Scalable Command Line Interfaces

(and some OSS governance)

Even Stensberg

webpack

Telia

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even.dev / @evenstensberg

Scalable Command Line Interfaces

(and some OSS governance)

What we’ll be covering

- Open Source Governance
- Conventions
- Reducing Entry Requirements

OSS Governance

Few lessons learnt the hard way

- You can sprint far for a short time, but if you wanna win a marathon, you need to go together
- Give responsibility, thrive together or you’ll burnout
- Breaking things are unavoidable
- Release big features slow

Conventions

Observation: *Web tries to reinvent the wheel a lot*

Web is like swift playground

Which is kinda nice

- Browser editors
- Machine Learning
- Performance
- Enterprise
- Memes

EVERYDAY I'M SHUFFLING

Most importantly, web is a big sea of information, *need to get better at filtering information and providing the most essential information*

Curl —knowledge & wget —competence

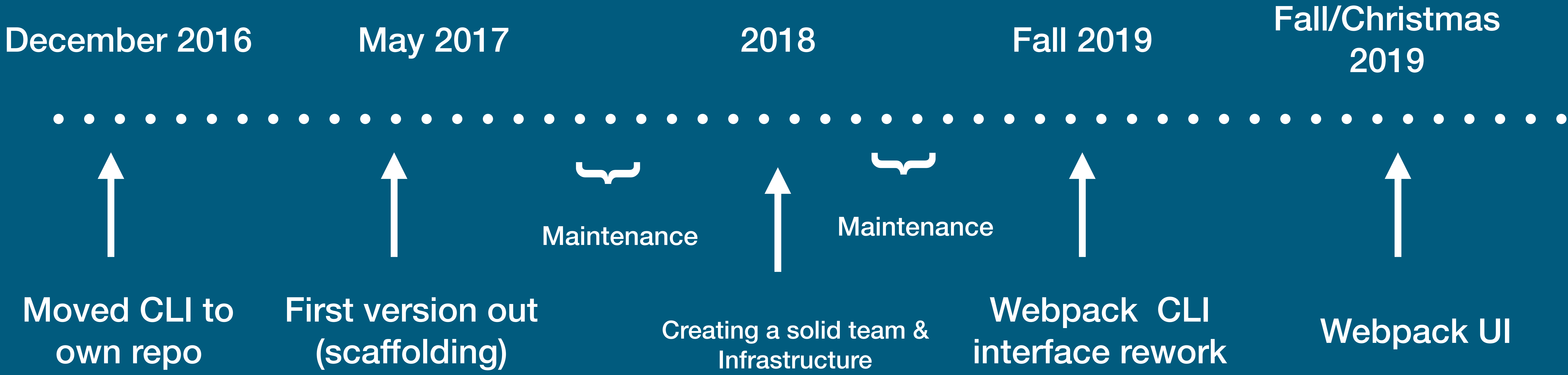
Curve knowledge and get competence

- Write docs
- Reduce entry requirements
- Set **conventions**
- Use inventiveness of web in your favor (like making an Electron App for your otherwise boring CLI)

Brief rundown of webpack-cli

- Started work for what will be included in webpack UI January 2017, expected release at latest 2020

- Takes time, because this is OSS and contributors have commitments on the side



December 2016

Moved CLI to own repo

May 2017

First version out (scaffolding)

Maintenance

2018

Creating a solid team & Infrastructure

Maintenance

Fall 2019

Webpack CLI interface rework

Fall/Christmas 2019

Webpack UI

Thoughts & Words

https://medium.com/webpack/we-are-changing-

https://medium.com/@evenstensberg/architectural-

- Laravel has strict convention on folder hierarchy, output defaults to ***public*** unlike webpack (***dist***)

- Config lookup should be relevant to NODE_ENV

- Should support a default compilation with good perf practices and base settings done

- Less CLI flags, hide complexity in configuration files, initial users will have a better time proficient users probably already have configuration files for dev/prod somewhere

- Folder for webpack configs, hides complexity and people are already modularizing their configurations. No need to have 99 dot files at root

Truth is, we don’t have time or resources to implement everything at once

- New CLI for webpack is under development
- Need to take it slow, a lot of users, a lot of things that needs to be rightly implemented and tested
- Wrong execution will affect a lot of users

Reducing Entry Requirements

- Good defaults 👍🏽
- Minimalistic starting point 🔥
- Simple & intuitive interfaces ✅
- Scale complexity (*if ever needed*) over time 📈

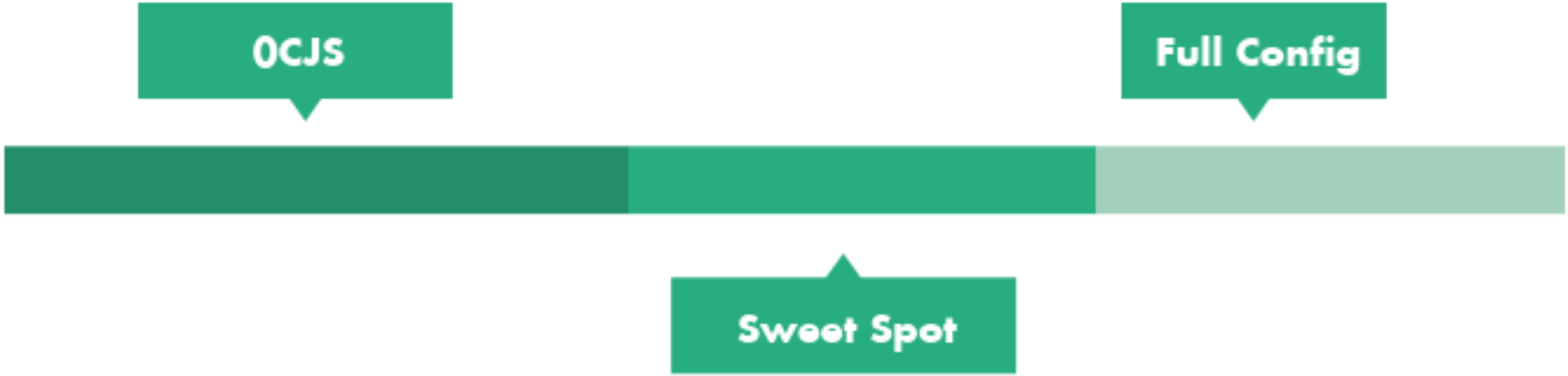
We’ve been here before, haven’t we?

0CJS is good for starting a project

But…

You lose visibility

Users might end up with a Black Box



0CJS

Full Config

Sweet Spot

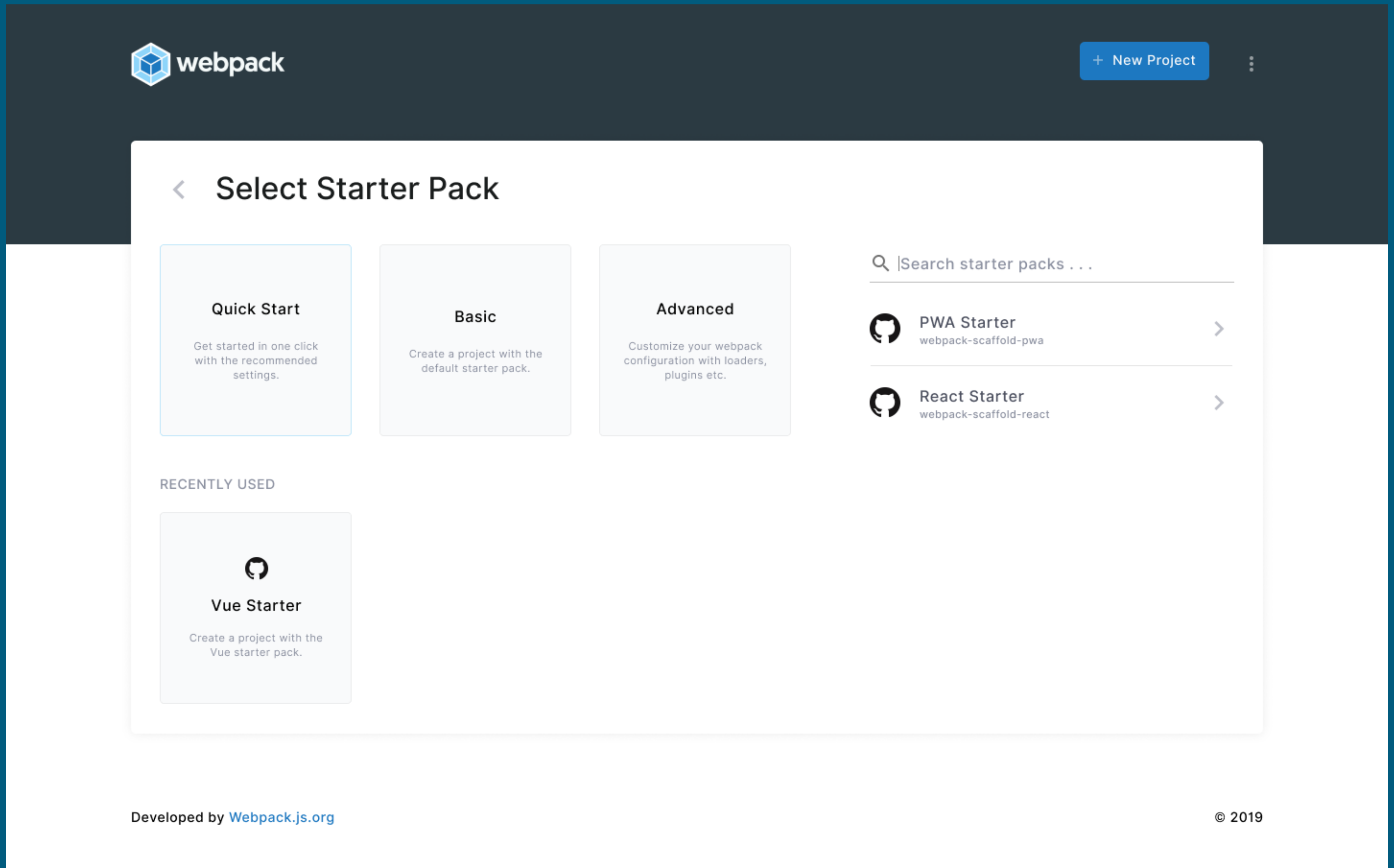
0CJS isn’t only about
no configuration

It’s about educating the developer so that he/she doesn’t need to use a boilerplate to know what best practice is

«We believe that ~~transparency~~ configurations are needed to create ~~trust~~ visibility, and it’s also needed to ~~create a dialogue~~ educate developers.»

– *Julie Sweet*

Reducing burden of the user — Graphical User Interfaces



Select Starter Pack

Quick Start
Get started in one click with the recommended settings.

Basic
Create a project with the default starter pack.

Advanced
Customize your webpack configuration with loaders, plugins etc.

Search starter packs . . .

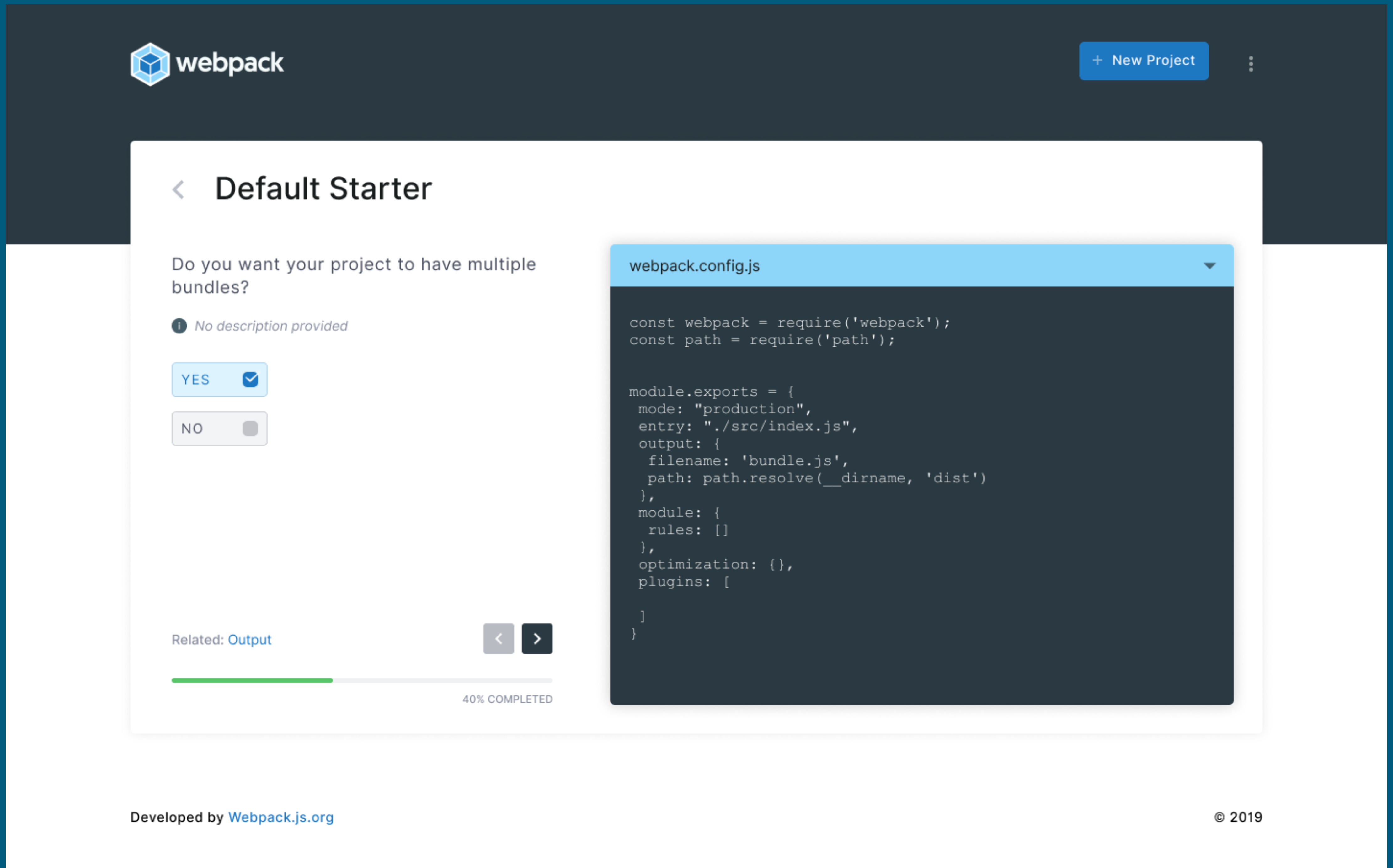
PWA Starter
webpack-scaffold-pwa

React Starter
webpack-scaffold-react

RECENTLY USED

Vue Starter
Create a project with the Vue starter pack.

Developed by Webpack.js.org © 2019



Default Starter

Do you want your project to have multiple bundles?

No description provided

YES ☑

NO □

Related: Output

40% COMPLETED

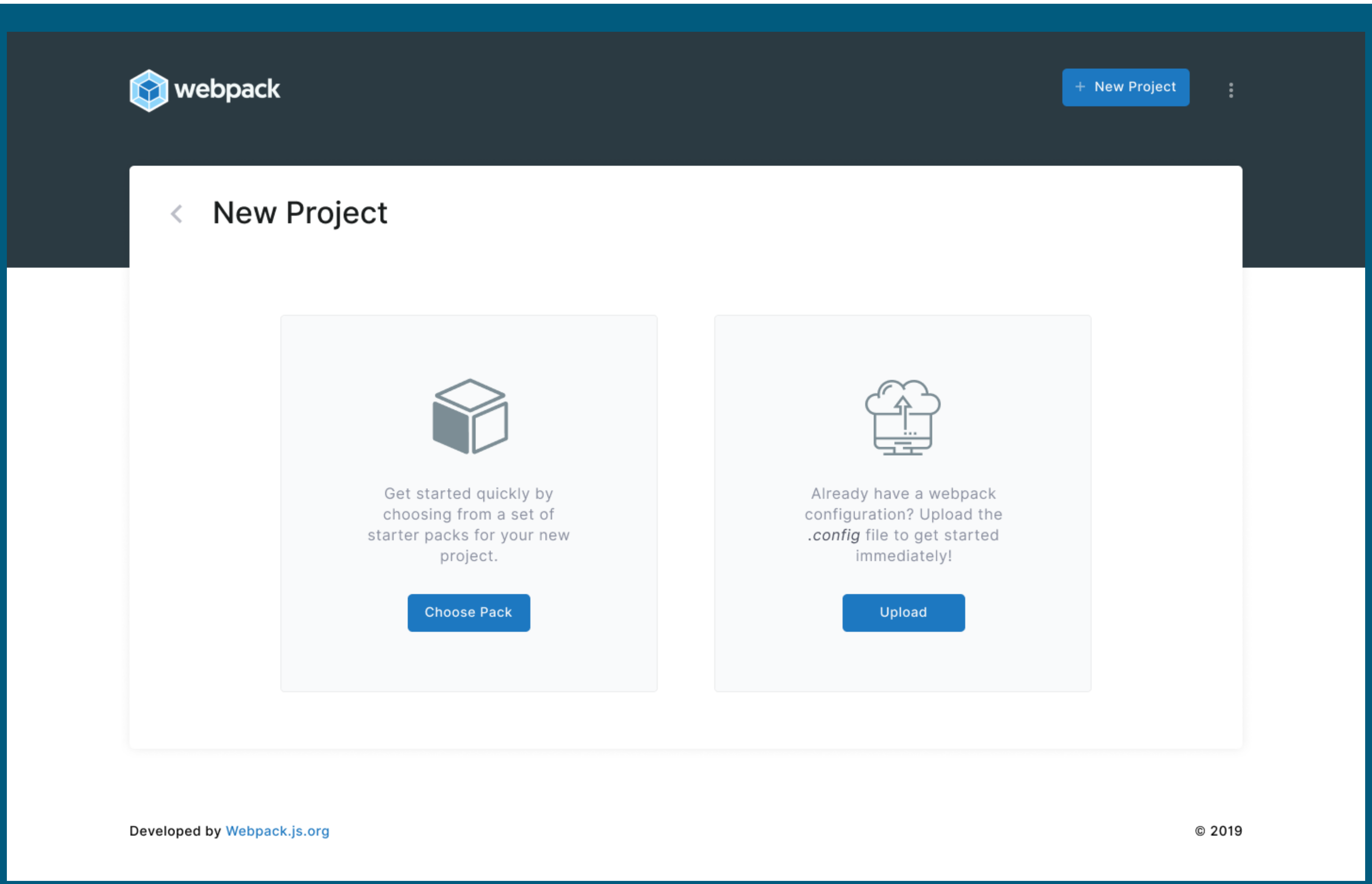
webpack.config.js

```
const webpack = require('webpack');
const path = require('path');


module.exports = {
 mode: "production",
 entry: "./src/index.js",
 output: {
  filename: 'bundle.js',
  path: path.resolve(__dirname, 'dist')
 },
 module: {
  rules: []
 },
 optimization: {},
 plugins: [

 ]
}
```

Developed by Webpack.js.org © 2019



New Project

Get started quickly by choosing from a set of starter packs for your new project.

Choose Pack

Already have a webpack configuration? Upload the *.config* file to get started immediately!

Upload

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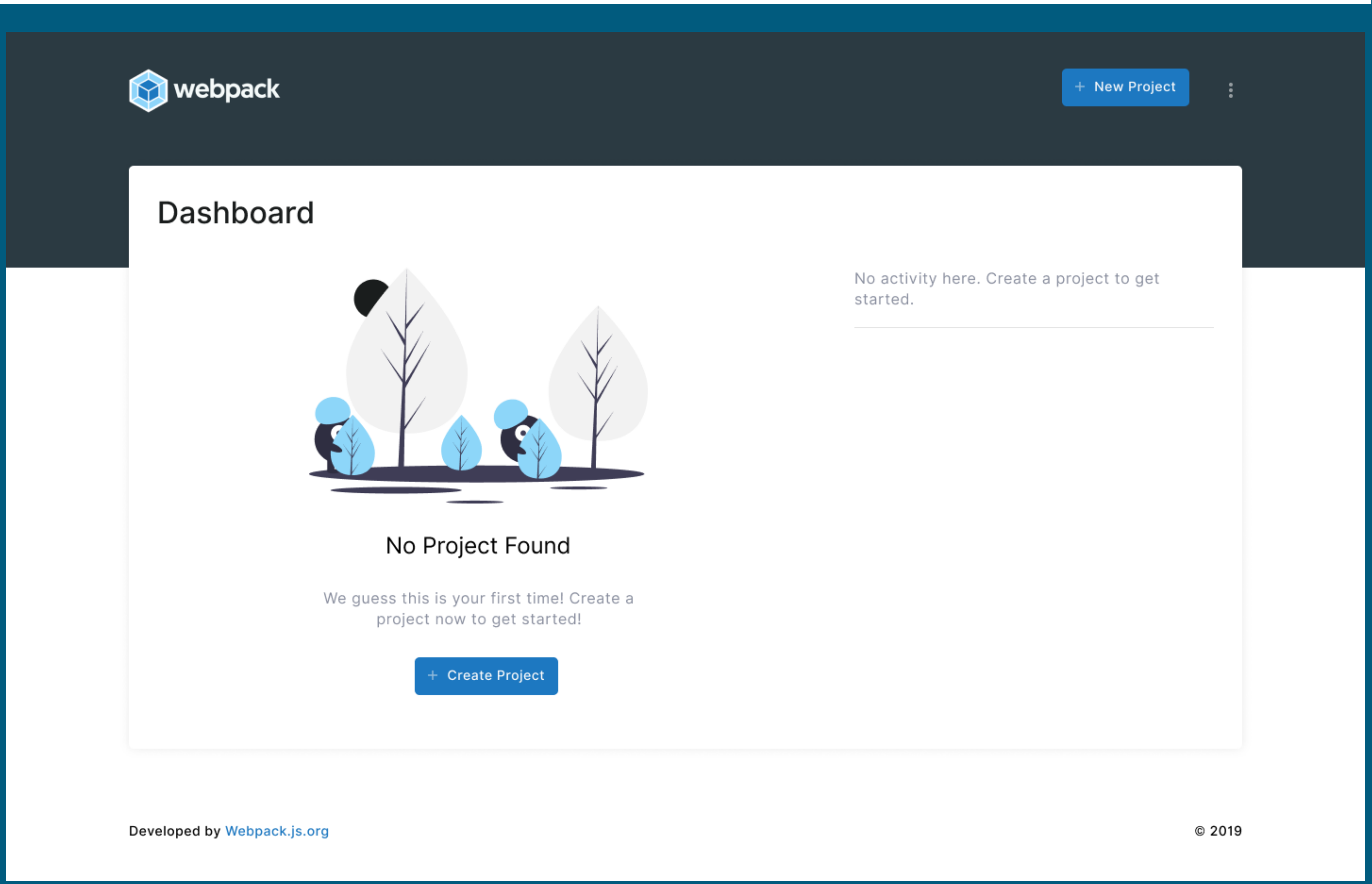

Dashboard

No activity here. Create a project to get started.

No Project Found

We guess this is your first time! Create a project now to get started!

+ Create Project

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Summary

- Think about the project - **Get a steady squad and spread responsibility**

- 0CJS is important - **But so is visibility**

- Set conventions - **People eventually will follow them**

- Use/Create ecosystems when you can - **Abstractions hide complexity**

- All this = **Low tech debt + Educating developers**