

Setup Guide

System Requirements

Minimum Requirements

- **Operating System:** Windows 10, macOS 10.15, or Ubuntu 18.04 (or equivalent Linux distribution)
- **RAM:** 8GB minimum, 16GB recommended
- **Storage:** 10GB free disk space
- **Internet:** Stable broadband connection for downloading dependencies

Recommended Specifications

- **RAM:** 16GB or more
- **CPU:** Multi-core processor (4+ cores)
- **Storage:** SSD for better performance

Required Software Installation

1. Node.js and npm

Installation:

1. Visit nodejs.org
2. Download the LTS version (18.x or higher)
3. Run the installer and follow the setup wizard
4. Verify installation:

```
node --version  
npm --version
```

Expected Output:

```
v18.17.0 (or higher)  
9.6.7 (or higher)
```

2. Code Editor

VS Code (Recommended):

1. Download from code.visualstudio.com

2. Install recommended extensions:

- JavaScript (ES6) code snippets
- Node.js Extension Pack
- Thunder Client (for API testing)
- Docker (for containerization labs)

Alternative Editors:

- WebStorm
- Sublime Text
- Atom

3. Git Version Control

Installation:

- Windows: Download from git-scm.com
- macOS: Install via Homebrew: `brew install git` or download from website
- Linux: `sudo apt-get install git` (Ubuntu/Debian) or equivalent

Verification:

```
git --version
```

4. Docker Desktop

Installation:

1. Visit [docker.com/products/docker-desktop](https://www.docker.com/products/docker-desktop)

2. Download for your operating system

3. Install and start Docker Desktop

4. Verify installation:

```
docker --version
docker-compose --version
```

5. MongoDB

Option A: MongoDB Atlas (Cloud - Recommended for Course)

1. Create free account at mongodb.com/atlas
2. Create a free cluster
3. Get connection string for later use

Option B: Local MongoDB Installation

1. Download from mongodb.com/try/download/community
2. Follow installation instructions for your OS
3. Start MongoDB service

Verification:

```
mongosh --version
```

6. Redis

Option A: Redis Cloud (Recommended for Course)

1. Create free account at redis.com/try-free
2. Create a free database
3. Get connection details for later use

Option B: Local Redis Installation

Windows:

```
# Using Chocolatey  
choco install redis-64
```

macOS:

```
# Using Homebrew  
brew install redis  
brew services start redis
```

Linux (Ubuntu/Debian):

```
sudo apt update  
sudo apt install redis-server  
sudo systemctl start redis-server
```

Verification:

```
redis-cli ping  
# Expected response: PONG
```

Course Repository Setup

1. Clone the course repository:

```
git clone https://github.com/chrisminnick/intermediate-node-dev.git  
cd intermediate-node-dev
```

2. Run the setup test:

```
cd setup-test  
npm install  
npm start
```

3. Verify setup:

- Open browser to <http://localhost:3000>
- You should see a JSON response with system information
- Press [Ctrl+C](#) to stop the test server

Environment Configuration

1. Create Global .env Template

Create a file named [.env.example](#) in your projects folder:

```
# Database Configuration
MONGODB_URI=mongodb://localhost:27017/intermediate-node-dev
MONGODB_TEST_URI=mongodb://localhost:27017/intermediate-node-dev-test

# Redis Configuration
REDIS_HOST=localhost
REDIS_PORT=6379
REDIS_PASSWORD=

# Application Configuration
NODE_ENV=development
PORT=3000

# JWT Configuration
JWT_SECRET=your-super-secret-jwt-key-here
JWT_EXPIRES_IN=24h

# API Keys (for external services)
API_KEY=your-api-key-here
```

2. Development Tools Setup

Install useful global packages:

```
npm install -g nodemon pm2 loadtest artillery
```

- `nodemon` : Automatic server restart during development
- `pm2` : Production process manager
- `loadtest` : Simple load testing tool
- `artillery` : Advanced load testing and performance tool

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Node.js Installation Issues

Error: "node command not found"

- Restart your terminal/command prompt
- Check if Node.js was added to your system PATH
- Try reinstalling Node.js with administrator privileges

Permission Errors with npm (macOS/Linux):

```
# Fix npm permissions
mkdir ~/.npm-global
npm config set prefix '~/.npm-global'
# Add to ~/.bashrc or ~/.zshrc:
export PATH=~/npm-global/bin:$PATH
```

MongoDB Connection Issues

Connection refused errors:

- Ensure MongoDB service is running
- Check firewall settings
- Verify connection string format

Redis Connection Issues

Connection timeout:

- Verify Redis server is running: `redis-cli ping`
- Check Redis configuration file
- Ensure proper network access

Docker Issues

Docker daemon not running:

- Start Docker Desktop application
- Ensure Docker service is running in background
- Check Docker Desktop troubleshooting guide

Performance Optimization

Development Environment

1. Increase Node.js memory limit:

```
node --max-old-space-size=4096 app.js
```

2. Use SSD storage for better I/O performance

3. Configure VS Code for Node.js development:

- Install Node.js debugger
- Configure auto-save
- Set up integrated terminal

Testing Your Setup

Run this complete verification script:

```
#!/bin/bash

echo "🔍 Verifying Node.js development environment..."

# Check Node.js
node --version && echo "✅ Node.js installed" || echo "❌ Node.js missing"

# Check npm
npm --version && echo "✅ npm installed" || echo "❌ npm missing"

# Check Git
git --version && echo "✅ Git installed" || echo "❌ Git missing"

# Check Docker
docker --version && echo "✅ Docker installed" || echo "❌ Docker missing"

# Check MongoDB (if local)
mongosh --version && echo "✅ MongoDB client installed" || echo "❌ MongoDB cli

# Check Redis (if local)
redis-cli ping > /dev/null && echo "✅ Redis running" || echo "❌ Redis not acce

echo "🎉 Setup verification complete!"
```

Getting Help

If you encounter issues during setup:

1. Check the course repository issues: [GitHub Issues](#)
2. Review official documentation for each tool
3. Ask in course discussion forums
4. Contact the instructor for technical support

Next Steps

Once your environment is set up:

1. Review the course schedule and materials
2. Familiarize yourself with the lab structure
3. Complete the setup test successfully
4. Be ready for Day 1 of the course!

Course Repository: <https://github.com/chrisminnick/intermediate-node-dev>

Support Email: support@watzthis.com