



DEPLOY



Environment

- There are certain pieces of information that you don't want to hardcode into your app
 - *Base address of your app*
 - *Secrets for accessing resources*
- Keep that information in an environment file named `.env` or some variation of this.
- If you are keeping secrets in the environment, it **MUST** be part of the `.gitignore`.
 - *If you put secrets in a public git repository, they will be discovered within seconds.*
 - *If you are part of a larger team there are services that will allow secrets to be managed within the repository*

Example

```
# This is a comment  
HOST=http://my.com/  
# Turns into {HOST:'http://my.com/'}  
PORT=200
```

- If an environment variable is already set by the shell, `.env` will not override those definitions.

dotenv

- A JavaScript package that takes information from a .env file and makes it available via process.env
- Example: process.env.HOST.

Render

- When we do npm start, we set up app.js so it sees the file .env
- Start on Render, we do not use (or push up) .env on the remote. Instead, we use the dashboard for the server on Render to set any environment variables change.

Config vars

- Limited to 32kB
 - *Use them appropriately for items that are part of the configuration process for your server. If you think you need more space, move to a service and keep the keys in the configuration.*
- Names
 - *Alpha numeric and underscore*
 - *No hypens*
 - *Don't start with _*
- Probably want different configuration sets for development and production.