

Tailwind CSS Installation Guide for ASP.NET Core MVC

Prerequisites

- .NET 8 SDK
- Node.js and npm installed

Step-by-Step Installation Guide

1. Create New .NET 8 MVC Project

```
dotnet new mvc -n YourProjectName
cd YourProjectName
```

2. Initialize npm Project

```
npm init -y
```

3. Install Tailwind CSS and Dependencies

```
npm install -D tailwindcss@3 postcss autoprefixer
```

4. Prepare Tailwind CSS Configuration

4.1 Create Tailwind CSS Entry File

Navigate to `wwwroot/css/site.css` and add:

```
@tailwind base;
@tailwind components;
@tailwind utilities;
```

4.2 Update package.json Scripts

Add the following scripts to `package.json`:

```
"scripts": {
  "build:css": "npx tailwindcss -i ./wwwroot/css/site.css -o ./wwwroot/css/output.css --minify",
  "watch:css": "npx tailwindcss -i ./wwwroot/css/site.css -o ./wwwroot/css/output.css --watch"
}
```

4.3 Initialize Tailwind Configuration

```
npx tailwindcss init
```

5. Configure Tailwind Content Paths

Edit `tailwind.config.js` to include your views:

```
module.exports = {
  content: [
    './Pages/**/*.cshtml',
    './Views/**/*.cshtml',
    './Views/Shared/**/*.cshtml'
  ],
  theme: {
    extend: {},
  },
  plugins: [],
}
```

6. Add Build Target to Project File

Open your `.csproj` file and add inside the `<Project>` tag:

```
<Target Name="BuildCss" BeforeTargets="Compile">
  <Exec Command="npx tailwindcss -i ./wwwroot/css/site.css -o ./wwwroot/css/output.css --watch" />
</Target>
```

7. Install Dependencies and Run

```
npm install
npm run watch:css
```

Usage

- The generated `output.css` will be in `wwwroot/css/`
- Link the `output.css` in your layout file

Scripts

- `npm run build:css` : Create minified CSS for production
- `npm run watch:css` : Watch and rebuild CSS during development

Troubleshooting

- Ensure Node.js and npm are correctly installed
- Verify all paths in configuration files
- Check that Tailwind classes are being recognized in your views

Contributing

Feel free to open issues or submit pull requests to improve this setup.

License

This project is open-source. Include your specific license information here.