1.307 Guide: Creating a basic project using Expo

In this guide, we will talk about building a basic project using Expo. You can use this guide every time you need to create a new project. However, it will probably come naturally to you after a few projects. Remember that you don’t need to install dependencies more than once. Therefore, if you have installed Expo already, you can skip immediately to 'Creating a new project'.

**Installing Expo**

In this module, we use Expo. Expo is an app that simplifies testing and distributing code written in React Native. First, we need to install it locally on our computer. To do this, you must have npm (Node package manager) installed. If you haven’t already installed npm, read [1.004 Technology used in this course for guidance](https://www.coursera.org/teach/uol-cm3050-mobile-development/vCn_ea5EEeuDaQ5cGPqasw/content/edit/supplement/YO6tz) on installing. You only need to install Expo once.

In your command line (e.g. terminal, command prompt), type:

npm install -g expo-cli

Here, we ask npm to install the Expo command-line tool, and install it globally (-g) so that we can access it in any project folder.

You might need to use sudo, depending on your OS setup.

### Creating a new project

To create a new project, open up your command line and check that you are in the correct directory. You can do this using the pwd command. If you need to change directory, you can use the cd filepath command.

Once you are in the correct directory, type:

**expo init projectName --npm**

You can replace projectName with any name that fits your project.

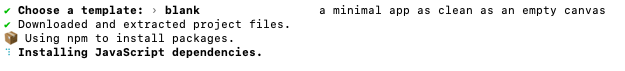
This will present options to you similar to below:

Text

Description automatically generated with low confidence

Using the arrow keys, you can navigate up and down this list. You want to choose the blank template (highlighted in blue; described as "a minimal app as clean as an empty canvas"). Press enter to continue.

You should see a screen similar to below while the dependencies are automatically installed for us.



Once this is complete, we can run the app.

**Running an app**

Change into the project directory using the cd command e.g. cd projectName. Once you are inside the directory, use the command **npm start** to begin Expo. It should present you with options to run your code like below:

Qr code

Description automatically generated

You can press the corresponding key to run your app in simulators or toggle developer tools. We’ll cover these in detail a bit later. You can also scan the QR code and launch your app using the Expo mobile application. You can download this for iOS or Android.

You should now see your code running correctly on your device/simulator!