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Video: Installation and Recommended Tool Chain

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Installation and Recommended Tool Chain

In this lesson, we will go over the set up for Node, npm and all the tools you will need to be productive.

Node and npm Installation (Recommended)

First, let's go to https://nodejs.org/en/download and download a one-click installer for your OS by clicking on the Install button.

The installers come with npm (Node package manager)— an important tool for managing dependencies. Because npm comes with Node, there's no need to install npm separately.

When choosing a Node installer, don't choose binaries or source code unless you know what to do with them or your OS is not present there (i.e., not Windows or Mac).

Installing from Source Code

If there's no installer for your OS on page http://nodejs.org/download, then you can get the source code and compile it yourself. Detailed instructions are at https://github.com/nodejs/node/blob/master/BUILDING.md, but here's the short version.

Do this only if you cannot find a proper installer at http://nodejs.org/download or if you plan to contribute code to the Node core itself.

Download the source code or clone the Node repository https://github.com/nodejs/node. In the same folder in which you have the files, execute:

```
$ ./configure
$ make −j4
```

Run the tests:

```
$ make test
```

To install this version of Node.js into a system directory:

```
$ [sudo] make install
```

Recommended Editors

I recommend using VS Code or Github's Atom editors for this course. This will give you a solid editor with customization and a lot of useful functionality without the bulkiness of a full-blown IDE like Eclipse or WebStorm.

To download VS Code (highly recommended), simply go to its website at https://code.visualstudio.com.

To download Atom, simply go to its website at https://atom.io.

Installing MongoDB

To install MongoDB go to https://www.mongodb.com/download-center and choose your version according to the OS. macOS users who have Homebrew, can install MongoBD using Homebrew by following the instructions at http://docs.mongodb.org/master/tutorial/install-mongodb-on-os-x.

Before you run the MongoDB server for the first time, you'll need to configure the folder in which MongoDB stores data. By default it's `/data/db`. To create this folder, execute this Terminal / CLI command:

```
mkdir -p /data/db
```

Set permission/ownership with `chown`:

```
sudo chown mongodb:mongodb
```

The command to start the MongoDB server is `mongod`.

Alternatively, you can specify a different folder with:

```
mongod --dbpath <path to data directory>
```

Configuring npm

You will need to do this if you get a permission error when you try to install npm modules. If you don't have permission errors, then skip this configuration. You can come back to it and configure later.

Locate the path to npm's directory. It might differ depending on the OS. Execute the command below to find your path:

```
npm config get prefix
```

For many POSIX systems, this will be /usr/local.

DANGER: If the path is just `/usr`, change the default folder to a new one as described in the npm documentation.

Change the owner of npm's directories to the name of the current user (your username!):

```
sudo chown -R $(whoami) $(npm config get
prefix)/{lib/node_modules,bin,share}
```

This changes the permissions of the sub-folders used by npm and some other tools (lib/node_modules, bin, and share).