NPM CLI - Commands and Flags

This cheat sheet covers the most common and helpful commands and flags for the npm CLI.

BASIC USAGE

-v, --version

Prints the current version of npm you are using

<command> -h, --help

Quick help on the specified command

-l

Displays full usage info

npx [command]

Runs an arbitrary command from an npm module (either one installed locally, or fetched remotely)

CREATE A NEW NODE.JS APPLICATION

npm init [--yes|-y|--scope]

Initializes a new Node.js project, creates a package.json file

--yes, -y	Skips the init questionnaire
--scope	Creates a scoped application/module

INSTALL NODE MODULES

npm install <module_name>

Installs the specifed module as a dependency

--save-dev	Installs the specifed module as a development dependency
-g	Installs the module globally

npm install [--production]

Installs the modules specified in the package.json. The --production flag will not install development dependencies

npm ci

Similar to npm install, but for use in automated environments such as test platforms, continuous integration, and deployment

npm uninstall <module>

Removes a module

npm outdated

Checks for outdated modules

npm update

Updates modules to the latest version, respecting semver

npm ls

Lists the installed modules

npm prune

Removes any extraneous modules

npm link

Symlinks a package folder

NPM SCRIPTS

npm start

Runs a predefined command specified in the start property of a package's scripts object

npm run [script]:: Runs a predefined command specified in the [script] property of package's scripts object

PUBLISH A NODE MODULE

npm whoami

Displays the npm username

npm login

Login to the registry

npm version [options]

Bumps the version of a module

<newversion>	Bumps the version to the <newversion>. ex: npm version 1.1.0
major	Bumps the major version by 1. ex: npm version major output: v2.1.0
minor	Bumps the minor verison by 1. ex: npm version minor output v1.2.0
patch	Bumps the patch version by 1. ex: npm version patch output: v1.1.1
premajor	Bumps the major version by 1, but as a prerelease. ex: npm verison premajor output: v2.1.0-0
preminor	Bumps the minor version by 1, but as a prerelease. ex: npm verison preminor output: v1.2.0-0
prepatch	Bumps the patch version by 1, but as a prerelease. ex: npm verison prepatch output: v1.1.1-0
prerelease	Bumps the prerelease version. ex: npm version prerelease output: 1.1.0-1
--preid=	Uses a custom prerelease id tag. ex: npm version

<prerelease-id>	prelease --preid=beta example output: 1.1.0-beta.0
from-git	Uses the latest git tag as the version

npm shrinkwrap

Locks down dependency versions for publication

npm publish [--dry-run]

Publishs a module. Uses the --dry-run flag to get a preview of what will be published

npm deprecate

Deprecates a version of a module

npm unpublish

Removes a module from the registry

npm dist-tag

Modifies package distribution tags

npm logout

Logs out of the registry

MISC

npm audit

Runs a security audit

npm bugs

Bugs for a module in a web browser

npm docs

Docs for a module in a web browser

npm fund

Retrieves funding information