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How to Setup HTTPS Locally with create-react-app



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Running HTTPS in development is helpful when you need to consume an API that is also serving requests via HTTPS.

In this article, we will be setting up HTTPS in development for our create-react-app with our own SSL certificate.

This guide is for macOS users and requires that you have [brew](#) installed.

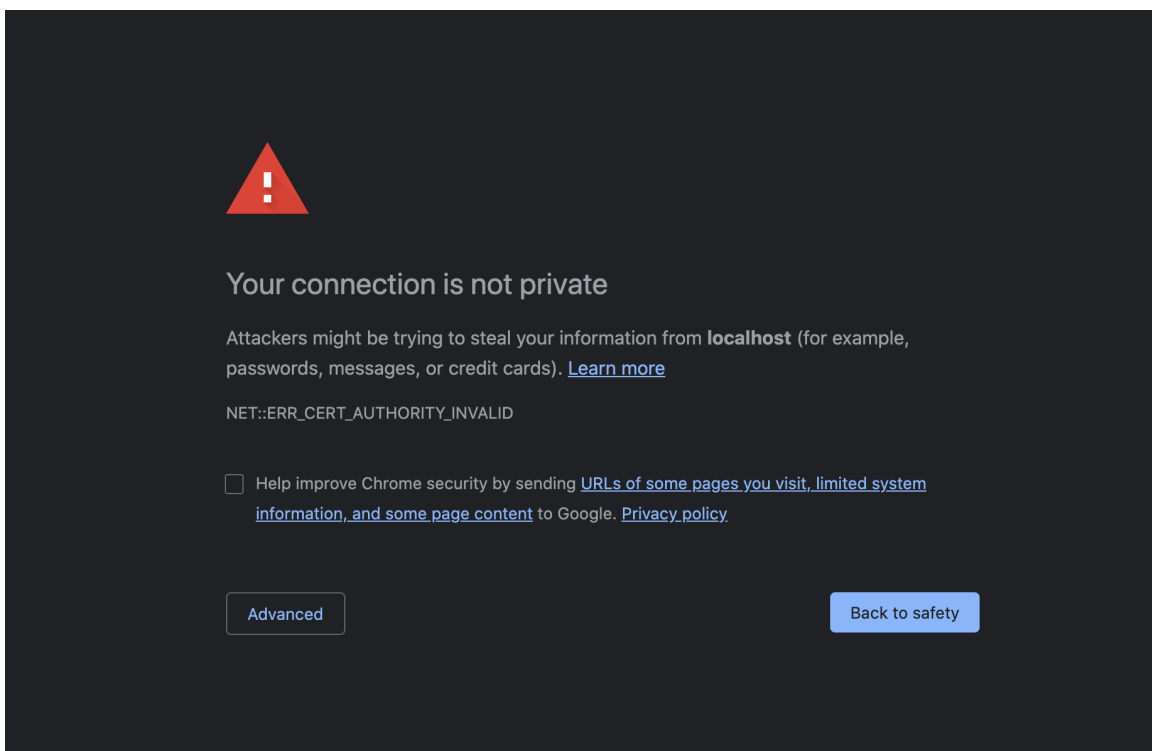
Adding HTTPS

In your `package.json`, update the `start` script to include https:

```
"scripts": {  
  "start": "HTTPS=true react-scripts start",  
  "build": "react-scripts build",  
  "test": "react-scripts test",  
}
```

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Running `yarn start` after this step will show you this screen in your browser:



At this stage, you're already set to go with `https`. But you don't have a valid certificate, so your connection is assumed to be insecure.

Creating a SSL Certificate

The easiest way to obtain a certificate is via `mkcert`.

```
# Install mkcert tool  
brew install mkcert
```

```
# Install nss (only needed if you use Firefox)
```

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After running the above commands, you'll have created a **certificate authority** on your machine which enables you to generate certificates for all of your future projects.

From the root of your `create-react-app` project, you should now run:

```
# Create .cert directory if it doesn't exist
mkdir -p .cert

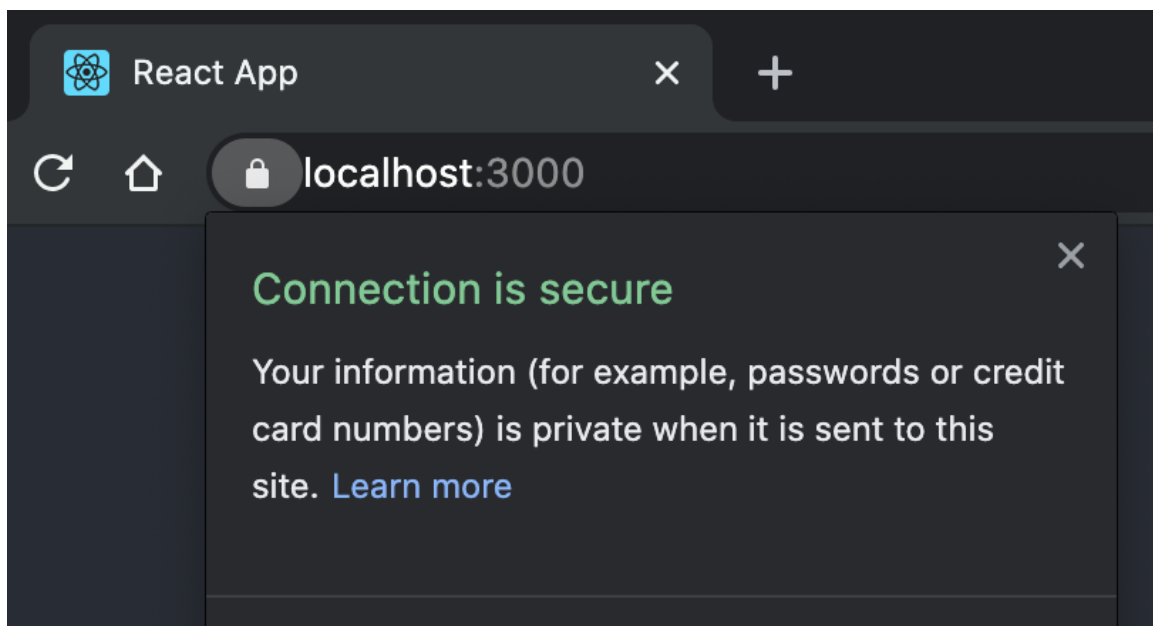
# Generate the certificate (ran from the root of this project)
mkcert -key-file ./cert/key.pem -cert-file ./cert/cert.pem "localhost"
```

We'll be storing our generated certificates in the `.cert` directory. These should not be committed to version control, so you should update your `.gitignore` to include the `.cert` directory.

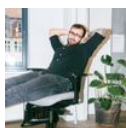
Next, we need to update the `start` script again to include our newly created certificate:

```
"scripts": {
  "start": "HTTPS=true SSL_CERT_FILE=./cert/cert.pem SSL_KEY_FILE=./cert/key.pem react-scripts start",
  "build": "react-scripts build",
  "test": "react-scripts test",
  "eject": "react-scripts eject"
},
```

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