How to Run a Node.js App Forever on Ubuntu EC2

Prerequisites:

- Ubuntu EC2 instance

- Node.js app ready to run

Step 1: Install Node.js and npm

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Update package list and install Node.js:

sudo apt update

sudo apt install nodejs npm -y

Verify installation:

node -v

npm -v

Step 2: Install pm2 Globally

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pm2 is a process manager for Node.js apps:

sudo npm install -g pm2

Step 3: Start Your Node.js App

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Navigate to your app directory:

cd /path/to/your/app

Start the app using pm2:

pm2 start app.js

Replace 'app.js' with your app’s entry file.

Step 4: Enable Auto-Start on Reboot

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Generate startup script:

pm2 startup

Run the command it outputs (e.g., sudo env PATH=$PATH:/usr/bin pm2 startup systemd -u ec2-user --hp /home/ec2-user)

Save the current process list:

pm2 save

Step 5: Manage Your App

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List running apps:

pm2 list

View logs:

pm2 logs

Stop app:

pm2 stop app

Restart app:

pm2 restart app  
  
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How to Change the Port Number of a Node.js App Running with PM2

Step 1: Update the Port in Your Node.js App

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1. Open your app’s main file (e.g., app.js).

2. Locate the line where the server is started, typically:

app.listen(5000, () => {

console.log("Server running on port 5000");

});

3. Change the port number to your desired value, e.g., 3000:

app.listen(3000, () => {

console.log("Server running on port 3000");

});

4. Save the file.

Step 2: Restart the App with PM2

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1. Restart the app using:

pm2 restart app

(Replace 'app' with the actual name or ID of your process. Use 'pm2 list' to find it.)

Step 3: (Optional) Clear Old Logs

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1. To clear previous logs and avoid confusion:

pm2 flush

Step 4: Verify the Change

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1. Check if the app is running on the new port:

curl http://localhost:3000

2. Or access it via your browser or EC2 public IP.