Preparing your dev environment

Objective

Upon following along with this document, your computer will be ready for the accelerator, and you won't have to worry about installing or configuring too much software.

This document will take you through the installation of Node, VS Code, and the Accelerator Github.

Getting started

Installing Node

The first thing you're going to want to do is to install Node. **Node** is a JavaScript runtime that we're going to be using for the duration of this program. It's what allows us to transform our JavaScript code into something that we can **run**.

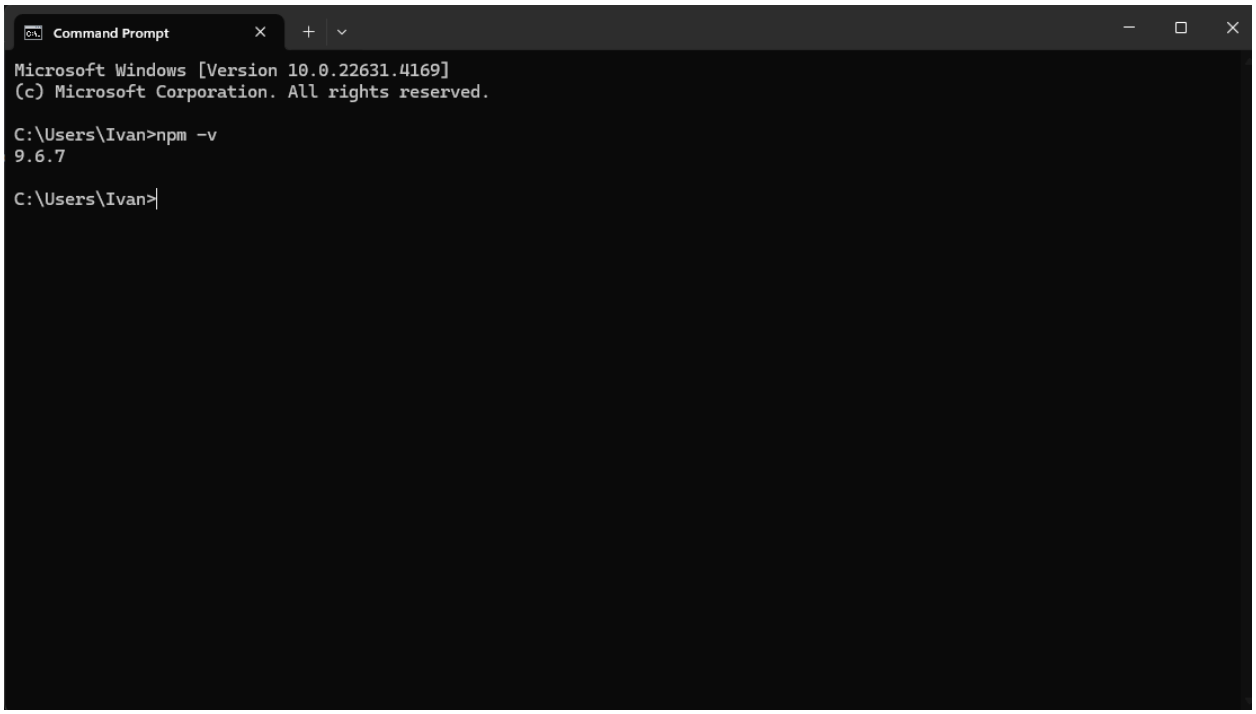
You can find an installer for your device at nodejs.org.
Select the appropriate installer and follow the instructions.

Make sure you install the latest Node release! As of 9/30/2025, the latest version of Node is **22.20.0**.

Installing NPM

The next thing you want to do is install NPM, which may have already been installed in the previous step. You can check this by going to your terminal and typing npm -v.

If NPM is already installed, you'll get a message with the NPM version number.
In my case, it looks like this.



If you do not see something like this, you will need to install npm.

There's multiple ways to install npm. The easiest way is to use an official Node installer, which should also install npm.

If you're on Windows and you can not use npm after running the node installer, you can install NPM using the following command:

```
winget install -e --id OpenJS.NodeJS
```

Installing VS Code

If you have a code editor preference, I encourage you to use whatever you're most comfortable with and disregard this section.

However, if you have no experience, I strongly recommend using VS Code for the accelerator as it's very user-friendly and easy to learn.

(The following excerpt is sourced from https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/setup/setup-overview)

VS Code is a free code editor, which runs on the macOS, Linux, and Windows operating systems.

Follow the platform-specific guides below:

- macOS
- Linux
- Windows

VS Code is lightweight and should run on most available hardware and platform versions. You can review the System Requirements to check if your computer configuration is supported. (source)

Installing Git & Cloning the Repository

If you don't have Git installed, refer to the instructions below:
https://github.com/git-guides/install-git

Once you are set up, locate the directory where you want the repository in your terminal.

When you're in the intended directory, go ahead and clone the accelerator repository with this command:
git clone https://github.com/RUMAD-Backend-Accelerator/Fall-2025-Accelerator.git

The repository will contain solutions to weekly homework and additional resources that you may need.

Wrap-up

Now that you've installed all of the previously listed software, you're ready to go! I appreciate you taking the time to be prepared before the first meeting.