

Building and Deployment: Task Runners: Grunt and Gulp

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Reading: Building and Deployment: Task Runners

10 min

## Exercise (Instructions): Gulp Part 1

### Objectives and Outcomes

In this exercise, you will learn to use Gulp, the task runner. You will install Gulp CLI and install Gulp plugins using NPM. Thereafter you will configure a Gulp file with a set of tasks to build and serve your web project. At the end of this exercise, you will be able to:

- Install Gulp CLI and Gulp plugins in your project
- Configure a Gulp file with a set of tasks to build a web project from a source, and serve the built project using a server.

### Installing Gulp

- At the command prompt, type the following to install Gulp command-line interface (CLI) globally:

```
1 npm install -g gulp-cli@2.0.1
```

This will install the Gulp globally so that you can use it in all projects.

- Next install Gulp to use within your project. To do this, go to the *conFusion* folder and type the following at the prompt:

```
1 npm install gulp@3.9.1 --save-dev
```

This will install local per-project Gulp to use within your project.

### Install Gulp Plugins for SASS and Browser-Sync

- Install all the Gulp plugins that you will need for this exercise. To do this, type the following at the command prompt:

```
1 npm install gulp-sass@3.1.0 browser-sync@2.23.6 --save-dev
```

### Creating a Gulp File

- Next you need to create a Gulp file containing the tasks to be run when you use Gulp. To do this, create a file named *gulpfile.js* in the *conFusion* folder.

### Loading Gulp Plugins

- Load in all the Gulp plugins by including the following code in the Gulp file:

```
1 'use strict';
2
3 var gulp = require('gulp'),
4     sass = require('gulp-sass'),
5     browserSync = require('browser-sync');
```

### Adding Gulp Tasks for SASS and Browser-Sync

- Next, we will add the code for the SASS task, the Browser-Sync task and the default task as follows:

```
1
2 * gulp.task('sass', function () {
3   return gulp.src('./css/*.scss')
4     .pipe(sass().on('error', sass.logError))
5     .pipe(gulp.dest('./css'));
6 });
7
8 * gulp.task('sass:watch', function () {
9   gulp.watch('./css/*.scss', ['sass']);
10 });
11
12 * gulp.task('browser-sync', function () {
13 *   var files = [
14     './*.html',
15     './css/*.css',
16     './img/*.{png,jpg,gif}',
17     './js/*.js'
18   ];
19
20 *   browserSync.init(files, {
21 *     server: {
22       baseDir: "./"
23     }
24   });
25
26 });
27
28 // Default task
29 * gulp.task('default', ['browser-sync'], function() {
30   gulp.start('sass:watch');
31 });
32
```

- Save the Gulp file

### Running the Gulp Tasks

- At the command prompt, if you type *gulp* it will run the default task:

```
1 gulp
```

- Do a Git commit with the message "Gulp Part 1".

### Conclusions

In this exercise, you learnt to use Gulp, install Gulp plugins, configure the *gulpfile.js* and then use Gulp to automate the web development tasks.