Installing Packages to Use Apollo Client with GraphQL

In this lesson, we will further install the required packages for combining the Apollo Client with GraphQL.

> **WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING** ∧
>
> - Install `dotenv`

To get started, find the Node.js boilerplate project and its installation instructions. You will use Apollo Client on the command line in a Node.js environment for now. On top of the minimal Node.js project, you will introduce the Apollo Client with Apollo Boost to experience the GraphQL client without a view-layer library.

In the following, you will consume GitHub's GraphQL API, and then output the queries and mutation results in the command line. To do this, you need a personal access token on GitHub's website, which we covered in a previous chapter. If you haven't done it yet, head to GitHub's instructions to generate a personal access token with sufficient permissions.

After you've cloned and installed the Node.js boilerplate project and created your personal access token, install these two packages in the command line from the root folder of the new project:

```
npm install apollo-boost graphql --save
```

Simply define your environment variables in this .env file. In your .env file, paste the following key value pair whereas the naming for the key is up to you and the value has to be your personal access token from GitHub.

Install `dotenv`

We will follow their instructions to install it for our project. Usually, the process is only `npm install dotenv`, followed by including `import`

`'dotenv/config';` at the top of your index.js file.

Note: There may be additional configuration steps for the previously installed dotenv package. Since the installation instructions may vary with different dotenv versions, check their GitHub website after you have installed it to find the best configurations.

```
npm install cross-fetch --save
```