Deploying GitHub Branches Automatically with Cloud-Based Deployment Software (Heroku)

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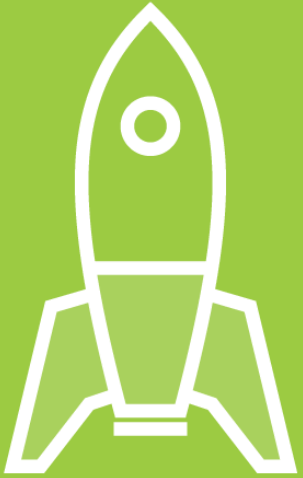
A cloud application platform – a new way of building and deploying web apps.

— Heroku

What Is Heroku?

Tool for deploying web apps built on various platforms

Used to deploy Node.js apps to the World-Wide Web
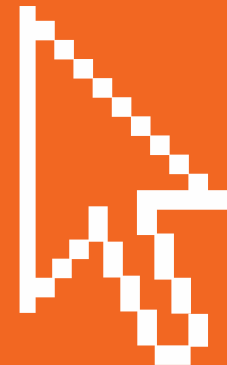
NodeJS apps cannot be deployed on regular ISPs

Sometimes called "Platform as a Service" or PaaS

Getting Set up with Heroku

Free account easy to set up, sufficient for learning / prototyping

Paid tiers recommended for production deployment

Sign up done on Heroku Website

Deployment Options

GIT CLI | **GitHub** | Dropbox

Deploying Node Applications with Heroku Explained

App scales based on usage

Simplest deployment option uses Master branch from GitHub repo

Deployment consists of copying files and running specified start script(s)

Automatic deployment of master branch and pull requests possible

Manually Deploying a Branch from GitHub with Heroku

Take note of package.json, other metadata

Deploy master branch with one click

Integration Between Heroku & Travis

Travis is automatically recognized as CI

Heroku checks CI status before build

Code with errors won't reach production

Automating App Deployment

Master branch can be deployed automatically

Notifications possible via e-mail

Waits for CI to finish without errors

Instant updates via webhooks

Automating App Deployment

Enable automatic updates to update app each time changes are pushed to Master branch

Update will not occur if CI does not pass

Manual Pull Request Review Process

Developer pushes branch with updates to repo

Senior dev pauses work, clones and checks out branch

Senior dev manually checks for errors in branch

Developer manually creates deployment for client review

Reviewing Pull Requests with Review Apps

Review apps create a new, web-accessible app for each pull request

Enable review apps to create a new instance of application for each PR

GitHub and Heroku - Summary

Possibly most useful existing integration

Automates error-prone part of cycle

Cross-integration with Travis CI