

# Lesson 1: React Native Basics

and how to get started!

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May 13, 2023

React Native Quickstart

# Lesson Outline

1. What is React Native?
2. Setting up our Development Environment

# What is React Native?

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# What is React Native?

React Native is a framework which uses JavaScript/TypeScript to create mobile apps based on 'native' technologies such as Apple's Swift/Objective-C and Android's Gradle builder.

We use React Native in order to ship an app to both iOS and Android using a single codebase.

# React Native Technical Overview

A React Native project consists of three main parts.

- Pages
- Style
- Components

It's as easy as that! (mostly.)

Through several lessons, I hope to provide enough information about how these 3 parts work together to form an app.

# Setting up our Development Environment

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# Installing Node.js

Node.js is essentially the backbone of how we're going to run JavaScript.

Download it from here: <https://nodejs.org/en>

Make sure to choose the latest stable release at the time of writing, **18.16.0 LTS**.

# Verifying our Node.js Installation

To make sure we installed it properly, run the following command in your Command Prompt.

```
1 npm
```

You should see a bunch of lines pop out and not look like an error.

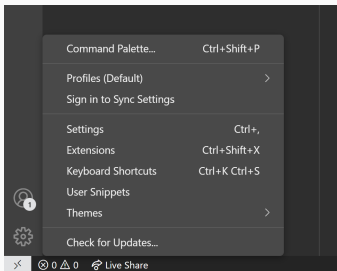


# Installing Git for Windows

Git for Windows installs a Bash emulator allowing us to work with Git. Git uses linux commands and will enable us to collaborate on a single codebase.

Download it from here: <https://gitforwindows.org/>

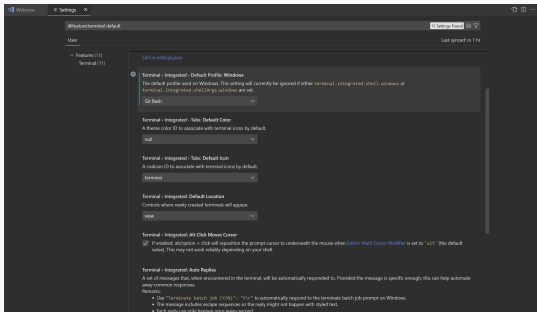
# Changing VSCode's default terminal to Git Bash



Open VSCode's settings through the bottom left Settings button.

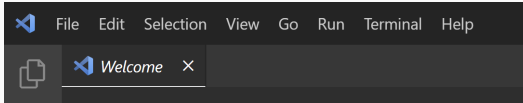
# Changing VSCode's default terminal to Git Bash (cont.)

Change the Default terminal to Git Bash, as shown:



# Opening a Git Bash Terminal in VSCode

Now, open up a Terminal instance in VSCode from the top left toolbar.



# Opening a Git Bash Terminal in VSCode (cont.)

You should now see a colorful terminal.

We will use VSCode's Terminal with Git Bash when referring to a 'Terminal', unless otherwise stated.



The image shows a screenshot of a Visual Studio Code (VS Code) terminal window. The terminal is titled 'TERMINAL' and shows a Git Bash session. The prompt is '\$ ' and the cursor is at the end of the line. The terminal output shows the path 'K:\LAB\DESKTOP-V4TP948' and the file 'PENG464'. The terminal is dark-themed with a light-colored prompt and output.

# Installing Yarn

Yarn is my preferred package manager, though there are others out there! Yarn will help us more efficiently handle external dependencies/libraries.

In your Terminal, enter the following command:

```
1 $ npm install --global yarn
```

# Creating a React Native project with Expo

Expo allows us to run the app on iOS and Android using the Expo Go app.

In your Terminal, enter the following command:

```
1 $ yarn create expo-app myNewProject
```

Whichever directory you were in previously, you should now see a new folder /myNewProject created!

# Trying out React Native

Now that we have /myNewProject, let's run the app!

Enter the following commands into your Terminal:

```
1 $ cd myNewProject/  
2 $ yarn expo start
```

After a while a QR code should have popped up, scan it with the Expo Go app! If you're on iOS, you'll still need to have the Expo Go app but scan it with the Camera app instead.



## End of Lesson

Questions? Reach out at: [karlorjalo@gmail.com](mailto:karlorjalo@gmail.com)