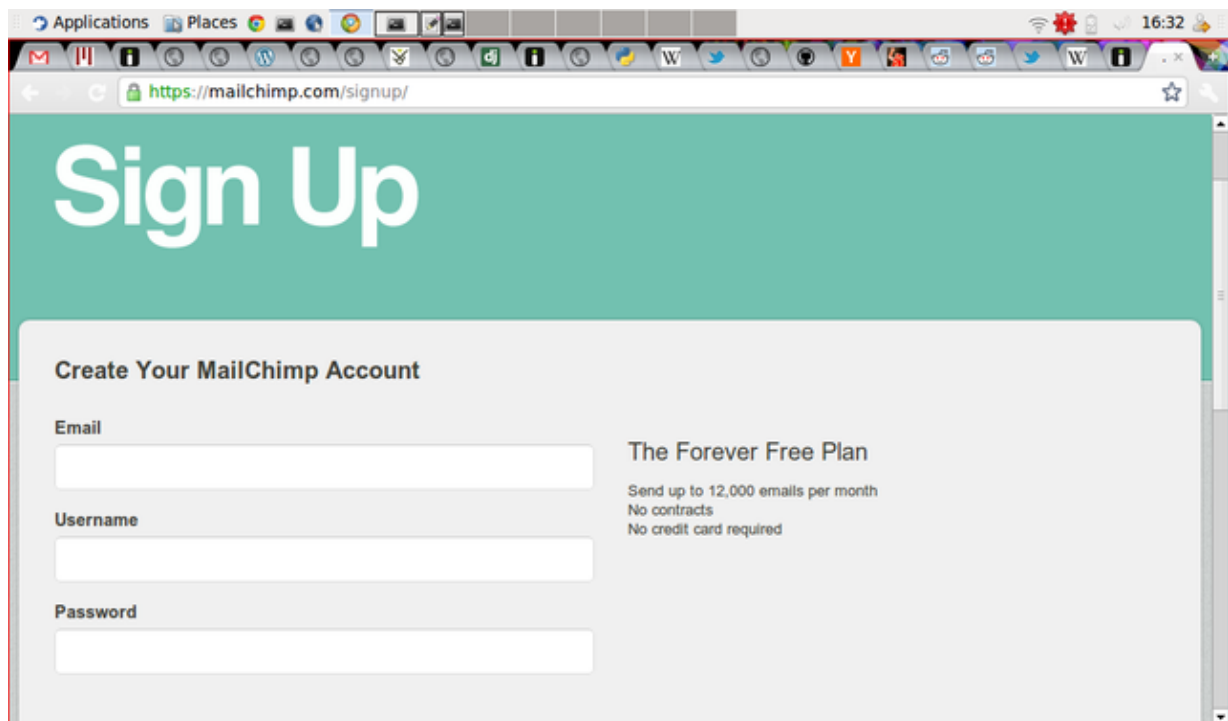
Nodejitsu features integration with [MailChimp](#). What is MailChimp? In their [own words](#):

MailChimp makes it easy to design exceptional email campaigns, share them on social networks, integrate with web services you already use, manage subscribers and track your results. You'll love mixing and matching MailChimp's templates, features and integrations to suit your needsâ think of it as your own personal newsletter publishing platform.

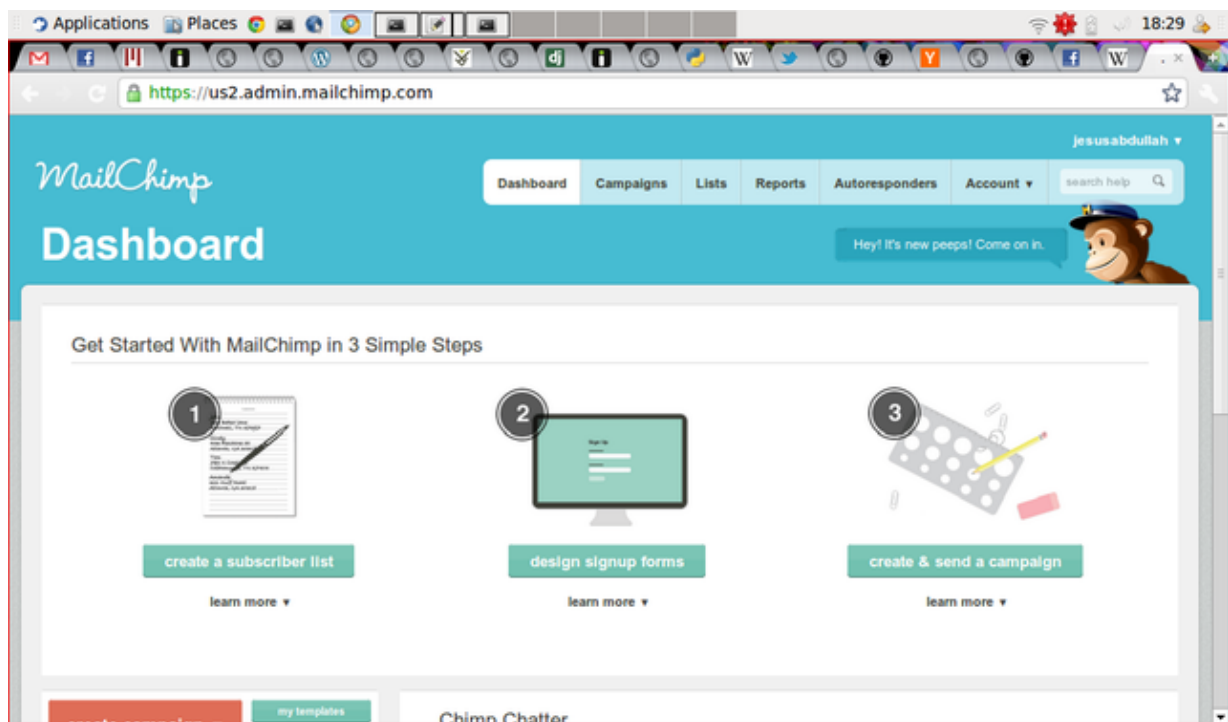
But what about integration? MailChimp integration with Nodejitsu means that you can interact with your MailChimp lists using the same Nodejitsu API that you use to interact with your apps!

### Getting Started

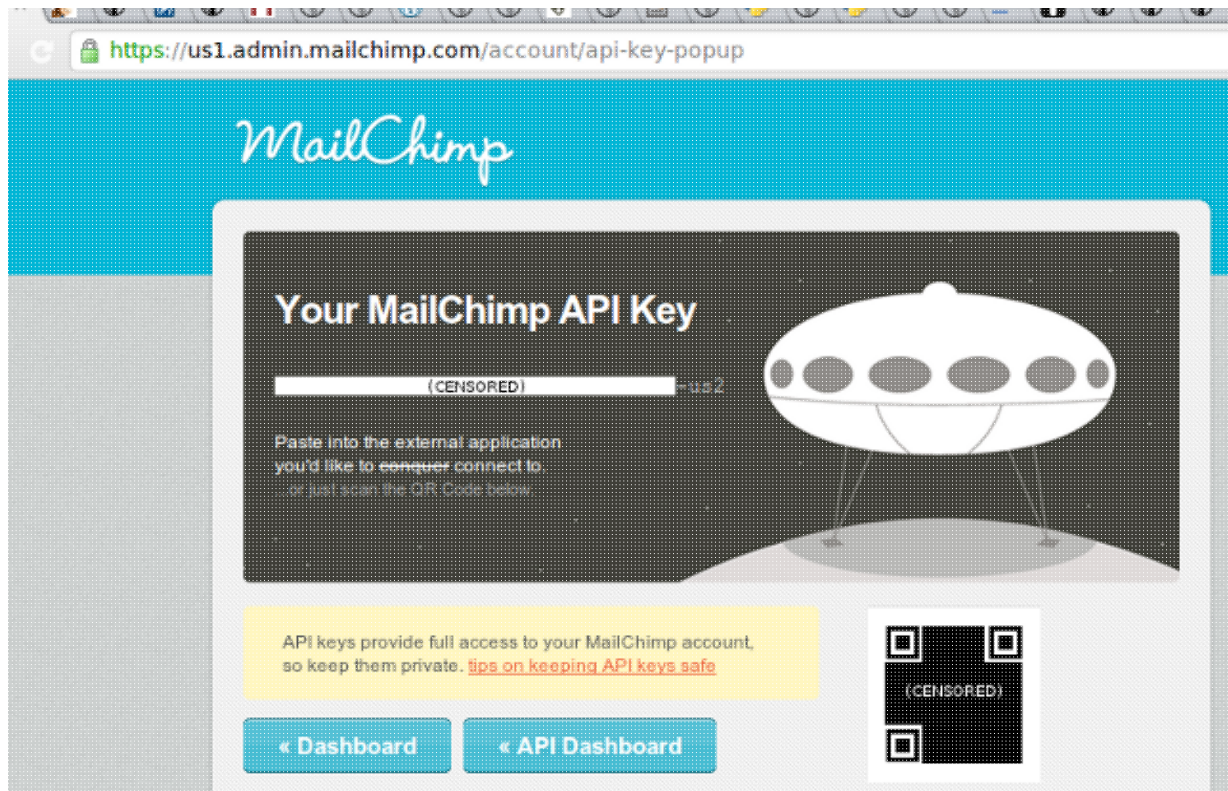
In order to set up the MailChimp integration, you have to [sign up for MailChimp](#) at [their web site](#):

A screenshot of a web browser window showing the MailChimp sign-up page. The browser's address bar displays 'https://mailchimp.com/signup/'. The page has a teal header with the text 'Sign Up' in large white letters. Below the header, there is a white box titled 'Create Your MailChimp Account'. Inside this box, on the left, are three input fields labeled 'Email', 'Username', and 'Password'. On the right side of the box, under the heading 'The Forever Free Plan', the following text is displayed: 'Send up to 12,000 emails per month', 'No contracts', and 'No credit card required'. The browser's top bar shows various application icons and the time '16:32'.

Once you sign up for MailChimp, they can help you get your bearings so you can get to managing e-mail campaigns quick:



But, in order to integrate with Nodejitsu, what you need is an API key. The easiest way to get an API key *right now* is to visit <https://admin.mailchimp.com/account/api-key-popup>:



All you have to do to link your MailChimp account with your Nodejitsu account is to copy-and-paste this API key into Nodejitsu's web application interface:

Now you're good to go! Nodejitsu reports that I have one mailing list, and that the two subscribers are Josh's mother and himself.

## Interacting with your lists via the Nodejitsu JSON API: A Broad Overview

Like the rest of Nodejitsu's features, add-on functionality can be accessed using Nodejitsu's JSON API. For example, here's what happens when you get `/addons/:user-id`:

```
$ curl --user 'jesusabdullah:abc123' http://api.nodejitsu.com/addons/jesusabdullah/
```

```
{ "_id": "jesusabdullah",
  "username": "jesusabdullah",
  "password-salt": "*****",
  "password": "*****",
  "email": "josh.holbrook@gmail.com",
  "addons-mailchimp-apikey": "*****-us2",
  "_rev": "3-2df3731e8cc48d8e11511096dad140e8",
  "status": "active",
  "inviteCode": "*****",
  "resource": "User" }
```

In order to interact with the MailChimp add-on in particular, use the `/addons/:user-id/signups` resource:

```
$ curl --user 'jesusabdullah:abc123' http://api.nodejitsu.com/addons/jesusabdullah/signups
```

```
{ "lists":
  { "total": 1,
    "data":
      [ { "id": "f3b7d6450c",
          "web_id": 646837,
          "name": "Example Mailing List",
          "date_created": "2011-07-26 01:06:42",
          "email_type_option": false,
          "use_awesomebar": true,
          "default_from_name": "Joshua Holbrook",
          "default_from_email": "josh.holbrook@gmail.com",
          "default_subject": "Relevant AND Non-Spammy!",
          "default_language": "en",
          "list_rating": 0,
          "stats":
            { "member_count": 2,
              "unsubscribe_count": 0,
              "cleaned_count": 0,
              "member_count_since_send": 3,
              "unsubscribe_count_since_send": 0,
              "cleaned_count_since_send": 0,
```

```

    "campaign_count": 0,
    "grouping_count": 0,
    "group_count": 0,
    "merge_var_count": 0,
    "avg_sub_rate": null,
    "avg_unsub_rate": null,
    "target_sub_rate": null,
    "open_rate": null,
    "click_rate": null },
    "modules": [ ] } ] } } }

```

You can use the list ID to access the particular list information with `/addons/:user-id/signups/:list-id/`

```
curl --user 'jesusabdullah:abc123' http://api.nodejitsu.com/addons/jesusabdullah/signups/f3b7d6450c
```

```

{ "total": 2,
  "data":
  [ { "email": "holbrook@*****.net",
      "timestamp": "2011-07-26 01:08:11" },
    { "email": "josh@nodejitsu.com",
      "timestamp": "2011-07-26 01:09:11" } ] }

```

This confirms that Josh and his Mom are is in the example list.

## More API Commands:

### Retrieve your API key:

```
GET /addons/:user-id/signups/apikey/
```

### Set your API key:

```
PUT /addons/:user-id/signups/apikey/
```

### Subscribe to a list:

```
POST /addons/:user-id/signups/:list-id/subscribe/
```

### Unsubscribe from a list:

```
POST /addons/:user-id/signups/:list-id/unsubscribe/
```



# Appendix: package.json

## Understanding the package.json format

A package.json file describes your application, its dependencies, and other various application metadata. For a detailed spec on creating a package.json you can check out Isaac's fine documentation [here](#).

## Preparing a package.json for your application

Nodejitsu requires that you create a valid [package.json](#) for your application. The package.json will determine certain important pieces of information about your application which are required for deployment. Since sometimes it can get confusing when constructing your package.json file, we provide wizards in our CLI tool and on our website for creating one.

Here is an example of what your package.json might look like:

```
{
  "name": "hellonode",
  "subdomain": "hellonode",
  "scripts": {
    "start": "server.js"
  },
  "version": "0.0.0"
}
```

Notice the "scripts" property? This is where you'll store information about specific scripts in your application. The "start" property indicates the script that will get called when your application is started.

## Specifying dependencies in your package.json

If your application requires additional dependencies or third-party libraries, Nodejitsu fully supports npm module dependency resolution. All you have to do is list your dependencies the exact same way you would if you were packaging a module for npm. Here is an example of the same package.json with a few dependencies.

```
{
  "name": "hellonode",
  "subdomain": "hellonode",
  "scripts": {
    "start": "server.js"
  },
  "dependencies": {
    "async": "0.1.x",
    "colors": "0.5.x",
    "request": "1.9.x"
  },
  "version": "0.0.0"
}
```

Your dependencies will be resolved when your application deploys to Nodejitsu.

# Appendix: Resources

New to Node.js? **Don't be scared!** There are plenty of resources out there for beginners. Here are just a few:

- [The nodejs.org Official Docs](#) document all of Node.js's core APIs.
- The [Node.js Wiki](#) contains information such as an FAQ, installation instructions, and lists of modules.
- The #Node.js, #nodejitsu and #nodesupport channels on [irc.freenode.net](#) are ready to help you with any Node.js issues and concerns you may have.
- [@NodeKohai on Twitter](#) is an irc bot that shares Node.js tweets with the #nodejitsu irc channel. Ask it a quick question and it just might give you an answer!
- <http://search.npmjs.org> is a great place to check for modules that might already solve your problem.

# Appendix: Building the Nodejitsu Handbook

## Dependencies

The build process for the handbook has a few dependencies:

- [make](#)
- [ronn](#)
- [htmldoc](#)

Make and htmldoc should be available via your operating system's package manager (ie. apt-get). ronn is available on [rubygems](#), which in turn should be available via your operating system's package manager as well. On Debian-based systems, the rubygems package does not add its bin folder (`/var/lib/gems/1.8/bin`) to your `$PATH` variable, so add something like:

```
PATH="/var/lib/gems/1.8/bin:$PATH"
```

to the end of your `~/.profile` file and activate it by running `. ~/.profile`.

## Build Process

Once you've installed the dependencies, all you have to do is:

```
$ make
```

and the files `./book.md`, `book.pdf`, `book.html`, `API.md` and `ReadMe.md` should all be generated.