Procfiles

Overview

A Procfile specifies the commands which are executed by an app upon startup, for example setting up the websever, worker processes, and tasks.

Setup

The Procfile is placed in the root directory and simply named 'Procfile' with no extension.

The format of a procfile must match the regex: ^[A-Za-z0-9\_-]+:\s\*[^\s].\*$

The main application is called 'web' in the procfile.

Other processes can be added with nicknames, such as running sidekiq and redis locally along with the server, or building assets in the dev environment.

An example procfile might look like:

web: bundle exec rails server -p $PORT

worker: bundle exec rake jobs:work

sidekiq: bundle exec sidekiq -C config/sidekiq.yml

Foreman

As Procfiles are normally run by the hosting server, such as Heroku, an additional program is required to run them in a desktop dev environment. The foreman gem can be used to run Procfiles. Since it is not required on a server, do not add the gem dependency to the project Gemfile, simply install it to the local machine:

gem install foreman

Then run Procfiles using the start command:

foreman start -f Procfile