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A RequireJS, Backbone, and Bower Starter Template

Jeffrey Way on Jan 14th 2013 with 46 Comments

Tutorial Details

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- **Difficulty**: Intermediate
- **Completion Time**: 15 Minutes

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Switching to a modular approach to writing JavaScript is unfortunately a more difficult process than we might hope. Once you understand the concept of AMD, you then have to figure out the logistics: how do you setup RequireJS? What about non-AMD libraries? What about dependency management? What about configuration and optimization?

[Download the Video](#)

Using This Starter Template

[The repo for the video tutorial](#) should give you an excellent starting point, when beginning new RequireJS + Backbone projects. Once you're comfortable with the process, also, at some point, be sure to consider [Yeoman](#) with RequireJS support.

Quick Setup

First, of course, [download this repo](#). Then, from the Terminal (assuming Node.js installed), install RequireJS.

```
1 | npm install requirejs
```

Next, we need an easy way to deal with dependency management. We'll use [Bower](#), from the guys at Twitter.

```
1 | npm install bower
```

Let's now install the dependencies for this project. I'm assuming that we're building a

Backbone project, so I've listed RequireJS, jQuery, Underscore, and Backbone as dependencies.

```
1 | bower install
```

Please note that we're using the AMD versions of both Backbone and Underscore to make the setup process as easy as possible.

When ready to build the project, run:

```
1 | build/build.sh
```

this will create a new `dist` directory, copy the files over, run the `r.js` optimizer on assets, and clean it the file structure a bit for production. Refer to `app.build.js` for configuration options.

CSS Imports

If you're not using a preprocessor, feel free to modularize your stylesheets, and `@import` them into a master stylesheet. During the build process, `r.js` will merge these files together, so that you don't have to worry about any performance hits from using `@import`.

Tags: backbone.jsbowerRequireJSVideos

By Jeffrey Way

I'm the editor of Nettuts+, and love making the process of building for the web as easy as possible. I'm incredibly passionate about modern software development, and am the author of Laravel Testing Decoded! If you want be friends, say hi on Twitter.

Note: Want to add some source code? Type <pre><code> before it and </code></pre> after it. Find out more