Installing Packages to Use React with GraphQL

This lesson is optional. It will teach you how to setup GraphQL with React.

For the purpose of this course, all the required packages are installed beforehand for the in-browser environment. However, if you want to further practice on your local browser, you can follow the installation guide in this chapter to help you install the required packages to get started locally.

For this application, no elaborate React setup is needed. We can simply use create-react-app to create your React application with zero-configuration. Install it with `npm` by typing the following instructions on the command line:

```
npm install -g create-react-app
```

If you want to have an elaborate React setup instead, read this setup guide for using Webpack with React.

Now, let's create the application with create-react-app. In your general projects folder, type the following instructions:

```
create-react-app react-graphql-github-vanilla
cd react-graphql-github-vanilla
```

After your application has been created, you can test it with `npm start` and `npm test`.

The following application will focus on the `src/App.js` file. It's entirely up to you to split out components, configuration, or functions to their respective folders and files.

On the command line, type the following command to install axios in the project folder:

```
npm install axios --save
```

Replace the `YOUR_GITHUB_PERSONAL_ACCESS_TOKEN` string with your own personal access token. To avoid cutting and pasting your access token directly into the source code, you can create a `.env` file to hold all your environment variables on the command line in your project folder. If you don't want to share the personal token in a public GitHub repository, you can add the file to your `.gitignore`.

```
touch .env
```

Environment variables are defined in this `.env file`. Be sure to follow the correct naming constraints when using create-react-app, which uses `REACT_APP` as prefix for each key. In your `.env file`, paste the following key value pair. The key has to have the `REACT_APP` prefix, and the value has to be your personal access token from GitHub.

```
REACT_APP_GITHUB_PERSONAL_ACCESS_TOKEN=xxxXXX
```