002 NPM - setting up gulp & first task

NPM Kata List – Blog Page

[NPM Kata List on GitHub](https://github.com/robertdunaway/katas-npm)

# Duration

10 minutes

# Brief

In this kata we are going to set up a NPM skeleton and create a test task.

### For More Information

BING/GOOGLE: “NPM Getting Started”

# Instructions

Get tutorial folder or the entire katas-npm repo.

Open the [before/\*.sln] file and execute the kata.

Feel free to execute this kata multiple times because repetition creates motor memory.

# Github

* Before (start kata with this)
  + <https://github.com/robertdunaway/katas-npm/tree/master/002%20npm%20-%20setting%20up%20npm%20%26%20first%20task/before>
* After
  + <https://github.com/robertdunaway/katas-npm/tree/master/002%20npm%20-%20setting%20up%20npm%20%26%20first%20task/after>

# Kata

In the before solution, create the files and programs necessary to use NPM scripts.

# Review

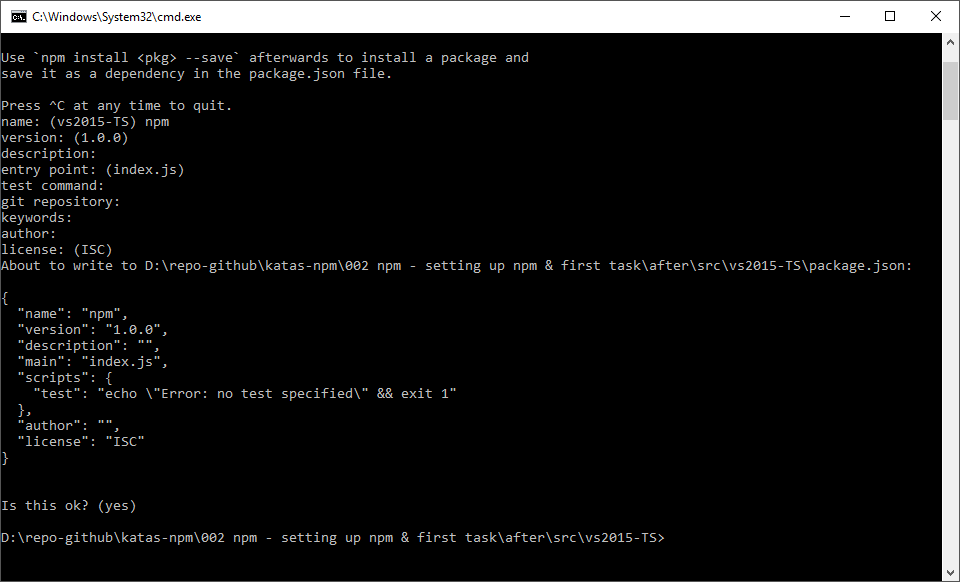
These katas are demonstrated using Visual Studio 2015 which installs NodeJS so it is assumed Node is installed. If Node is not installed, visit <https://nodejs.org/en/> and install it. NPM is Node’s package manager and we will be using it extensively.

### Create the initial package.json file

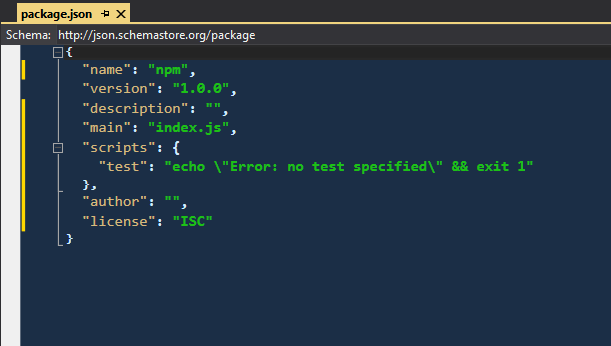
Navigate to the root of the solution at the command line and execute the following command.

npm init

Follow the prompts and answer the questions. I kept all the defaults except the name which I called “npm”.



The resulting package.json file.



First, navigate to the root director of your project, at the command line, and install Gulp both globally and locally.

npm install gulp -g

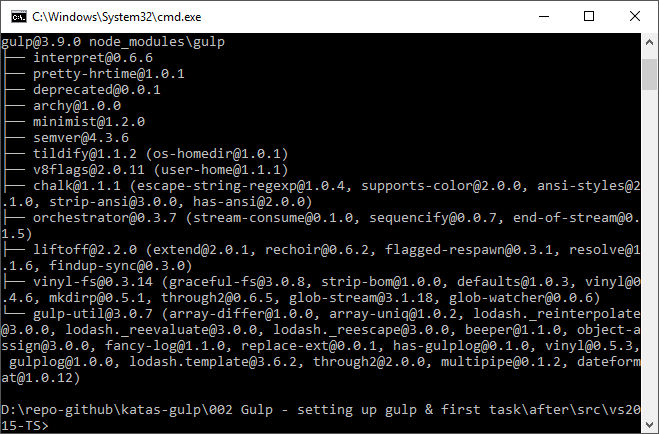
Notice the “-g” means global.

Now install Gulp locally. IE: without the “-g”

npm install gulp --save-dev

Notice the “--save-dev”. This tells npm to save the installed program to the package.json file. The package.json file holds metadata about your application.

If your screen looks like this, you are in good shape.



At this point the “--save-dev” command has caused the package.json to be created. This can also be accomplished by executing the command npm init.

If you don’t see the new file, select “Show All Files” in the Solution Explorer. You’ll see both the package.json file and node\_modules folder.

Opening the package.json file, at this point, you will see.

{

"version": "1.0.0",

"name": "ASP.NET",

"private": true,

"devDependencies": {

"gulp": "^3.9.0"

}

}

Now is a good time to create our test task.

Create a file named “gulpfile.js”. This will hold all our Gulp tasks.

Paste into gulpfile.js the following code.

var gulp = require('gulp');

gulp.task('default', function() {

console.log('my first gulp task…');

});

The gulp file can be as complex or simple as you design but you need at least two components.

All plugins, including gulp itself, must be required. Here is the require statement we used. To access it’s functions use the variable name.

var gulp = require('gulp');

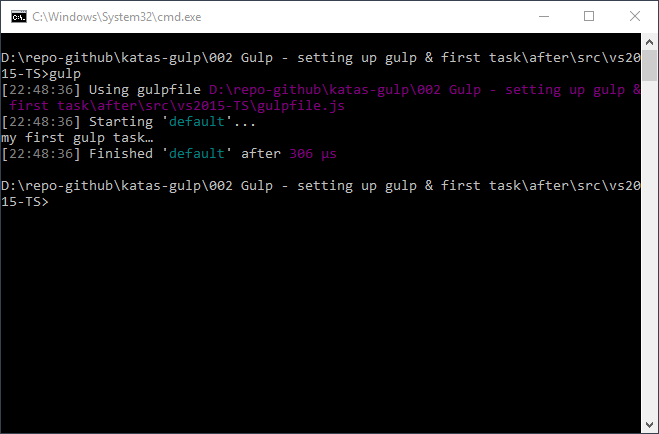
The second component, and the point of gulp, is the task.

gulp.task('default', function() {

console.log('my first gulp task…');

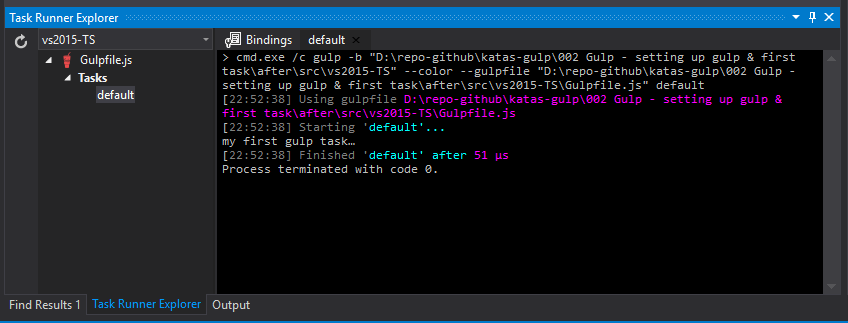
});

This is the “default” task, meaning, if no tasks are passed to the gulp command then the default task is run.



If you are using Visual Studio then you can expect to see the default task in the “Task Runner Explorer”. If you just created the gulpfile.js file then you may need to restart Visual Studio.

You can run the task by right clicking the default task and selecting “run”.



You’ll notice the output is exactly the same as the output of the command line.

# Next

Take a few minutes and imagine more examples.