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Build tools

Learn how to use Bootstrap's included npm scripts to build our documentation, compile source code, run tests, and more.

On this page

Tooling setup

Bootstrap uses [npm scripts](#) for its build system. Our [package.json](#) includes convenient methods for working with the framework, including compiling code, running tests, and more.

To use our build system and run our documentation locally, you'll need a copy of Bootstrap's source files and Node. Follow these steps and you should be ready to rock:

1. [Download and install Node.js](#), which we use to manage our dependencies.
2. Either [download Bootstrap's sources](#) or fork [Bootstrap's repository](#).

3. Navigate to the root `/bootstrap` directory and run `npm install` to install our local dependencies listed in [package.json](#).

When completed, you'll be able to run the various commands provided from the command line.

Using npm scripts

Our [package.json](#) includes numerous tasks for developing the project. Run `npm run` to see all the npm scripts in your terminal. **Primary tasks include:**

Task	Description
`npm start`	Compiles CSS and JavaScript, builds the documentation, and starts a local server.
`npm run dist`	Creates the `dist/` directory with compiled files. Requires [Sass](#), [Autoprefixer](#), and [terser](#).
`npm test`	Runs tests locally after running `npm run dist`
`npm run docs-serve`	Builds and runs the documentation locally.

> **Get started with Bootstrap via npm with our starter project!** Head to the [twbs/bootstrap-npm-starter](#) template repository to see how to build and customize Bootstrap in your own npm project. Includes Sass compiler, Autoprefixer, Stylelint, PurgeCSS, and Bootstrap Icons.

Sass

Bootstrap uses [Dart Sass](#) for compiling our Sass source files into CSS files (included in our build process), and we recommend you do the same if you're compiling Sass using your own asset pipeline. We previously used Node Sass for Bootstrap v4, but LibSass and packages built on top of it, including Node Sass, are now [deprecated](#).

Dart Sass uses a rounding precision of 10 and for efficiency reasons does not allow adjustment of this value. We don't lower this precision during further processing of our generated CSS, such as during minification, but if you chose to do so we recommend maintaining a precision of at least 6 to prevent issues with browser rounding.

Autoprefixer

Bootstrap uses [Autoprefixer](#) (included in our build process) to automatically add vendor prefixes to some CSS properties at build time. Doing so saves us time and code by allowing us to write key

parts of our CSS a single time while eliminating the need for vendor mixins like those found in v3.

We maintain the list of browsers supported through Autoprefixer in a separate file within our GitHub repository. See .browserslistrc for details.

RTLCSS

Bootstrap uses RTLCSS to process compiled CSS and convert them to RTL – basically replacing horizontal direction aware properties (eg. `padding-left`) with their opposite. It allows us only write our CSS a single time and make minor tweaks using RTLCSS control and value directives.
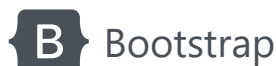
Local documentation

Running our documentation locally requires the use of Hugo, which gets installed via the hugo-bin npm package. Hugo is a blazingly fast and quite extensible static site generator that provides us: basic includes, Markdown-based files, templates, and more. Here's how to get it started:

1. Run through the tooling setup above to install all dependencies.
2. From the root `/bootstrap` directory, run `npm run docs-serve` in the command line.
3. Open `http://localhost:9001/` in your browser, and voilà.

Learn more about using Hugo by reading its documentation.

Troubleshooting

Should you encounter problems with installing dependencies, uninstall all previous dependency versions (global and local). Then, rerun `npm install`.

B Bootstrap

Designed and built with all the love in the world by the Bootstrap team with the help of our contributors.

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Currently v5.0.2.

Analytics by Fathom.

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