In this exercise we will install Webpack locally.

Current Version of Webpack

At the time this course is created, the most recent stable version of Webpack is version 4. Webpack 4 comes with some significant changes from previous versions, so you will find different information out there if you read an older tutorial.

One of the new things about version 4, is that webpack declared a few default settings that are automatically in place when you install webpack. So, you might not even need a webpack config file. But, our app won't be following all the default settings, so we will need a custom config file, `webpack.config.js`.

Erratum - The `webpack.config.js` file has to be created in the root (/) location of your project.

Install Webpack in Local Machine

Prerequisite - We suggest you have any code editor, such as **Visual Studio Code** in your local machine. It will help to edit the files, keep track of the changes, and easy navigation. In this exercise, we will install Webpack locally. The steps are as follows:

1. In the terminal (Mac/Linux) or command prompt (Windows), go to the project directory. If you wish to practice the steps mentioned in the video demonstration below, stay on the `0-initial-setup` branch.
   Else, switch to the branch `1-install-webpack` corresponding the current exercise where all the steps have already been carried out.
   ```
   git checkout 1-install-webpack
   git branch
   ```
2. Install Webpack and the command line instructions (CLI) tool using npm, as:
   ```
   npm i webpack webpack-cli
   ```

Remember that `npm i` is just shorthand for `npm install`. A CLI is a terminal program that allows developers to run commands from the command line to communicate with the Webpack.

3. In `package.json`, verify if `webpack` and `webpack-cli` are added to the "dependencies" as:

```
"dependencies": {
  "express": "^4.17.1",
  "webpack": "^4.43.0",
  "webpack-cli": "^3.3.11"
},
```

4. In `package.json`, add a build npm script as:

```
"scripts": {
  "build": "webpack"
},
```

Lastly, verify the dependency for the development in "devDependencies" block as:

```
"devDependencies":{
    "webpack-dev-server": "^3.11.0",
},
```

5. Create a `webpack.config.js` file in the root location of your project, and add the necessary require statements, and a blank module.exports code as:

```
const path = require("path")
const webpack = require("webpack")
module.exports = {
}
```

We will populate the module.exports with the entry code in the next exercise.

6. Try running Webpack using the command `npm run build`. ***You should get a Webpack error in the terminal because our config file is empty.***

7. Let's commit the work done until now, using `git commit`.

QUESTION 1 OF 2

A webpack config file:

- Allows us to override the webpack default setup as necessary

- Is required by webpack and our developer co-workers to state how we will use webpack

SUBMIT

At work, a project requires the use of a technology that is completely new to you. What steps would you take to learn the required technology?

Your reflection

how to use it and override default setup as necessary to adapt for project requirements

Things to think about

I came across these types of questions fairly often while interviewing. Companies want to understand your process, and they really want to know that you are confident and capable of picking up new languages quickly. Most importantly with questions like this, show that you have a process for learning and let your hard work learning code shine to highlight just how quickly you pick up these topics.