

# Building Command Line Applications in Node.js

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## GETTING STARTED



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# Overview



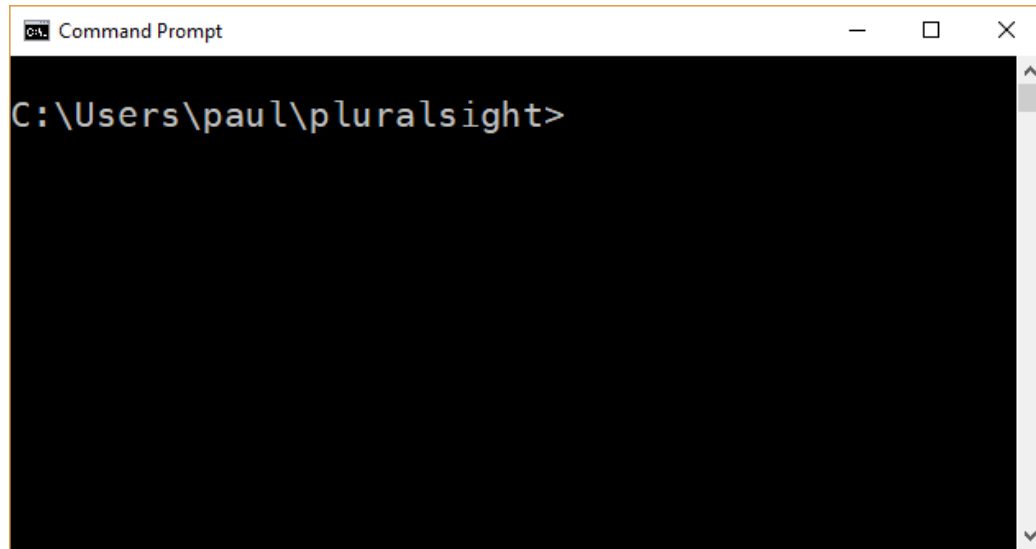
What is a Command Line Application?

Why build your own?

Getting started with our sample project



# A Command Line Application

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window. The title bar reads "Command Prompt". The command prompt shows the path "C:\Users\paul\pluralsight>" with a white cursor at the end.

```
Command Prompt
C:\Users\paul\pluralsight>
```

A screenshot of a terminal window with a dark background. The title bar shows "~/pluralsight". The command "pluralsight" is entered in a light blue font, followed by a green cursor. A green arrow icon is visible to the left of the command.

```
~/pluralsight
→ pluralsight
```

Also called a “Command,” a “Command Line Interface,” or just “CLI”



“Do one thing, and do it well”

**The Unix Philosophy**



# Common CLI Execution Patterns



You can script one or more commands in a batch file or shell script



You can configure a command to be invoked on a schedule



You can “pipe” the output of one command into the input of another



You can “redirect” the output of a command to a file  
(or redirect its input *from* a file)



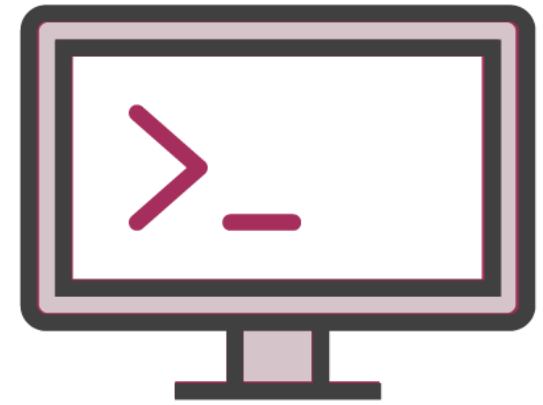
# You're Probably Already Using CLIs



Developer Tools

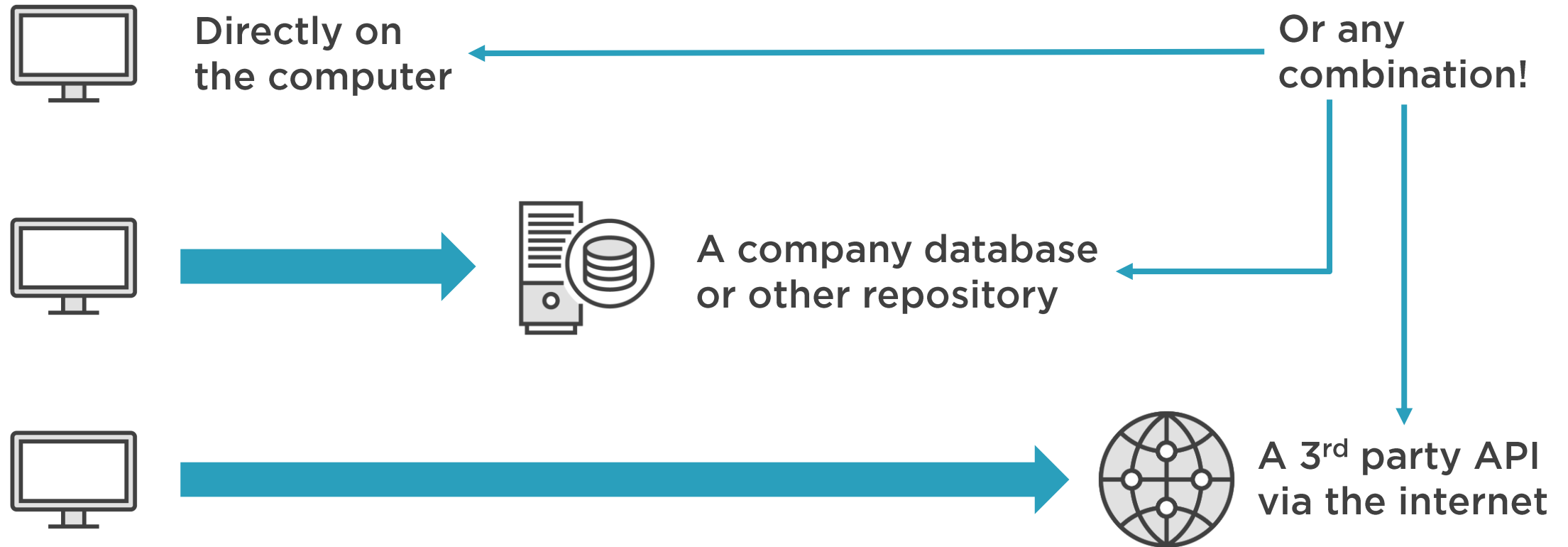


Cloud CLIs



Desktop Tools

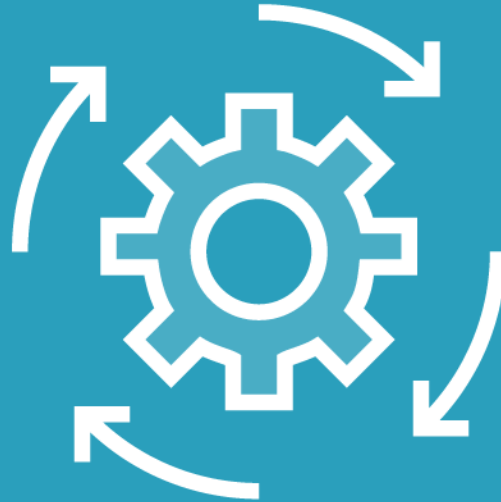
# The Reach of a CLI Can Be Near or Far



# Why Build Your Own CLI?



Developer  
Productivity



Process Integrations



The Next Great Idea!





# The CLI Project for This Course

“**twine**” – A command line tool for managing tweets on Twitter



<https://developer.twitter.com/>



# Demo



Create a Twitter account

Define a Twitter application

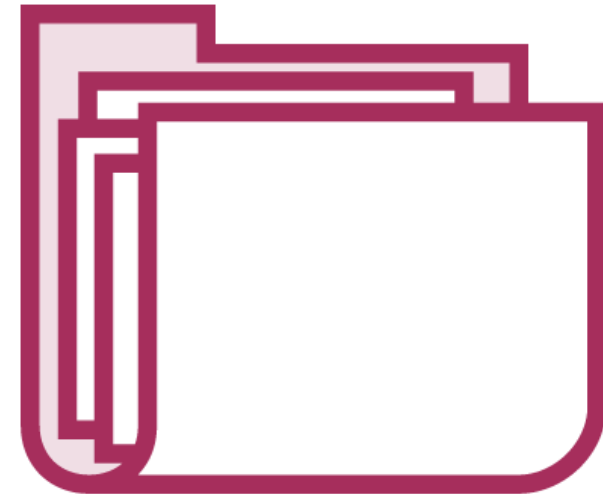
Retrieve our API Key and Secret



# What Makes a Node.js Project a CLI?

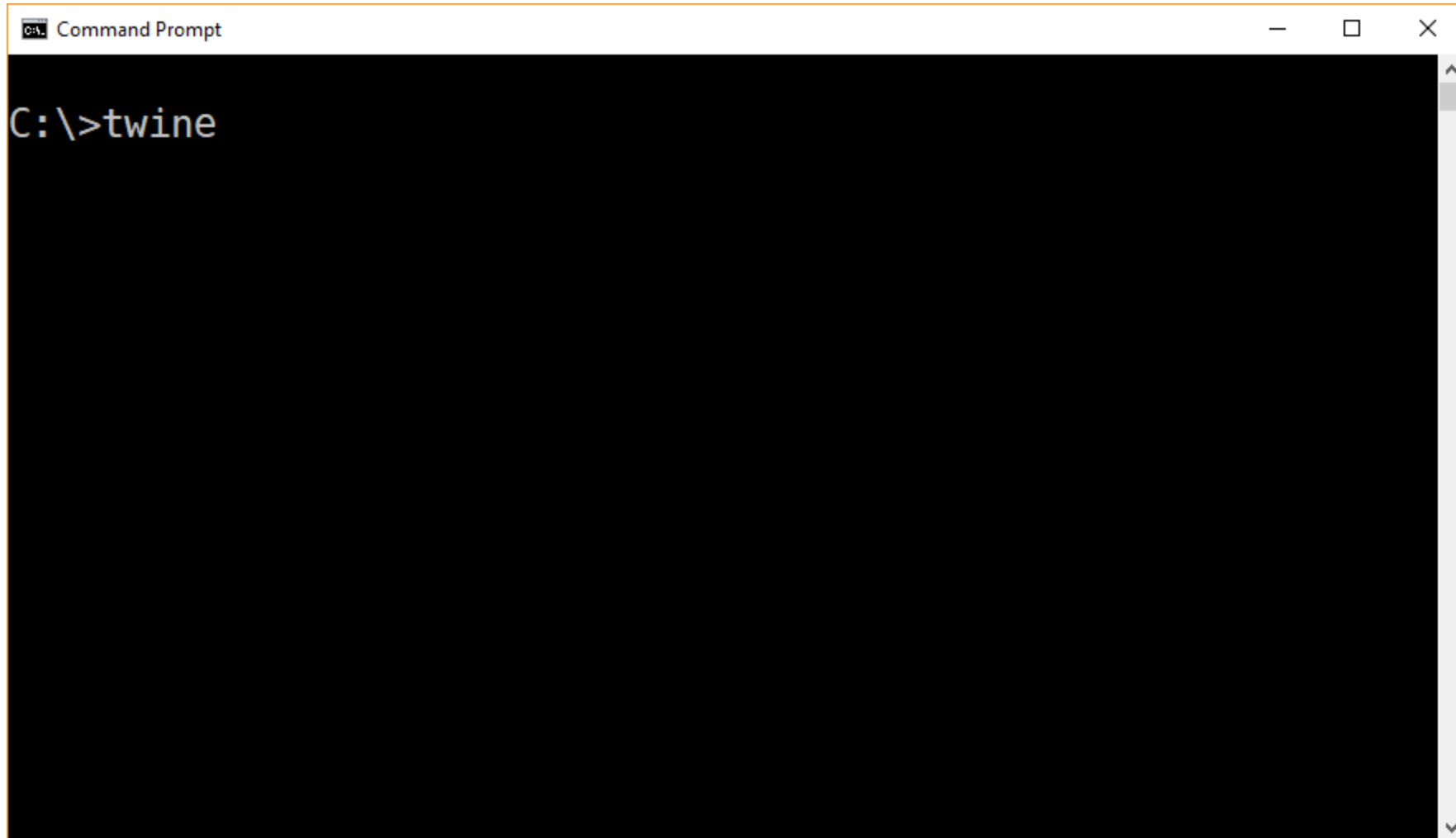


“bin” property in  
package.json



“bin” directory  
(convention)

# What Does That Give Us?



```
C:\>twine
```



# Demo



Initialize our project

Configure it as a CLI



# Summary



Common CLI execution patterns

Reasons to build your own CLI

Created our Twitter application

Initialized our Node.js project

