SWAP MEET REACT — FROM 0 TO RUNNING

This guide walks you step-by-step from a cold machine to a fully running Swap Meet React app (MySQL + Express + React).

All steps assume Windows and Command Prompt (CMD).

0. Preconditions
- Node.js (LTS)
- npm
- MySQL Server 8.x

1. Start MySQL

Run CMD as Administrator:

net start MySQL80

Verify:

netstat -ano | findstr :3306

2. Create Database

mysql -u root -p

CREATE DATABASE IF NOT EXISTS swapmeetreact;

exit

3. Configure Backend Environment

Edit server/.env:

DB_NAME=swapmeetreact

DB_USER=root

DB_PW=YOUR_PASSWORD

DB_HOST=127.0.0.1

DB_PORT=3306

JWT_SECRET=your_secret

4. Install Dependencies

From project root:

npm run install:all

5. Seed Database

npm run seed

6. Start Backend

npm run dev --workspace server

Verify:

http://localhost:3001/api/categories

7. Start Frontend

npm run dev --workspace client

or

cd client && npm start

8. Verify Frontend Wiring

- Categories render
- Data matches seed

9. Verify Authentication

- Login in React
- Confirm token in Local Storage

10. Protected Route Test

http://localhost:3001/api/users/auth

End of guide.