**Setting Up Node.js and Creating a Next.js Project**

**1. Download and Install Node.js**

**Before starting with Next.js, you need to install Node.js on your system.**

**Steps to Install Node.js:**

1. **Go to the official Node.js website:** [**https://nodejs.org**](https://nodejs.org)
2. **Download the LTS (Long-Term Support) version for your operating system.**
3. **Run the downloaded installer and follow the installation instructions.**
4. **After installation, verify the installation by running the following command in your terminal or command prompt:**

**node -v**

**This should display the installed Node.js version.**

1. **Also, check if npm (Node Package Manager) is installed by running:**

**npm -v**

**This should display the installed npm version.**

**2. Create a Next.js Project**

**Now that Node.js is installed, you can create a Next.js project.**

**Steps to Create a Next.js Project:**

1. **Open your terminal or command prompt.**
2. **Navigate to the directory where you want to create the project using:**

**cd path/to/your/directory**

1. **Run the following command to create a new Next.js project:**

**npx create-next-app@latest my-next-app**

* + **Replace my-next-app with your preferred project name.**
  + **npx runs the package without installing it globally.**

1. **Move into the project directory:**

**cd my-next-app**

1. **Start the development server:**

**npm run dev**

1. **Open your browser and go to http://localhost:3000/ to see your Next.js project running.**