

Building Vue.js Apps with Parcel

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The canonical way to build & bundle a Vue.js application is with [webpack](#), and indeed, pretty much everything Vue-related assumes that you'll be using webpack. However, you don't **have** to. You could use Vue.js without build tooling, or you could use an alternative module bundler. It's almost a joke at this point that configuring webpack can [be quite a mystical journey](#), but it's not the only option in town. The new kid on the block at the moment is [ParcelJS](#). It basically fills the same role as webpack, but operates as a zero-configuration tool. You simply install the dependencies and run **parcel build**, and out comes a perfectly bundled app.

So, let's take a look at how to set up parcel for a Vue.js app.

Writing the App

In contrast to our usual steps, let's go ahead and set up the skeleton app files before we do anything else.

In your project directory, create a new directory called **src**. (The final file structure will look something like this:)

```
./my-project
├─ package.json // Generate this with `npm init`
├─ index.html
├─ .babelrc // Babel is needed.
└─ src
  └─ App.vue
    └─ main.js
```

Start off with your typical basic **index.html**.

↓ index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title>My Vue.js App</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <div id="app"></div>
    <!-- Note the reference to src here. Parcel will rewrite it on build -->
    <script src="./src/main.js"></script>
  </body>
</html>
```

Then add the Vue bootstrap code.

↓ src/main.js

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

new Vue({
  el: '#app',
  render: h => h(App)
});
```

And now the **App** component.

↓ src/App.vue

```
<template>
  <div id="app">
    <h1>{{ msg }}</h1>
  </div>
</template>

<script>
export default {
  name: 'app',
  data () {
    return {
      msg: 'Welcome to Your Vue.js App!'
    }
  }
}
</script>

<style lang="css">
  #app {
    color: #56b983;
  }
</style>
```

Throw in **.babelrc** as well too, just for good measure.

↓ .babelrc

```
{
  "presets": [
    "env"
  ]
}
```

Adding Parcel

Setting up Parcel is as simple as installing a few dependencies.

First, let's install everything we need for the Vue app itself.

```
# Yarn
$ yarn add vue

# NPM
$ npm install vue --save
```

Then parcel, a plugin for Vue, and **babel-preset-env**...

```
# Yarn
$ yarn add parcel-bundler parcel-plugin-vue babel-preset-env -D

# NPM
$ npm install parcel-bundler parcel-plugin-vue babel-preset-env --save-dev
```

Now... well, that's it actually.

Running Parcel

You should now be able to run your app in development mode with hot reloading by running **npm parcel** in your project directory. To build for production with minification and dead code elimination, just use **npm parcel build**.

(If you're wondering what **npm** is, take a look [here](#). It should [just work](#) as long as you have **NPM 5.2.0** or newer installed.)

But what if I want **eslint**?

I'm glad you asked. In that case, go ahead and install **eslint**, **eslint-plugin-vue**, and **parcel-plugin-eslint**.

```
# Yarn
$ yarn add eslint eslint-plugin-vue parcel-plugin-eslint -D

# NPM
$ npm install eslint eslint-plugin-vue parcel-plugin-eslint --save-dev
```

(Don't forget to create your **.eslintrc.js**)

↓ .eslintrc.js

```
// https://eslint.org/docs/user-guide/configuring

module.exports = {
  extends: [
    'eslint:recommended',
    'plugin:vue/essential'
  ]
}
```

What about LESS / SASS / PostCSS?

They're supported by Parcel out-of-the box! Even in Vue components! For more information about built-in asset types, take a look at the [official Parcel documentation](#).

Want More Information?

Take a look at our more [in-depth Parcel guide](#). Oh, and, as always, read the [official documentation](#)! Parcel's is nice and short.

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