🚀 TalentSync Complete Launch Guide

From Zero to Live Website in 30 Minutes

⏱️ Time Estimate: 25-30 minutes

📋 STEP 1: Prerequisites (5 minutes)

What You Need:

- ☐ Computer with internet connection
- ☐ GitHub account (free) - <u>Sign up here</u>
- ☐ Railway account (free hosting) - <u>Sign up here</u>
- ☐ Text editor (VS Code recommended) - <u>Download here</u>
- ☐ Node.js installed - <u>Download here</u>

Check if Node.js is installed:

```bash
node --version
npm --version
```

If you see version numbers, you're good! If not, install Node.js from the link above.

📁 STEP 2: Create Project Folder (2 minutes)

1. **Open your terminal/command prompt**

2. **Navigate to where you want your project:**

```bash
```

```bash
cd Desktop
# or wherever you want to create the project
```

3. **Create project folder:**

```bash
mkdir talentsync
cd talentsync
```

4. **Open in your text editor:**

```bash
code .
# This opens VS Code in current folder
```

📝 STEP 3: Create All Project Files (8 minutes)

Create these files exactly as shown:

3.1: Create package.json

```json

```

```json
{
  "name": "talentsync",
  "version": "1.0.0",
  "description": "A job board platform connecting talent with opportunity",
  "main": "server.js",
  "scripts": {
    "start": "node server.js",
    "dev": "nodemon server.js"
  },
  "keywords": ["jobs", "careers", "recruitment"],
  "author": "Your Name",
  "license": "MIT",
  "dependencies": {
    "express": "^4.18.2",
    "multer": "^1.4.5-lts.1",
    "bcrypt": "^5.1.0",
    "jsonwebtoken": "^9.0.0",
    "cors": "^2.8.5"
  },
  "engines": {
    "node": ">=14.0.0"
  }
}
```

3.2: Create `server.js`

Copy the entire server.js code from the artifacts above - it's the complete backend code.

3.3: Create `public` folder and `index.html`

1. **Create public folder:**

```bash
```

```
mkdir public
```

2. **Create** `public/index.html` **Copy the entire index.html code from the artifacts above** - it's the complete frontend.

3.4: Create `.env`

```env
PORT=3000
JWT_SECRET=your-super-secret-jwt-key-change-this-to-something-random-and-secure
NODE_ENV=development
```

3.5: Create `.gitignore`

```
node_modules/
.env
data/
uploads/
*.log
.DS_Store
```

3.6: Create `README.md`

```markdown
```

TalentSync Job Board

A modern job board platform connecting talent with opportunity.

Live Demo
[Your live URL will go here]

Features
- User registration and authentication
- Job posting and searching
- Resume upload and management
- Application system
- Responsive design

Tech Stack
- Node.js & Express
- Vanilla JavaScript
- File-based storage

🔧 STEP 4: Test Locally (3 minutes)

1. **Install dependencies:**

```bash
npm install
```

2. **Start the server:**

```bash
npm start
```

3. **Test in browser:**
   - Open `http://localhost:3000`

   - You should see your TalentSync website!

4. **Quick test:**
   - Try creating an account

   - Try searching for jobs

   - Check that everything loads properly

5. **Stop the server:**
   - Press `Ctrl+C` in terminal

🐙 STEP 5: Set Up GitHub Repository (5 minutes)

1. **Initialize Git:**

```bash
git init
git add .
git commit -m "Initial TalentSync setup"
```

2. **Create GitHub repository:**
   - Go to github.com

   - Click "New repository"

   - Name it "talentsync"

   - Choose "Public"

   - Don't initialize with README (we already have one)

   - Click "Create repository"

3. **Connect and push:**

```bash
git remote add origin https://github.com/YOURUSERNAME/talentsync.git
git branch -M main
git push -u origin main
```

Replace `YOURUSERNAME` with your actual GitHub username.

🚀 STEP 6: Deploy to Railway (7 minutes)

Railway is the easiest and most generous free hosting platform.

6.1: Sign up for Railway

1. Go to railway.app

2. Click "Login"

3. Choose "Login with GitHub"

4. Authorize Railway to access your GitHub

6.2: Deploy Your Project

1. **Click "New Project"**

2. **Select "Deploy from GitHub repo"**

3. **Choose your "talentsync" repository**

4. **Railway will automatically:**
   - Detect it's a Node.js project
   - Install dependencies
   - Start building

6.3: Configure Environment Variables

1. **Click on your project**

2. **Go to "Variables" tab**

3. **Add these variables:**

```
JWT_SECRET = your-super-secret-production-key-make-it-long-and-random
NODE_ENV = production
PORT = 3000
```

6.4: Get Your Live URL

1. **Go to "Settings" tab**

2. **In "Environment" section, click "Generate Domain"**

3. **Copy your new URL** (something like `talentsync-production-abc123.up.railway.app`)

✅ STEP 7: Final Testing (2 minutes)

1. **Visit your live URL**

2. **Test core functionality:**
   - ☐ Homepage loads correctly
   - ☐ Can create an account
   - ☐ Can sign in/out
   - ☐ Can post a job (after signing up as employer)
   - ☐ Can upload a resume (after signing up as job seeker)
   - ☐ Search functionality works
   - ☐ Responsive design works on mobile

🎉 STEP 8: You're Live! (1 minute)

Congratulations! Your job board is now live!

Share your creation:

- Update your README.md with the live URL

- Share with friends and family

- Test from different devices

Your live TalentSync is at: `https://your-app-name.up.railway.app`

🔧 Common Issues & Quick Fixes

Issue: "npm install" fails

Fix:

```bash
rm -rf node_modules package-lock.json
npm install
```

Issue: Port already in use

Fix:

```bash
# Kill process on port 3000
npx kill-port 3000
# Or restart your computer
```

Issue: Railway deployment fails

Fix:

1. Check that all files are pushed to GitHub

2. Verify package.json has correct start script

3. Check Railway logs for specific error

Issue: Environment variables not working

Fix:

1. Make sure variables are set in Railway dashboard

2. Redeploy after adding variables

3. Check variable names match exactly

📈 Next Steps (Optional)

Now that you're live, consider:

1. **Custom Domain:**
   - Buy a domain ($10/year)
   - Connect it in Railway settings

2. **Database Upgrade:**
   - Add MongoDB Atlas (free)
   - Replace JSON files with real database

3. **Email Notifications:**
   - Add email service for applications
   - Password reset functionality

4. **Enhanced Features:**
   - Company profiles
   - Advanced search filters

- Interview scheduling

📊 Monitor Your App

Railway Dashboard:

- **Metrics tab:** See usage and performance
- **Logs tab:** Debug any issues
- **Variables tab:** Update settings

Keep Track:

- Monthly Railway usage (you get $5 free credit)
- User registrations and activity
- Job postings and applications

🆘 Getting Help

If you get stuck:

1. **Check the error message** in terminal or Railway logs
2. **Review this guide** step by step
3. **Common solutions:**
   - Restart your computer
   - Clear browser cache
   - Re-run `npm install`
   - Check file paths and names

🎯 Success Checklist

- ☑ Local development works (`npm start`)
- ☑ Code pushed to GitHub
- ☑ Railway deployment successful
- ☑ Live URL accessible
- ☑ User registration works
- ☑ Job posting works
- ☑ Resume upload works
- ☑ Search functionality works
- ☑ Mobile responsive

📝 Important Notes

Data Storage:

- Your app uses file-based storage
- Data persists between deployments on Railway
- Regular backups recommended for production

Free Tier Limits:

- Railway: $5 free credit monthly
- Usually covers small to medium usage
- Monitor usage in dashboard

Security:

- Change JWT_SECRET to something secure
- Never commit .env to GitHub

- Railway keeps your environment variables secure

🏆 You Did It!

You now have a fully functional job board website running live on the internet!

What you've accomplished: ✅ Built a complete web application
✅ Set up user authentication
✅ Implemented file uploads
✅ Created a search system
✅ Deployed to production
✅ Made it accessible worldwide

Time taken: ~30 minutes
Cost: $0 (completely free!)

Share your success and start collecting real job postings and applications!