**Set Up a React Project with Create React App**

***Introduction***

React is a popular JavaScript framework for creating front-end applications. Originally created by Facebook, it has gained popularity by allowing developers to create fast applications using an intuitive programming paradigm that ties JavaScript with an HTML-like syntax known as JSX.

Starting a new React project used to be a complicated multi-step process that involved setting up a build system, a code transpiler to convert modern syntax to code that is readable by all browsers, and a base directory structure. But now, Create React App includes all the JavaScript packages you need to run a React project, including code transpiling, basic linting, testing, and build systems. It also includes a server with hot reloading that will refresh your page as you make code changes. Finally, it will create a structure for your directories and components so you can jump in and start coding in just a few minutes.

***Prerequisites***

* Node installed on your computer. You can download Node at *nodejs.org*. Create React App requires a Node version of at least 10. Always install LTS (Life Time Support) version.
* A package manager called *npm*. It is automatically included in your installation of Node. You need to have an *npm* version of at least 5.2.
* A good code editor to work with our project files. I prefer *Visual Studio Code*.

*To check the node version, open CMD or Terminal and type: node –-version this will show the version of node installed in the PC.*

*To check the npm (Node Package Manager) version, open CMD or Terminal and type: npm –-version this will show the version of npm installed in the PC.*

***Steps to create a react project***

**Step 1:** Install create-react-app globally by using the command: *npm install -g create-react-app.*

**Step 2:** Make a new directory for the react project using the command: *mkdir dirName.*

**Step 3:** Locate the directoryusing the command: *cd dirName.*

**Step 4:** Create a new react app using the command:*create-react-app app-name.*

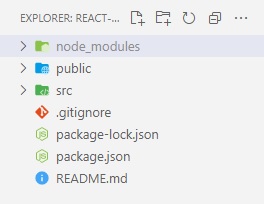
**Step 5:** Locate the app directory using the command:*cd app-name*.

**Step 6:** Start the development server using the command: *npm start.*

*Now the page loads with the spinning react logo this shows the setup has been done correctly.*

***Folder Structure***

The folder structure of the react project will be as below.



* **node\_modules** is a folder that includes all of the dependency-related code that Create React App has installed. You will never need to go into this folder.
* **public** is a folder that we can use to store our static assets, such as images, svgs, and fonts for our React app.
* **src** is a folder that contains our source code. It is where all of our React-related code will live and is what we will primarily work in to build our app e.g. components, assets, css files. From src the required files can be imported.
* **.gitignore** is a file that is used to exclude files and folders from being tracked by Git. We don't want to include large folders such as the node\_modules folder.
* **package.json** that manages our app dependencies and what is included in our node\_modules folder for our project, plus the scripts we need to run our app.
* **README.md** is a markdown file that includes a lot of helpful tips and links that can help you while learning to use Create React App.