

# Building Libraries with Vue CLI

Best practices and recommendations

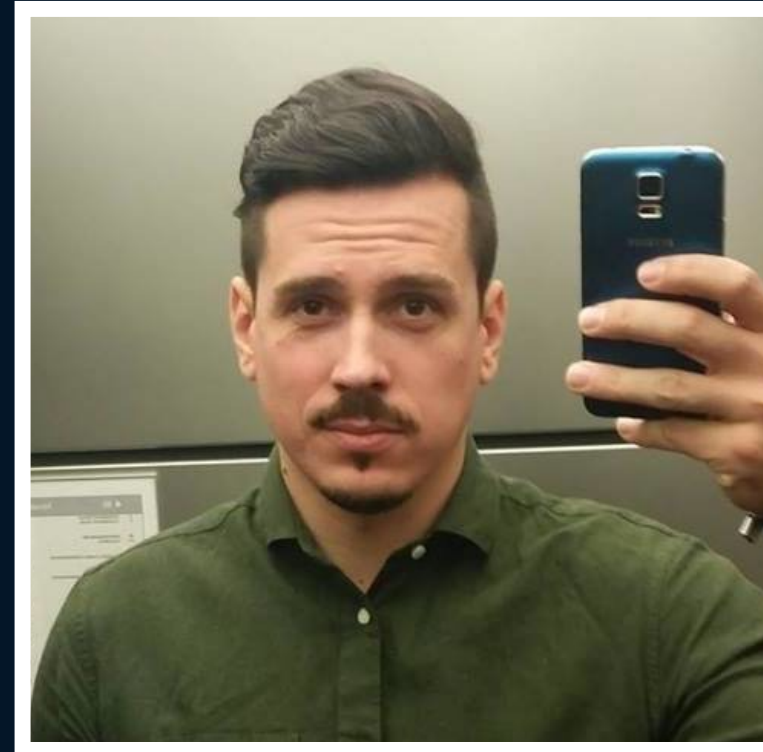
@linus\_borg  
Vuejs Amsterdam  
14.02. - 15.02. 2019

# Building Libraries with Vue CLI

Best practices and recommendations

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# whoami?



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**Vue.js core team member**

**Forum-Question-Answerer**



PHASE 1   PHASE 2   PHASE 3

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**VUE CREATE YOUR-LIB**

?

Profit



- Vue CLI Project setup
- Enter: The entry file
- Weight Watchers



# What is Vue CLI?

if you don't know, I know you skipped some talks ...



# Project setup

with Vue CLI

# Default setup is for apps

## yarn build

```
yarn run v1.12.3
$ vue-cli-service build

: Building for production...

DONE Compiled successfully in 7140ms 18:21:32

File                                Size                                Gzipped

dist/js/chunk-vendors.06c676b8.js    82.11 KiB                          29.74 KiB
dist/js/app.d3d5fb95.js              4.60 KiB                           1.65 KiB
dist/css/app.e2713bb0.css            0.33 KiB                           0.23 KiB

Images and other types of assets omitted.

DONE Build complete. The dist directory is ready to be deployed.
INFO Check out deployment instructions at https://cli.vuejs.org/guide/deployment.html

✨ Done in 10.44s.
```



# But Vue CLI can build libraries as well!

```
yarn build --target lib --name YourLib src/index.js
```

```
yarn run v1.12.3
$ vue-cli-service build --target lib --name YourLib src/index.js

:: Building for production as library (commonjs,umd,umd-min)...

DONE Compiled successfully in 4433ms 18:28:08

File                Size                Gzipped
dist/YourLib.umd.min.js  22.25 KiB          7.51 KiB
dist/YourLib.umd.js    59.47 KiB          14.07 KiB
dist/YourLib.common.js  59.00 KiB          13.89 KiB
dist/YourLib.css        0.17 KiB           0.13 KiB

Images and other types of assets omitted.

✨ Done in 6.04s.
```

1. **Adjust files & folders**
2. **Customise build scripts in `package.json`**
3. **Add library-specific fields to `package.json`**

Adjusting build scripts

`/src` contains boilerplate for an app - what to do with it?

```
mv ./src ./demo
```

recycle it as a demo app

```
touch ./src/index.js
```

our lib's entry file

# ./demo/main.js

```
import Vue from 'vue'
import App from './App.vue'

import YourLib from '../src'
Vue.use(YourLib)

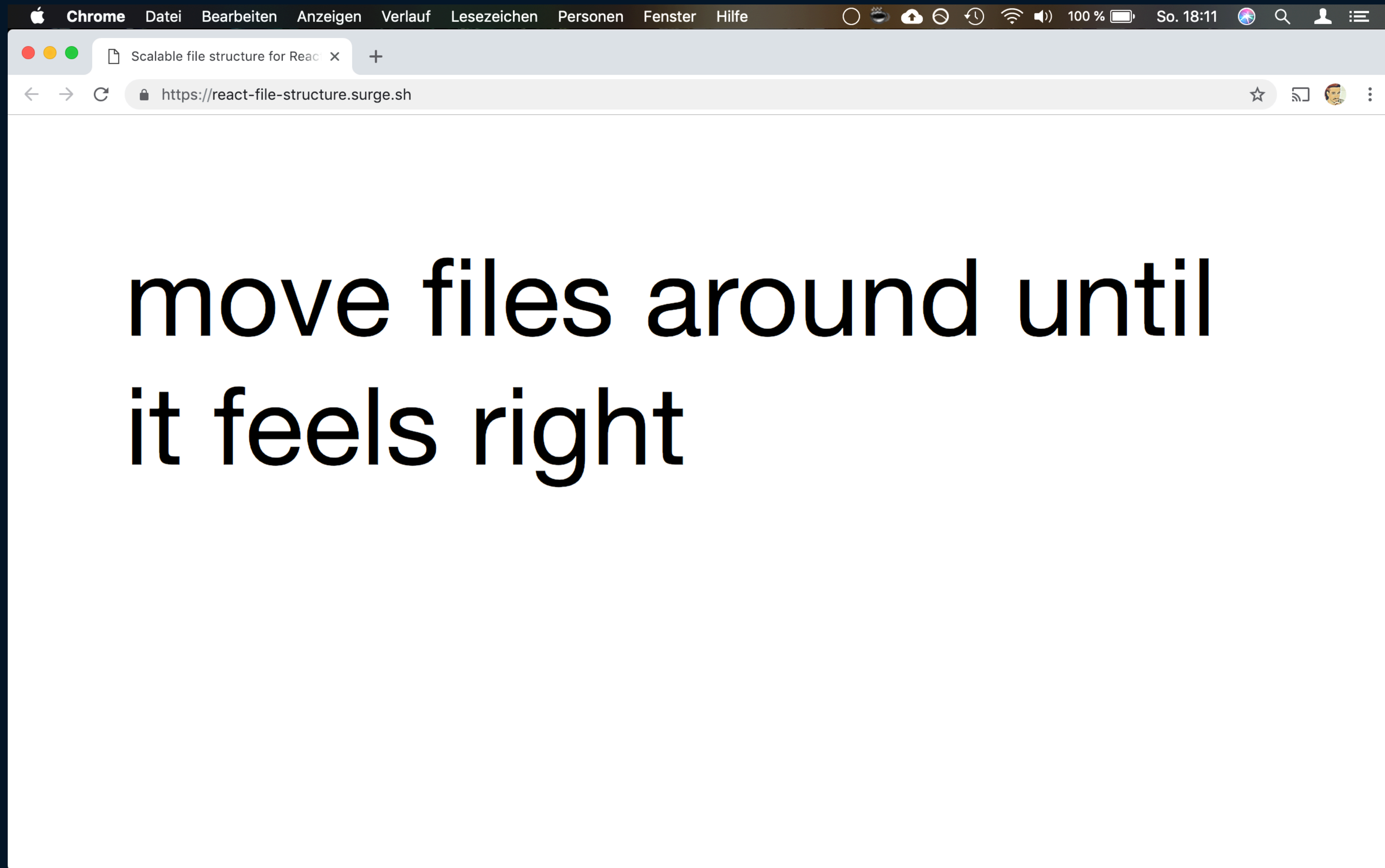
Vue.config.productionTip = false

new Vue({
  render: h => h(App),
}).$mount('#app')
```



*„Whats the perfect folder structure?“*

<https://react-file-structure.surge.sh/>



Customise build scripts

# ./package.json

```
"scripts": {  
  "serve": "vue-cli-service serve",  
  "build": "vue-cli-service build",  
  "lint": "vue-cli-service lint",  
  "test:e2e": "vue-cli-service test:e2e",  
  "test:unit": "vue-cli-service test:unit"  
},
```

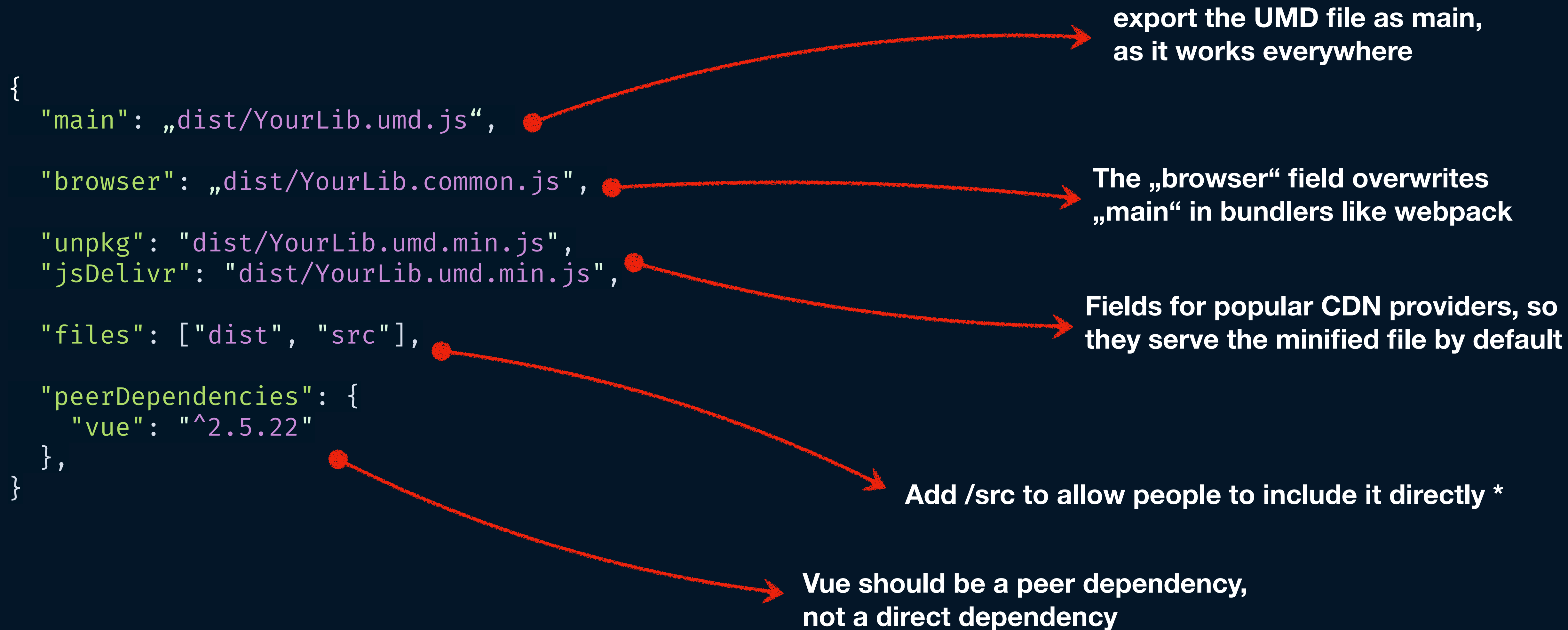


# ./package.json

```
"scripts": {  
  "serve": "vue-cli-service serve ./demo/main",  
  "build:demo": "vue-cli-service build ./demo/main",  
  "build": "vue-cli-service build --target lib --name YourLib src/index.js",  
  "lint": "vue-cli-service lint",  
  "test:e2e": "vue-cli-service test:e2e",  
  "test:unit": "vue-cli-service test:unit"  
},
```

Add library-specific fields

# ./package.json



# Enter: the Entry File

Please come in!



Starting simple



/src/index.js

```
import HelloWorld from './components/HelloWorld.vue'
```

```
export default HelloWorld
```

- **Import the component**

- **Export it**



There's more to take care of!

- **Deal with multiple components**
- **Turn it into a Vue Plugin (Vue.use)**
- **Make it customisable**
- **Auto-Install it when included directly in a Browser**

Dealing with multiple components



/src/index.js

```
import HelloWorld from './components/HelloWorld.vue'
import GoodbyeReality from './components/GoodbyeReality.vue'

export {
  HelloWorld,
  GoodbyeReality
}

// Optional default export
export default HelloWorld
```

some-app/src/main.js

```
import Vue from 'vue'
import {
  HelloWorld,
  GoodbyeReality
} from 'your-lib'

Vue.component('HelloWorld', HelloWorld)
Vue.component('GoodbyeReality', GoodbyeReality)
```



```
import Vue from 'vue'
import {
  HelloWorld,
  GoodbyeReality
} from 'your-lib'

Vue.component('HelloWorld', HelloWorld)
Vue.component('GoodbyeReality', GoodbyeReality)
```



**Only import what you need**

**Name components how you like**



**Tedious with a lot of components**

**No defaults**

**No additional config possible**

Turning it into a Vue Plugin

# What is a Vue Plugin ?

“

*A Vue.js plugin should expose an install method.*

*The method will be called with the Vue constructor as the first argument, along with possible options:*

”

<https://vuejs.org/v2/guide/plugins.html#Writing-a-Plugin>

/src/index.js

```
import HelloWorld from './components/HelloWorld.vue'
import GoodbyeReality from './components/GoodbyeReality.vue'

function install(Vue, options = {}) {

  Vue.component('HelloWorld', HelloWorld)
  Vue.component('GoodbyeReality', GoodbyeReality)
}

// Export the plugin function
export default install
```

some-app/src/main.js

```
import Vue from 'vue'
import YourLib from 'your-lib'

Vue.use(YourLib)
```

```
import Vue from 'vue'  
import YourLib from 'your-lib'  
  
Vue.use(YourLib)
```



**Easy Installation with 2 lines of code**

**No matter how many components**



**Component Names are hardcoded**

**Risk: naming conflicts**

/src/index.js

```
function install(Vue, options = {}) {  
  Vue.component('HelloWorld', HelloWorld)  
  Vue.component('GoodbyReality', GoodbyReality)  
}
```

**hardcoded  
component name**



**Anti-Pattern**

Making it customisable



/src/index.js

```
import HelloWorld from './components/HelloWorld.vue'
import GoodbyeReality from './components/GoodbyeReality.vue'

function install(Vue, options = {}) {

  Vue.component(options.HelloWorldName || 'HelloWorld', HelloWorld)
  Vue.component(options.GoodbyeRealityName || 'GoodbyeReality', GoodbyeReality)
}

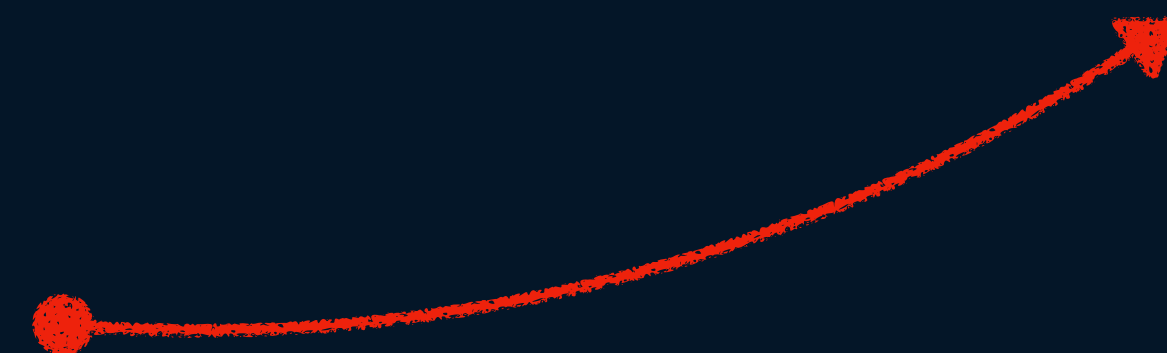
// Export the plugin function
export default install
```

some-app/src/main.js

```
import Vue from 'vue'
import YourLib from 'your-lib'

Vue.use(YourLib, {
  HelloWorldName: 'BetterWorld'
})
```

<BetterWorld />



## /src/index.js

```
import HelloWorld from './components/HelloWorld.vue'
import GoodbyeReality from './components/GoodbyeReality.vue'

function install(Vue, options = {}) {

  Vue.component(options.HelloWorldName || 'HelloWorld', HelloWorld)
  Vue.component(options.GoodbyeRealityName || 'GoodbyeReality', GoodbyeReality)
}

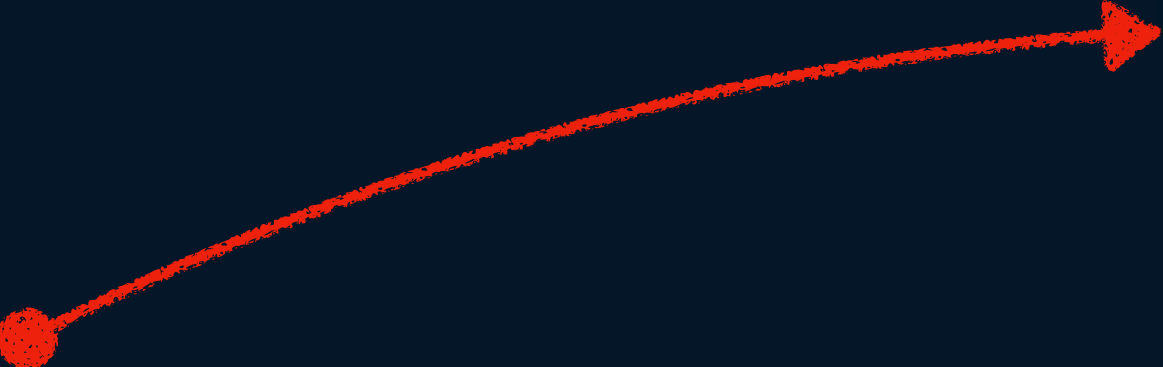
// Export the plugin function
export default install

export {
  HelloWorld,
  GoodbyeReality
}
```

## some-app/src/main.js

```
import Vue from 'vue'
import {
  HelloWorld
} from 'your-lib'

Vue.component('BetterWorld', HelloWorld)
```



<BetterWorld />

Making it **even more** customisable

/src/index.js

```
import StoreModule from './module'
import YourMixin from './module'

function install(Vue, {router, store, mixin } = {}) {

  // Register components as before ...
  router.beforeEach((to, from, next) => {
    next()
  })

  store.registerModule(moduleName, StoreModule)

  if (mixin) {
    Vue.mixin(YourMixin)
  }
}

// Export the plugin function
export default install

export {
  HelloWorld,
  GoodbyeReality,
  StoreModule,
  YourMixin,
}
```

Auto-Install when included directly in the browser

/src/index.js

```
import Vue from 'vue'
import HelloWorld from './components/HelloWorld.vue'
import GoodbyeReality from './components/GoodbyeReality.vue'

function install(Vue, options = {}) {

  Vue.component(options.HelloWorldName || 'HelloWorld', HelloWorld)
  Vue.component(options.GoodbyeRealityName || 'GoodbyeReality', GoodbyeReality)
}

// Export the plugin function
export default install

if (typeof window !== undefined
    && window.Vue
    && window.Vue === Vue) {
  install(window.Vue)
}

export {
  HelloWorld,
  GoodbyeReality
}
```

- Always export **all** components\* individually
- Offer a way to install as a **plugin**
- Keep the plugin **customisable**
- **Auto-Install** in non-module environments



\* components, directives, mixins, everthing



# Weight Watchers



# Babel Config

/babel.config.js

```
module.exports = {  
  presets: ['@vue/app'],  
}
```

- **Based on @babel/preset-env**
- **preconfigured to inject polyfills and helpers**
- **Default settings best suited for an app, not a library**

<https://github.com/vuejs/vue-cli/tree/dev/packages/@vue/babel-preset-app>

/babel.config.js

```
module.exports = {  
  presets: [  
    [  
      '@vue/app',  
      {  
        useBuiltIns: false,  
        polyfills: false,  
      },  
    ],  
  ],  
}
```

- Don't bundle polyfills with your components
- Document required poly fills in your library's docs
- The end user has to add these polyfills in their app

# Externalise Dependencies

- Don't bundle runtime dependencies (i.e. lodash)
- Why? Bundled dependencies can result in duplicated code
- Instead: tell webpack where to load them from when used

„externals“



Vue CLI does this for the  
'vue' package automatically

<https://webpack.js.org/configuration/externals/>



/vue.config.json

```
import _ from 'lodash'
```

```
module.exports = {  
  lintOnSave: false,  
  configureWebpack: {  
    externals: {  
      lodash: {  
        commonjs: 'lodash',  
        commonjs2: 'lodash',  
        root: '_',  
      },  
    },  
  },  
}
```

**Name of the package  
when used in a bundler**

**Name of the global variable  
when used in a browser**



**Make sure to document this:**

```
<script src="https://unkpg.com/lodash"></script>  
<script src="https://unpkg.com/your-lib"></script>
```

**When `your-lib` is used in a browser,  
externalised dependencies have to be included before it**



# Handling CSS

/vue.config.js

```
module.exports = {  
  lintOnSave: false,  
  css: {  
    extract: true,  
  },  
}
```

⚠ CSS has to be manually imported

✓ CSS can be omitted if people  
want to customise from scratch

```
import Vue from 'vue'  
import YourLib from 'vue'  
import 'your-lib/dist/YourLib.common.css'
```

```
Vue.use(YourLib)
```

```
module.exports = {  
  lintOnSave: false,  
  css: {  
    extract: false,  
  },  
}
```

CSS bundled in JS

Injected into the DOM at runtime

⚠ You can't get rid of it

✓ No need to include a .css file

# Tree Shaking

## What is a Tree Shaking ?

*Tree shaking is a term commonly used in the JavaScript context for dead-code elimination.*

*webpack comes with built-in support for **ES2015 modules** as well as unused module export detection. and [...] a „**sideEffects**“ package.json property to denote which files in your project are "pure" and therefore safe to prune if unused.*

<https://webpack.js.org/guides/tree-shaking/>



This doesn't work with bundled  
libraries!!

...but it works when the consumer imports our source!

- Webpack can't really treeshake from already bundled code
- to profit from treeshaking, your *consumers* must include raw source
- There's a couple of catches to this

/vue.config.js

Setting in the consumer's  
Vue CLI project

```
module.exports = {  
  transpileDependencies: ["your-lib"],  
}
```



- Will be transpired with the *consumer's* configuration
- Don't use any unusual config/plugins,
- If you must, then properly document it for your users.
- Don't use the de facto standard „@/path/alias“ for paths

<https://cli.vuejs.org/config/#transpiledependencies>

/package.json

```
{  
  "name": „your-lib“,  
  "sideEffects": false  
}
```



**CSS from .vue files  
is a side-effect!**

- Tells webpack your exports are side-effect free
- Allows more aggressive removal of unused exports
- **Exceptions** (files with side effects) can be configured



/package.json

```
{  
  "name": „your-lib“,  
  "sideEffects": [ "*.css" ]  
}
```



CSS marked as  
a side-effect!

- Tells webpack your exports are side-effect free
- Allows more aggressive removal of unused exports
- **Exceptions** (files with side effects) can be configured

The --report flag

```
$ vue-cli-service build --target lib --name VueFiledrop --dest dist/core src/index.js --report
```

```
<> VueFiledrop.common-report.html
```

```
JS VueFiledrop.common.js
```

```
JS VueFiledrop.common.js.map
```

```
<> VueFiledrop.umd-report.html
```

```
JS VueFiledrop.umd.js
```

```
JS VueFiledrop.umd.js.map
```

```
<> VueFiledrop.umd.min-report.html
```

```
JS VueFiledrop.umd.min.js
```

```
JS VueFiledrop.umd.min.js.map
```



# VueFiledrop.common.js

node\_modules

core-js

@vue/cli-service/lib/commands/build

library

modules

modules

es6.promise.js

\_export.js

\_microtask.js

es6.array.from.js

\_iter-define.js

\_object-create.js

\_task.js

\_for-of.js

es6.array.iterator.js

web.dom.iterable.js

\_array-includes.js

es7.promise.finally.js

\_classof.js

\_invoke.js

\_to-primitive.js

\_iter-detect.js

\_string-at.js

\_object-dp.js

\_new-promise-capability.js

es7.promise.try.js

\_set-species.js

\_shared.js

\_object-keys-internal.js

\_object-dps.js

\_species-constructor.js

\_global.js

...

\_dom-create.js

\_iter-create.js

\_iter-call.js

\_iobject.js

\_to-iobject.js

...

\_redefine-all.js

\_to-length.js

es6.string.iterator.js

core.js-iterable.js

\_shared-key.js

...

\_defined.js

\_uid.js

\_to-integer.js

\_ctx.js

\_promise-resolve.js

\_set-to-string-tag.js

\_an-object.js

...

\_perform.js

\_html.js

\_a-function.js

\_object-gpo.js

\_wks.js

\_create-property.js

\_is-array.js

\_is-weak.js

\_is-object.js

\_redefine.js

...

es6.number.constructor.js

\_iter-define.js

web.dom.iterable.js

\_export.js

\_array-includes.js

\_set-proto.js

\_string-trim.js

\_to-primitive.js

\_object-create.js

\_object-dp.js

\_object-dps.js

\_inherit-if-required.js

\_add-to-unscopables.js

\_dom-create.js

\_iobject.js

es6.array.iterator.js

\_object-gopd.js

\_wks.js

\_hide.js

\_to-length.js

\_object-keys.js

\_le8-dom-define.js

\_redefine.js

\_iter-create.js

\_global.js

\_to-absolute-index.js

\_uid.js

\_core.js

\_fails.js

...

\_library.js

entry-lib.js +  
14 modules  
(concatenated)

vue-reactive-provide/dist

VueReactiveProvide.umd.min.js

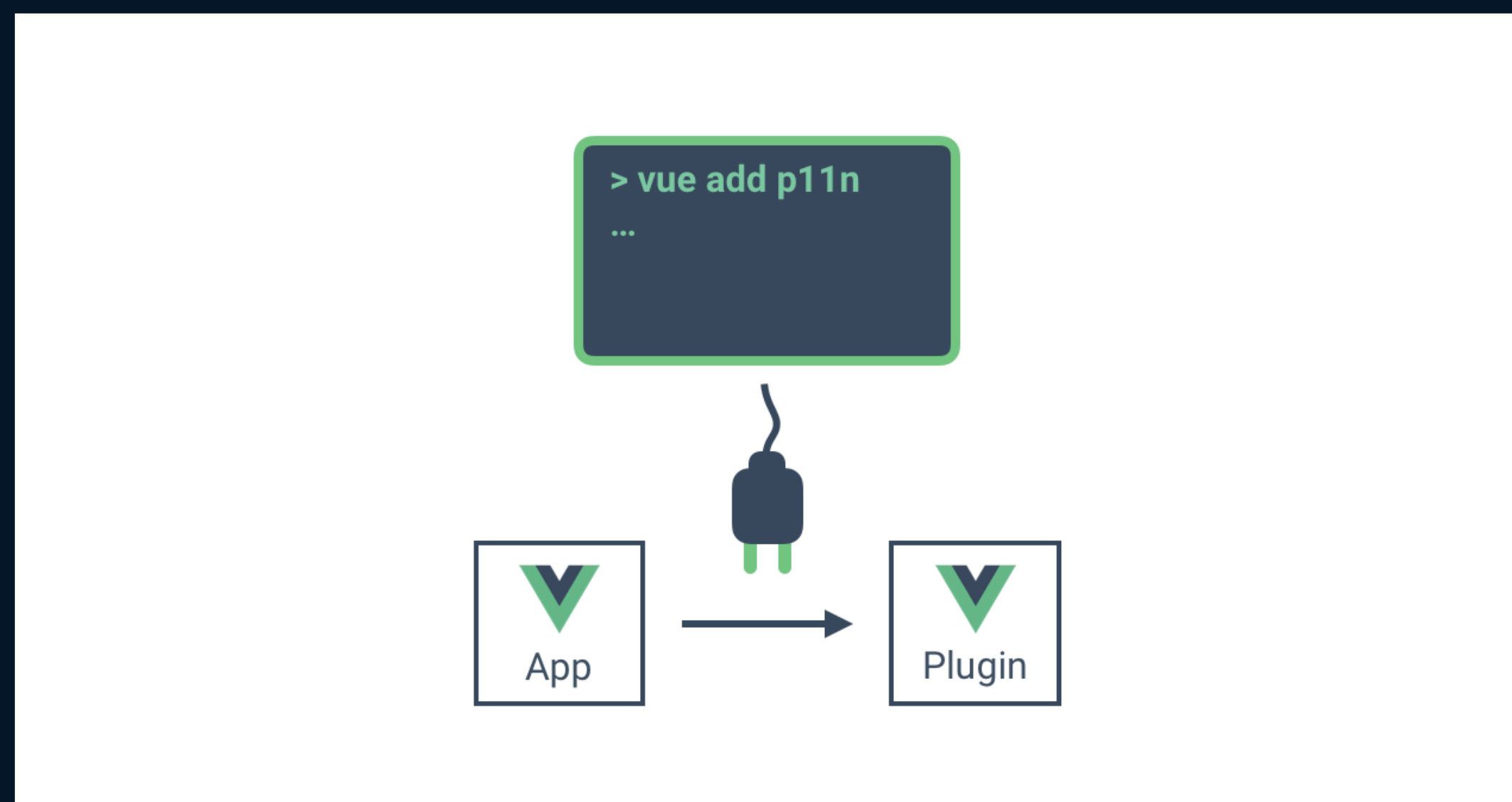
...  
array  
from.js  
...  
promise.js  
...

# Further Reading

You might also be interested in...



Github: kazupon



<https://github.com/kazupon/vue-cli-plugin-p11n>

[https://medium.com/@kazu\\_pon/vue-cli-plugin-p11n-a51195ff7d3e](https://medium.com/@kazu_pon/vue-cli-plugin-p11n-a51195ff7d3e)



Github: chrisfritz

<https://github.com/chrisvfritz/hello-vue-components>

- Example repository with extensive comments
- lots of ticks and tricks
- build each component on it's own
- ... optionally into their own package(!!)





*That's all Folks!*

**Github: [linusborg](#)**  
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