

Scalable Command Line Interfaces

(and some OSS governance)

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(and some OSS governance)

What we'll be
covering

- Open Source Governance
- Conventions
- Reducing Entry Requirements
- webpack (sorry)

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



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

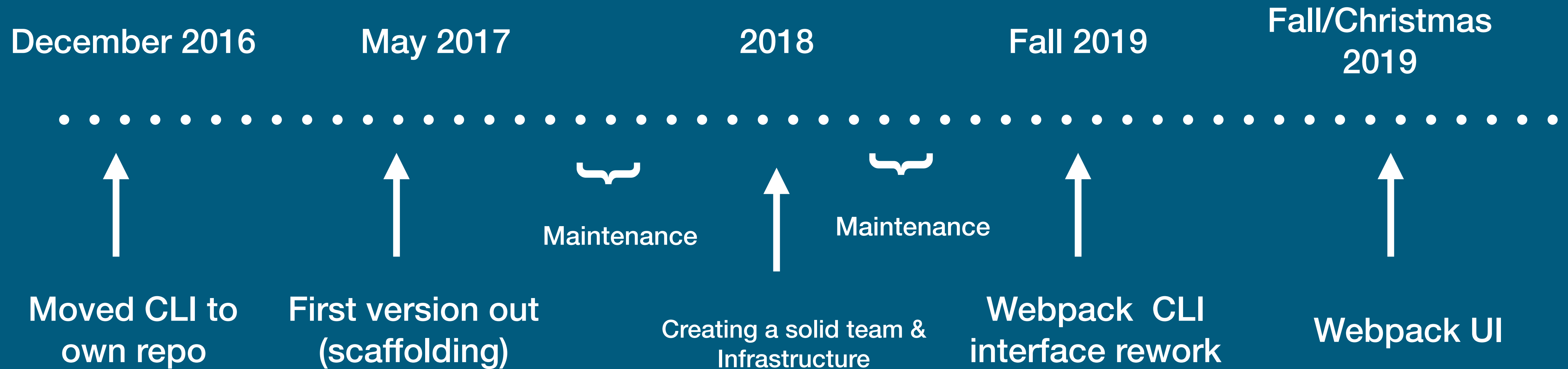
Curl —knowledge &
wget —competence

*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



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

OCJS



A horizontal bar is divided into three equal-width segments. The leftmost segment is dark green and has a callout box labeled 'OCJS' pointing to it. The middle segment is a medium green and has a callout box labeled 'Sweet Spot' pointing to it. The rightmost segment is a light green and has a callout box labeled 'Full Config' pointing to it.

Full Config

Sweet Spot

OCJS isn't only about
no configuration

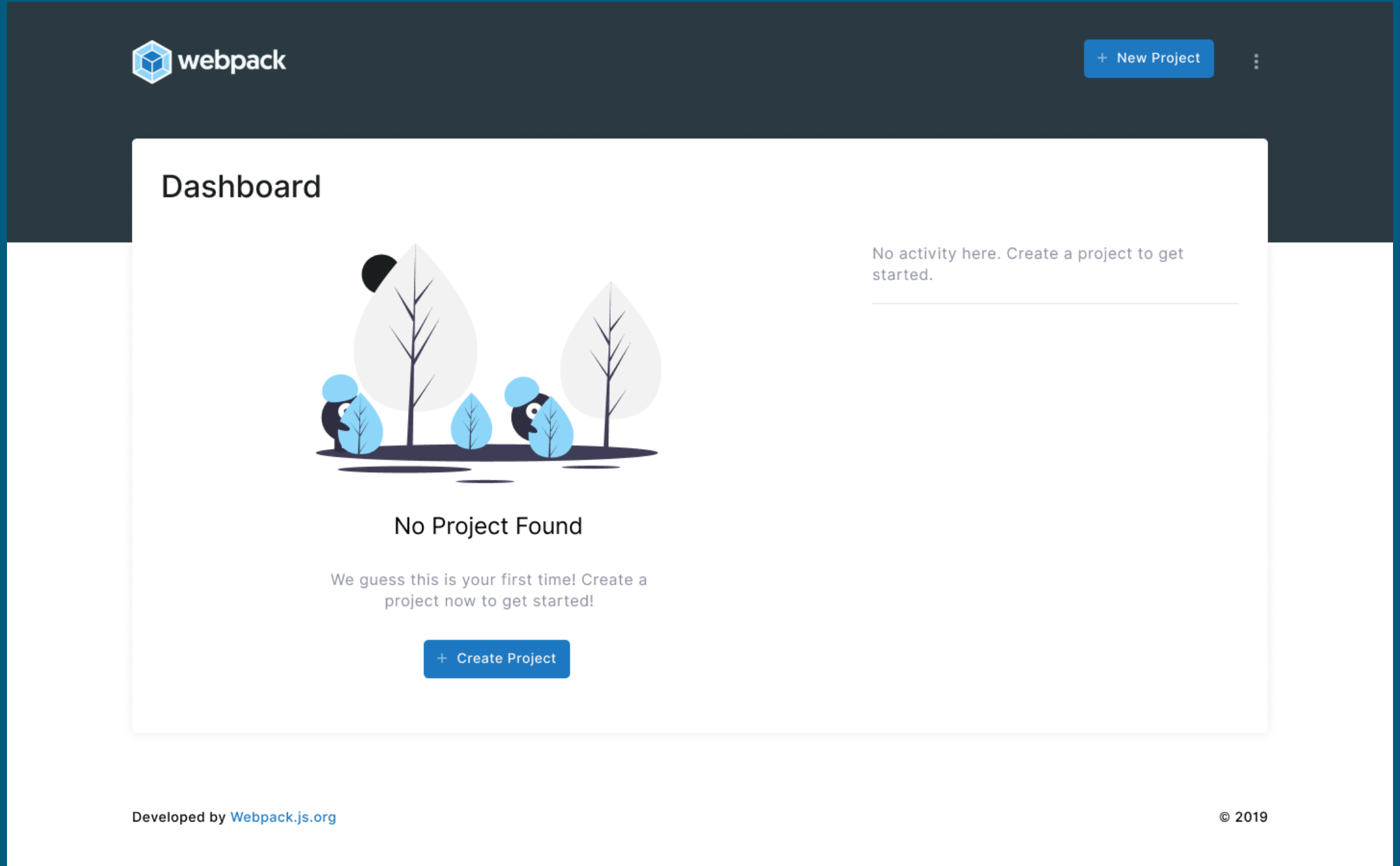
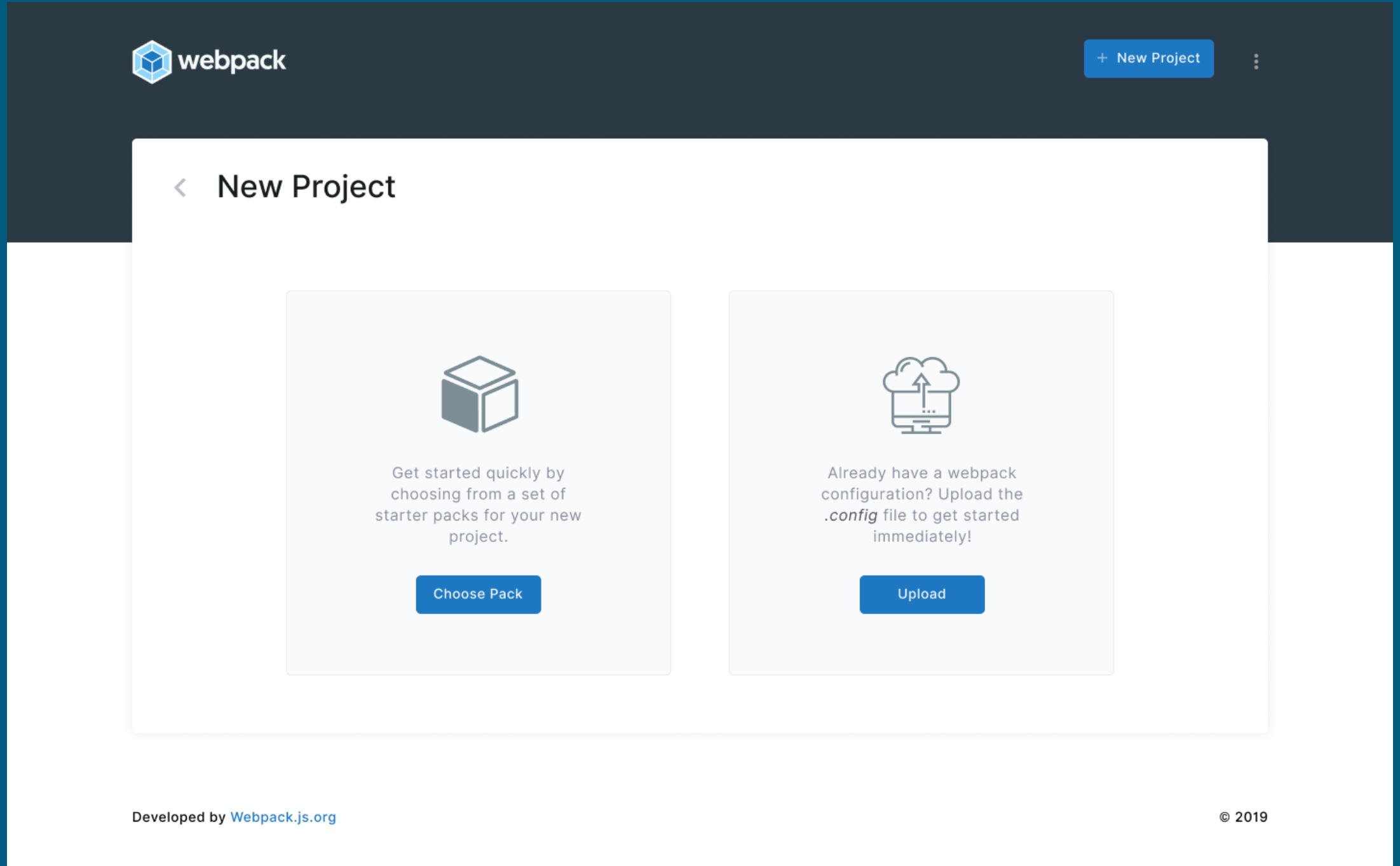
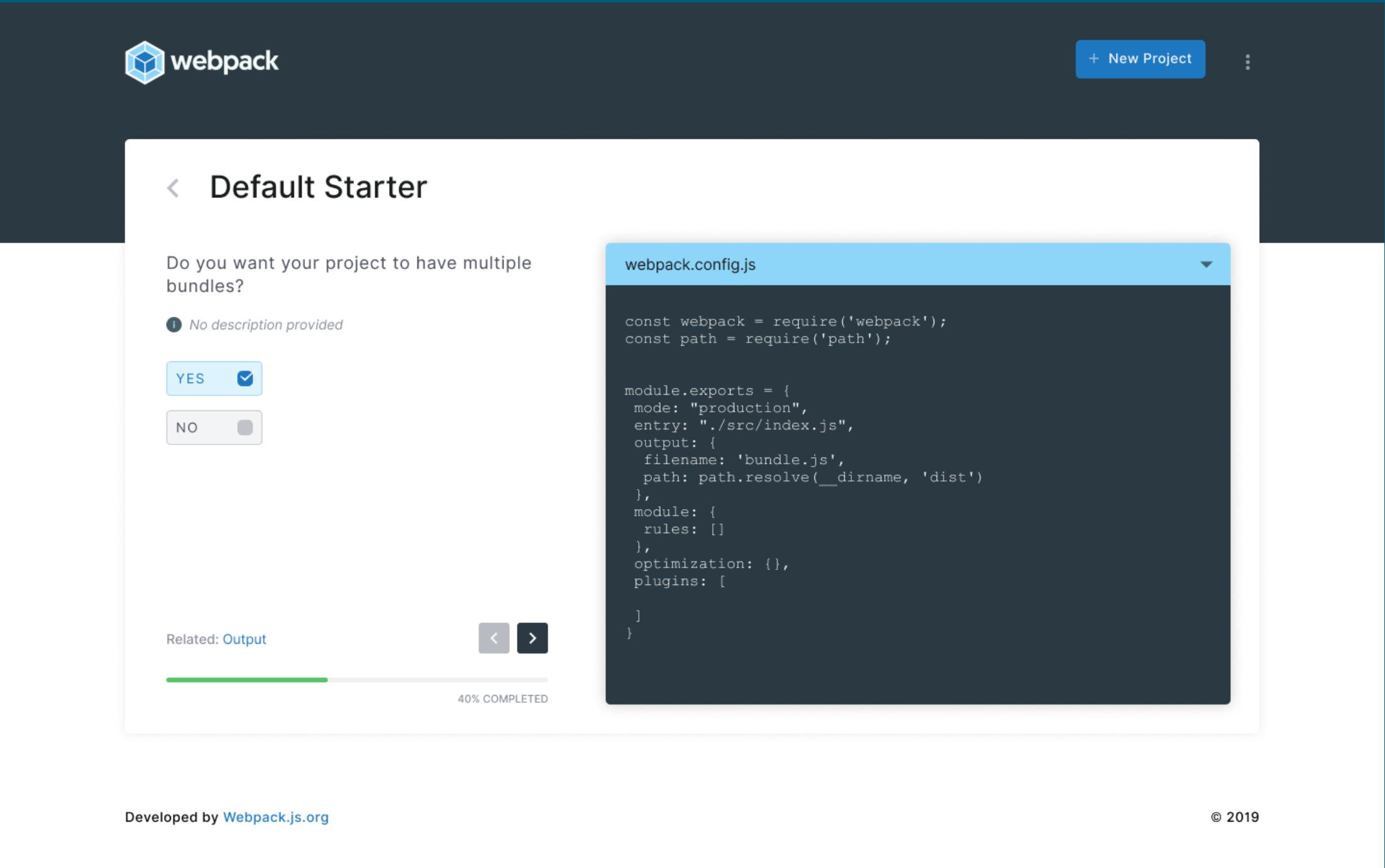
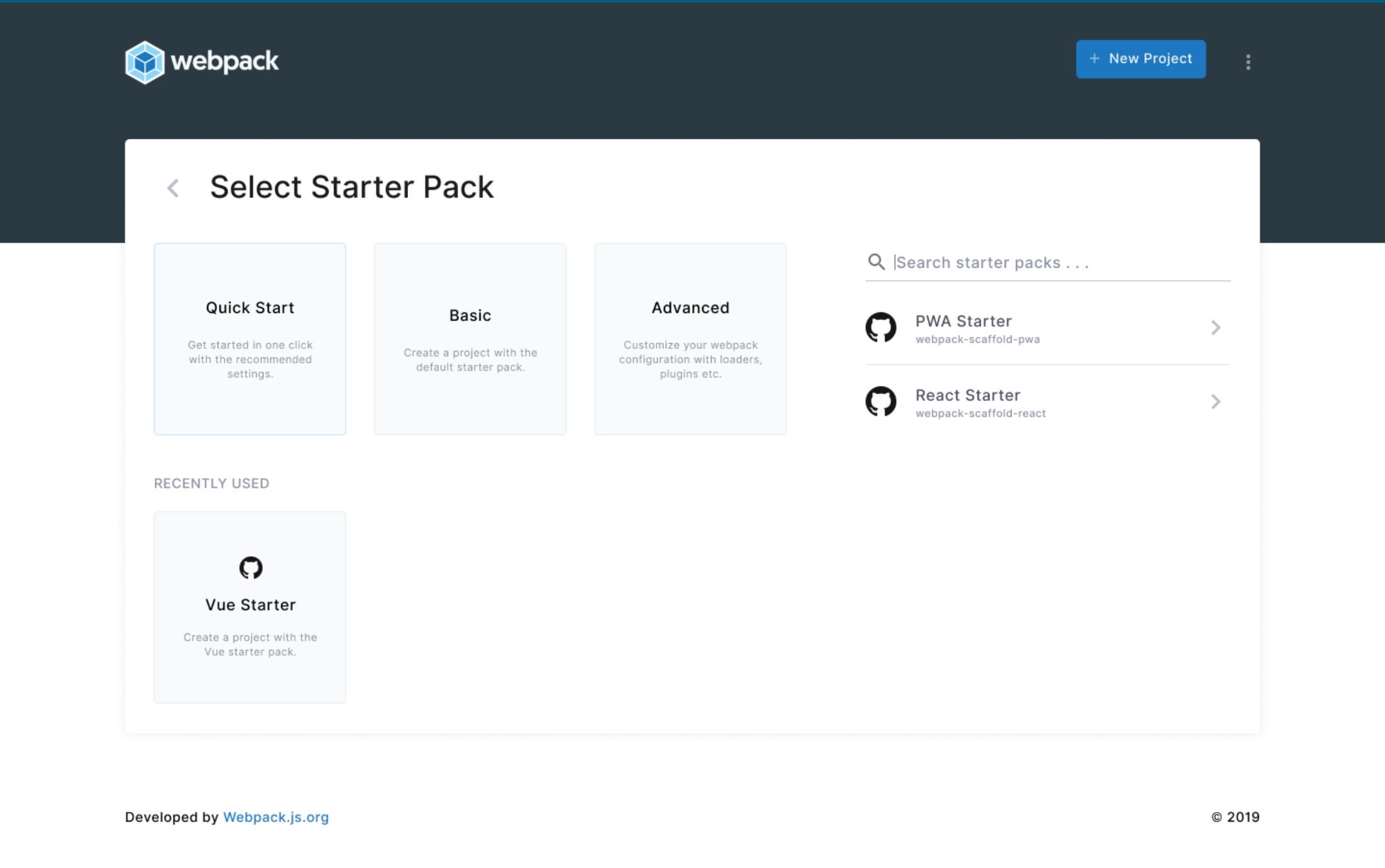
It's about educating
the developer

Transparency is important, being
strict while still having less
restrictions is even more
important

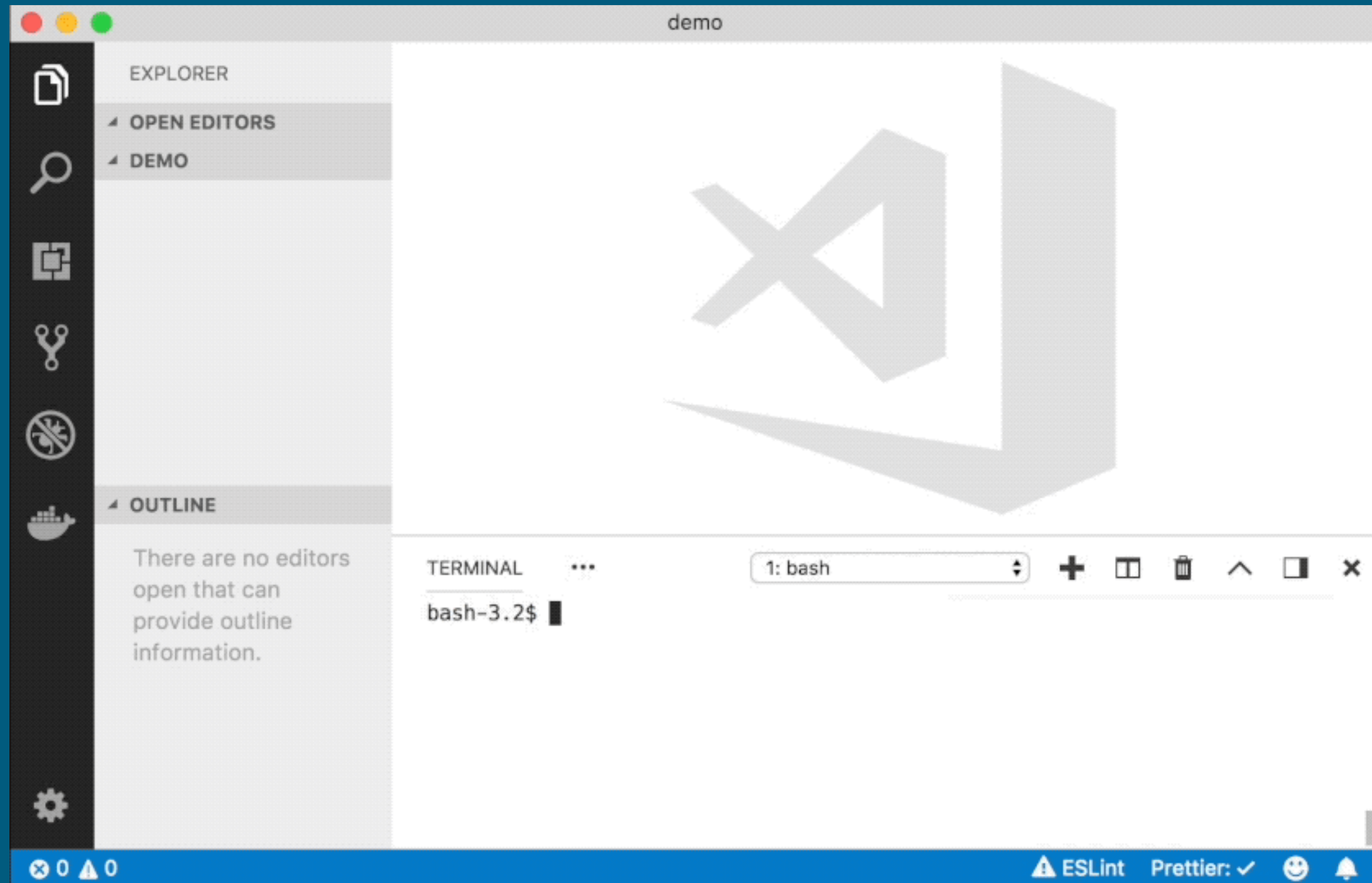
«I believe in transparency»

– *Hillary Clinton*

Reducing burden of the user — Graphical User Interfaces



Too much of boilerplate
generation results in a lot
of maintenance



<https://github.com/namics/webpack-config-plugins>

- Webpack UI (skeleton) will have as little code as possible, use nodeJS interface
- Why?
- Less maintenance
- Use plugin system or develop a tool to handle library upgrades

Summary

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

Final Remarks

- Thanks to new contributors!
- For updates on webpack CLI, contact twitter handles, we don't bite



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webpack