



# Bootstrap



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## Set Up Node & NPM



### 1. Exercise: Node and NPM Setup

**Node.js** is technology that allows you to run JavaScript code directly on your computer instead of only inside a browser. If you are enrolled in the Full Stack Bootcamp, you will work more with Node.js in the Back End course. We will use Node to run **NPM scripts**, which you'll learn more about later.

**NPM**, the **Node Package Manager**, is the default package manager for Node.js. It is installed automatically when you install Node.js.

What is a **package manager**? A package manager allows developers to download and install prepared packages that contain tools, libraries, and frameworks. It can be considered similar to Git as it is an online repository for code, but it's not used for version tracking of development code.

You'll learn more about how to use NPM for installations in this course. You will also learn how to use NPM to manage your own project, such as by keeping track of its dependencies and running scripts. In this lesson, you will install NPM and confirm the installation. ^

## Prerequisite

- Make sure you have installed Git on your machine *before* you install Node.js.

## Objectives

- Download and install Node.js version **14.9.0**. NPM is automatically installed when you install Node.

## Instructions

### macOS Only: Verify default Terminal shell

- You can skip this section if you have done it already during the Git exercises.
- Open the Terminal application. (The Terminal app comes installed by default on macOS.)
- We will first need to verify your default shell. Enter this command into your terminal:

```
echo $0
```

- The output should include the word **bash** or **zsh**.
- If it contains the word **zsh**, switch your default terminal to **bash** by following the instructions here: <https://www.howtogeek.com/444596/how-to-change-the-default-shell-to-bash-in-macos-catalina/>
- Close Terminal then open it again. You will probably see a message that says "The default interactive shell is now zsh." Don't panic! This is normal. Type **echo \$0** again to verify that your shell is **bash**.

## Install Node and NPM

- Node version **14.9.0** is currently required for this bootcamp. The course materials have been tested using this version. If you are using a later version, you can choose to downgrade at this time. If you choose to continue on with a later version, be advised that you may need to downgrade if there are incompatibility issues. If you're not sure whether you already have Node installed, type **node -v** into the bash terminal from inside any directory. If you see a version number, that means you have it installed. If not, you will see an error message.
- **Windows** Installation
  - Download the installer from the following link and run it, accepting the default installation options:
    - Node installer for Windows
- **macOS** Installation

- For macOS, we recommend the use of a Node version manager called **NVM** to install Node.
- Make sure you have followed the steps at the top of this page to set **bash** as your default shell in Terminal.
- Then enter the following command into your terminal:

```
touch ~/.bash_profile
```

- Next, enter the following command into your terminal:

```
curl -o- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/nvm-sh/nvm/v0.35.3/install.sh | bash
```

- **Troubleshooting:** If at this time, you see an error saying "**xcode-select: note: no developer tools were found**", or an error that says "**Profile not found**", check the **Troubleshooting Notes** document for this exercise for instructions on how to proceed.
- Close your Terminal window, then open a new Terminal window.
- Next, enter the below commands to install and use Node 14.9.0. NPM is automatically installed when you install Node.

```
nvm install 14.9.0
```

- If you see any error messages at this time, visit the Troubleshooting FAQ document's section for this exercise.

## Verify the installation

- Open a bash terminal on your computer. It does not matter what directory you are in.
- To confirm that your Node.js setup is installed correctly, enter the following at the command prompt:

```
node -v
```

```
npm -v
```

- If your installation was successful, the above commands should result in seeing the installed version 14.9.0 for Node and 6.14.8 (or higher) for NPM.

^

## Summary

- In this exercise, you installed the Node.js runtime environment to your computer (which includes NPM, the Node package manager).

- You then used CLI commands to confirm that both installations were successful.

## Additional Resources

- Official Node.js Site
- Official NPM Site
- NPM documentation
- NVM - Node version management utility (macOS)



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(last 1 minutes: 1)

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