

The easiest way to get started with Svelte

Rich Harris

Svelte is a new kind of framework. Rather than putting a `<script src='svelte.js'>` tag on the page, or bringing it into your app with `import` or `require`, Svelte is a compiler that works behind the scenes to turn your component files into beautifully optimised JavaScript.

Because of that, getting started with it can be a little bit confusing at first. How, you might reasonably ask, do you make a Svelte app?

1. Use the REPL

The Svelte REPL (Read-Eval-Print Loop) is the easiest way to begin. This is an interactive environment that allows you to modify code and instantly see the result.

You can choose from a list of examples, click the REPL link, and then tweak them until they do what you want.

You'll need to have Node.js installed, and know how to use the terminal

At some point, your app will outgrow the REPL. Click the **download** button to save a `svelte-app.zip` file to your computer and uncompress it.

Open a terminal window and set the project up...

```
cd /path/to/svelte-app
npm install
```

...then start up a development server:

```
npm run dev
```

This will serve your app on `localhost:8080` and rebuild it with Rollup every time you make a change to the files in `svelte-app/src`.

2. Use degit

When you download from the REPL, you're getting a customised version of the `sveltejs/template` repo. You can skip messing around with zip files by using `degit`, a project scaffolding tool.

In the terminal, you can instantly create a new project like so:

```
npx degit sveltejs/template my-svelte-project
cd my-svelte-project
# to use TypeScript run:
# node scripts/setupTypeScript.js
```

```
npm install
npm run dev
```

This will create a new project in the **my-svelte-project** directory, install its dependencies, and start a server on <http://localhost:8080>.

You can find more information about using TypeScript [here](#).

Once you've tinkered a bit and understood how everything fits together, you can fork [sveltejs/template](#) and start doing this instead:

```
npx degit your-name/template my-new-project
```

And that's it! Do **npm run build** to create a production-ready version of your app, and check the project template's README for instructions on how to easily deploy your app to the web with Vercel or Surge.

You're not restricted to using Rollup — there are also integrations for webpack, Browserify and others, or you can use the Svelte CLI (Update from 2019: with Svelte 3 the CLI was deprecated and we now use `sirv-cli` in our template. Feel free to use whatever tool you like!) or the API directly. If you make a project template using one of these tools, please share it with the Svelte Discord chatroom, or via [@sveltejs](#) on Twitter!