



How to Run the Hackathon Starter App Locally

If you choose to use our starter app as inspiration or as a base for your hackathon project, here are the steps to **clone and run it locally**.

This guide is designed for complete beginners and will walk you through **two setup options** for running the starter app locally. It assumes you're using [Visual Studio Code](#). If you're working with the Java backend, you may prefer to use [IntelliJ IDEA](#).

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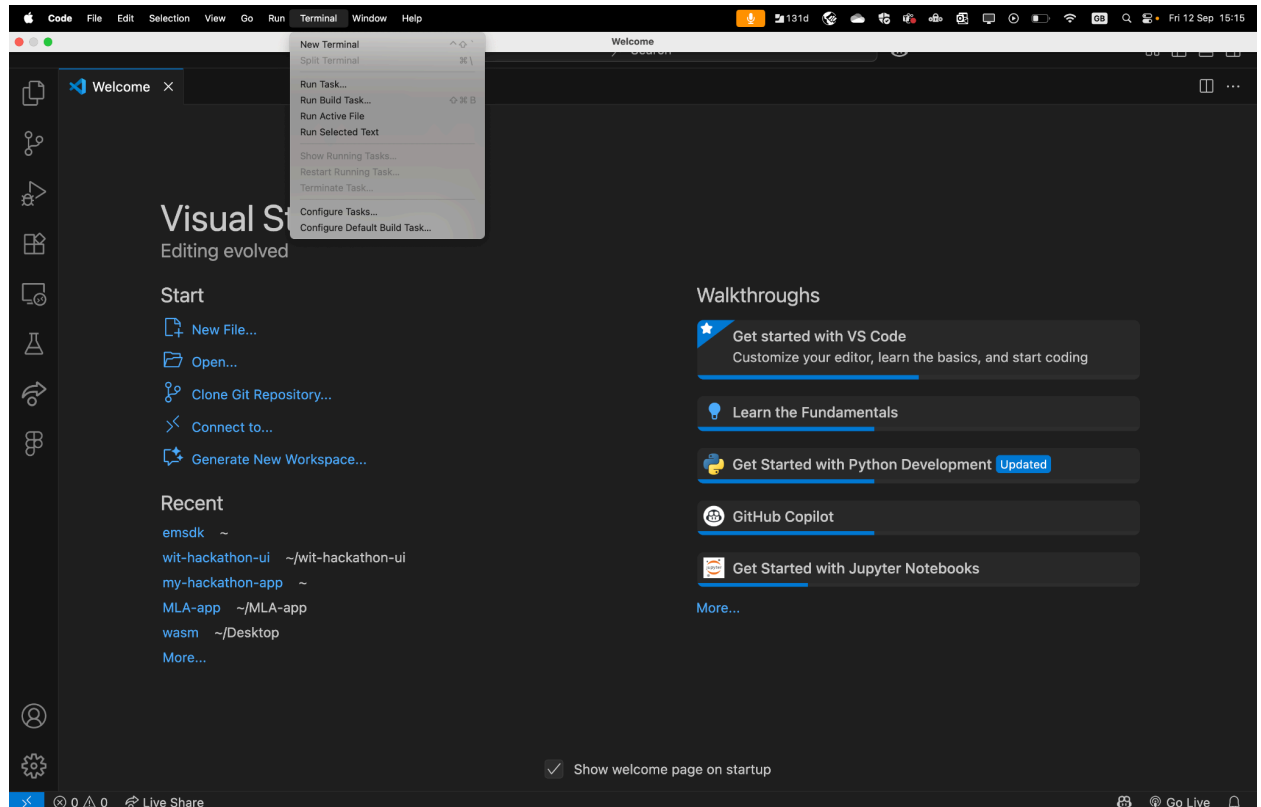
 [Need Help?](#)

Step 1: Clone the Repository

Cloning a repository means making a full copy of a project's code and files from a remote source (like GitHub) to your local machine so you can view, edit, and run it.

What to do: Open [Visual Studio Code](#), then open a **terminal** window.

The terminal is a tool that lets you type commands to interact with your computer. In VS Code, you can open it by clicking **Terminal > New Terminal** from the top menu.



In the terminal, type:

```
git clone https://github.com/gemmanewton1/wit-hackathon-ui.git
cd wit-hackathon-ui
```

This downloads the project files to your computer and moves you into the project folder.

Your terminal prompt should now show the folder name **wit-hackathon-ui**. This confirms you're inside the project directory.



Step 2: Start the Database (MongoDB)

To run the database, you'll need [Docker](#) installed. In the same terminal window, copy the command below and hit Enter:

```
docker-compose up -d
```

This starts **MongoDB**, which stores the app's data.

Note: This step only starts the database. You'll still need to start the backend separately.

Option 1: React Frontend + Java or Python Backend

This setup separates the **frontend** (what users see) from the **backend** (where data is processed). You'll choose either Java **or** Python for the backend.

Step 1: Run the Frontend (React)

Open up a new terminal, move into the frontend folder:

```
cd react-starter
```

Your terminal prompt should now show the folder name **react-starter**. This confirms you're inside the project directory.

```
appleinternal/bin:/usr/local/jamf/bin
sophia.wokoma@LONSW51-M wit-hackathon-ui % cd react-starter
sophia.wokoma@LONSW51-M react-starter %
```

Then install and start the frontend:

```
npm install
npm run start
```

This will open the app in your browser at <http://localhost:3000>.

Step 2: Run the Backend

You can choose between a **Java** or **Python** backend. You only need **one**.

Option A: Java Backend

Use **IntelliJ IDEA (recommended)** or Visual Studio Code.

1. Open up the **wit-hackathon-ui** folder in **IntelliJ IDEA**.
2. Start a new terminal and run:

```
cd java-starter
```

Your terminal prompt should now show the folder name **java-starter**. This confirms you're inside the project directory.

```
sophia.wokoma@LONSW51-M wit-hackathon-ui % cd java-starter
sophia.wokoma@LONSW51-M java-starter %
```

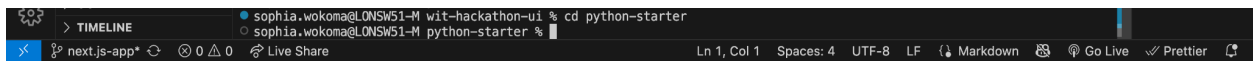
Then follow the instructions in the [java-starter/README.md](#) to:

- Build and run the backend server with a Gradlew wrapper

Option B: Python Backend

```
cd python-starter
```

Your terminal prompt should now show the folder name **python-starter**. This confirms you're inside the project directory.



Then follow the instructions in the [python-starter/README.md](#) to:

- Create a virtual environment
- Install dependencies
- Start the backend server

Option 2: Next.js App (Recommended for Beginners)

Next.js combines frontend and backend in one place, making it easier for beginners.

Prerequisites

- Node.js v20.3+
- Docker Desktop or Rancher Desktop
- Visual Studio Code

Installation

After cloning the repo ([see steps above](#)), in that same terminal move into the next-js.starter folder by copying and pasting the below command and press **Enter**.

```
cd next-js.starter
```

Run this command to install all the npm packages

```
npm install
```

env variables

Create a `.env` file and ask your tech lead for the required environment variables.

Run the Application

```
npm run dev
```

Your app will open at <http://localhost:3000>.

Once Everything is Running

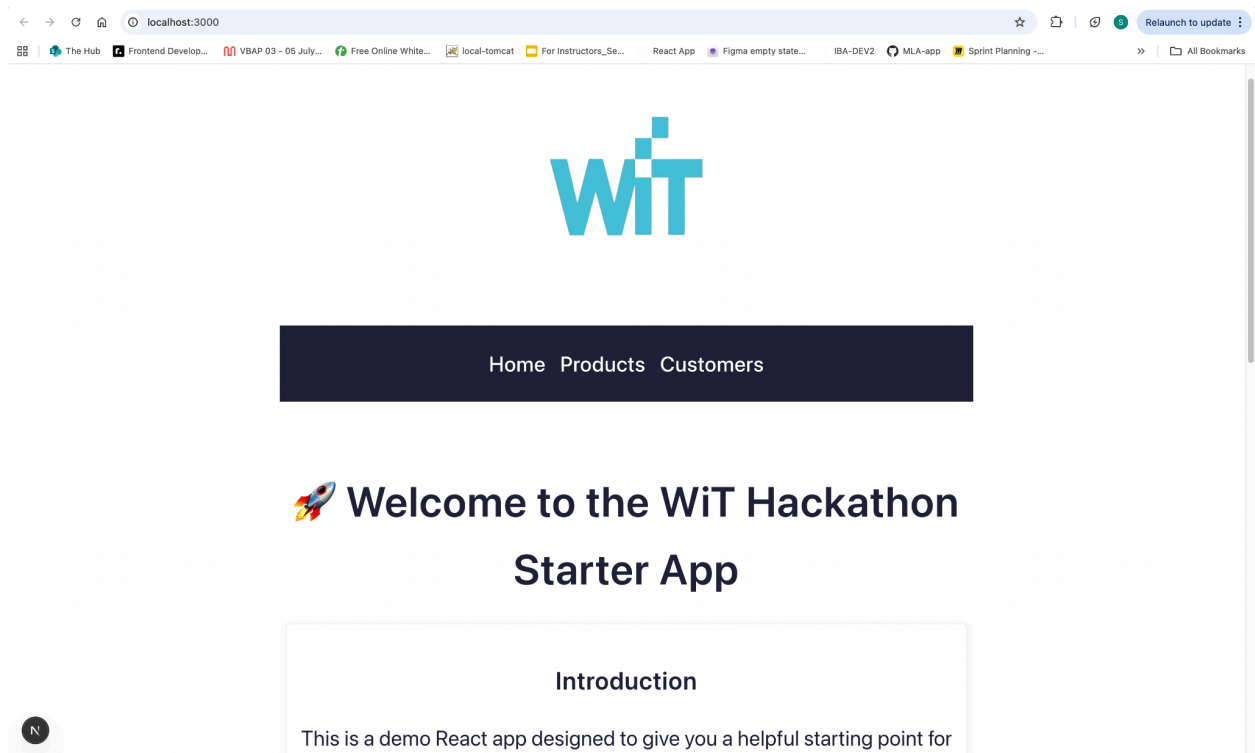
You should now have:

- MongoDB running via Docker
- Either React frontend + Java/Python backend

- OR Next.js app (frontend + backend in one)

This setup lets you interact with the full app locally – view pages, submit data, and test features.

Home Page



Products Page

Products

This page displays a list of products fetched from the backend when the page loads.

When you fill out the form and submit it, the new product details are sent to the backend API to be saved. Once successfully added, the new product will immediately appear in the table below.

You can also delete a product using the delete button next to each entry. This removes the product from both the backend and the table.

Products List

This table shows all products saved in the backend, including the ones you've added and those already stored.

Product Name	Price	Actions
Sample Widget	19.99	<button>Delete</button>

Customers Page

Customers

This page displays a list of customers fetched from the backend when the page loads.

When you fill out the form and submit it, the new customer details are sent to the backend API to be saved. Once successfully added, the new customer will immediately appear in the table below.

You can also delete a customer using the delete button next to each entry. This removes the customer from both the backend and the table.

Customers List

This table shows all customers saved in the backend, including the ones you've added and those already stored.

First Name	Last Name	Phone	Address	Email
Jane	Doe	1234567890	1 Main St	doejanedoe@hotmail.

If you get stuck at any point, please reach out to your **tech leads** – they're here to help!