BarDev
A programming blog by Mike Barlow

Kick-Start: Bower – A Simple Tutorial of Setting-Up and Using Bower.JS

Posted on October 26, 2013

The goal of this post is to provide a simple description of how to install Bower JS and how to use Bower JS to manage client side dependencies. The first time I tried to use Bower I had problems. Hopefully this tutorial will provide others a complete resource to navigate around the issues that I found.

Assumptions:

- You are a Windows developer
- You will use the Windows Command Prompt instead of Bash
- You have little or no knowledge of Node.js
- You have little or no knowledge of GIT

1. Download and install Node.js

To run Bower you will need to download and install Node.js. Go to http://nodejs.org/ website and select the "install" button (see image below). This should download the version of Node.js you need. For me, when I clicked the "install" the version for Windows 64-bit downloaded. Once Node.js is download, execute the file.

I will **not** go thought the steps for installing Node.js; it's very straight forward. During the install I used all default options.

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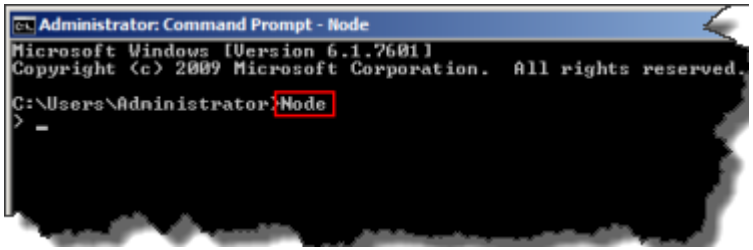
2. Confirm Node.js is installed

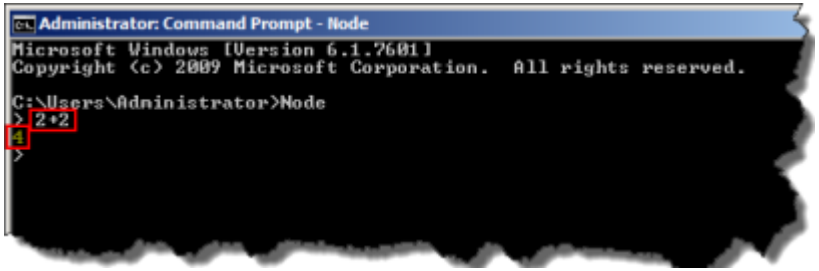
When Node.js installation has completed we need to cor sfully. Open a Windows Command Prompt and type "Node" and [enter]. You sh ".

(If you previously had Windows Command Prompt oper d reopen it. The reason is that Node will be added to Environment Variable Path. If the when you install Node, it will

not have the new Node Path.)

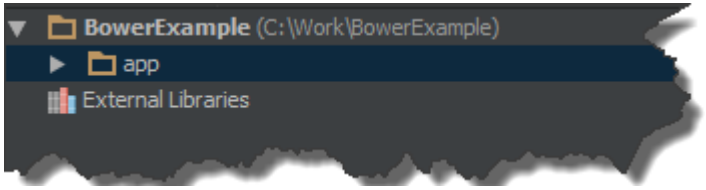


Now at the prompt type something like "2 + 2" and [enter]. You should get a result. I got back 4. Now we have confirmed that Node.js is installed correctly. You can quit Node.js by using the keyboard and typing [ctrl]+C twice.



3. Create Folder Structure

Create the following folder structure.

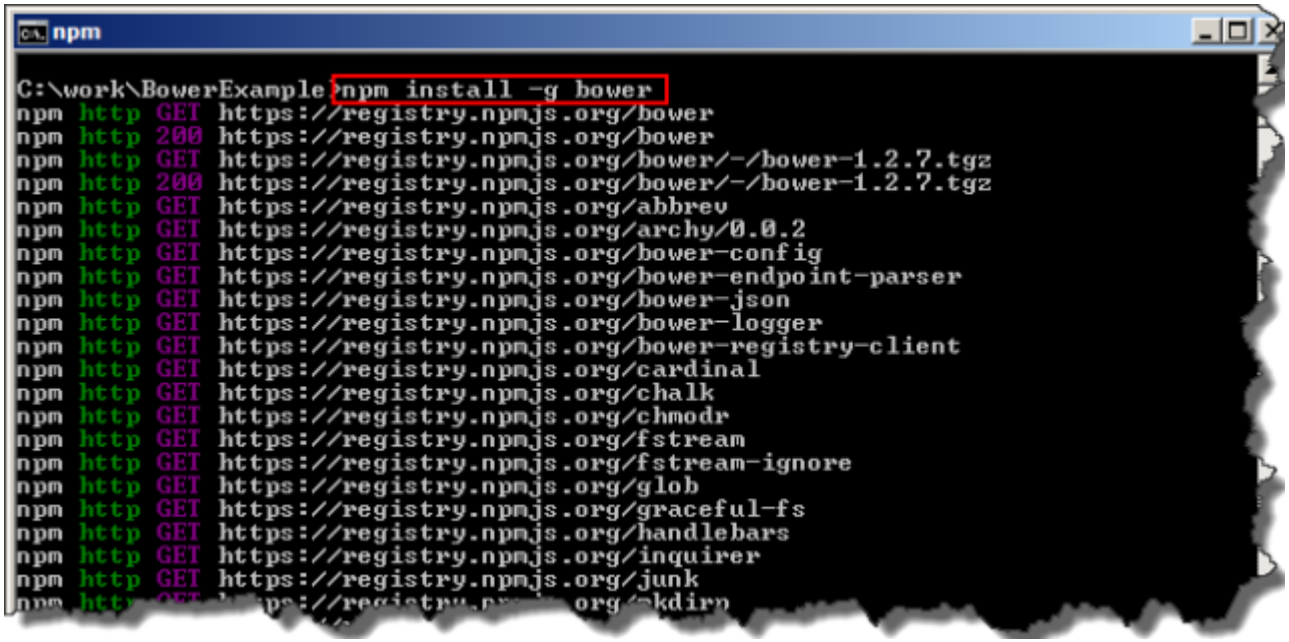


(In the image above, ignore “External Libraries”. This is part of the WebStorm IDE)

4. Install Bower

The primary reason to use Bower is so that you do not have to manage client side dependencies (css, JavaScript, and etc). Here we will install Bower so that we can use it latter to manage dependencies.

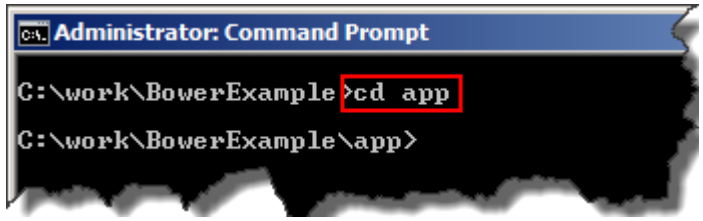
Use Node Package Manger (npm) to install Bower. Since we are using the “-g” (global) switch we can install Bower from any directory.



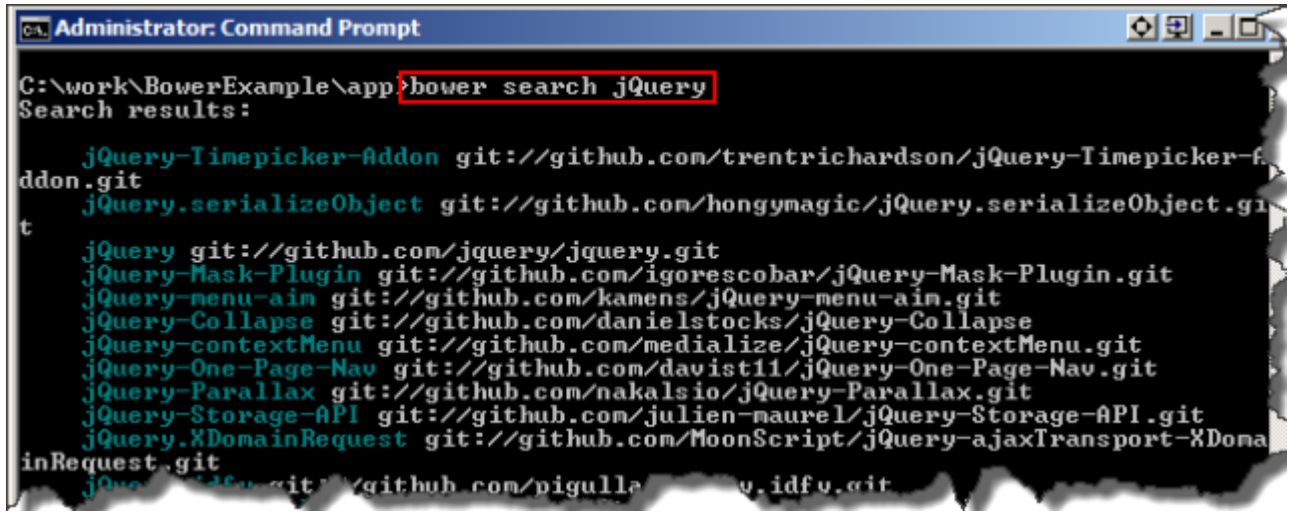
(The npm statement is case sensitive.)

5. Test Bower is Installed

Since we will want to install the dependencies in the “app” direction, go ahead and navigate to the “app” directory”



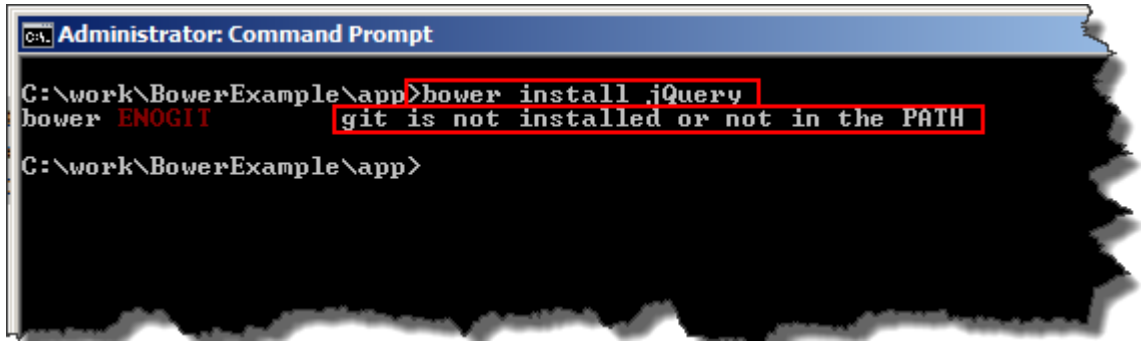
Lets do a Bower search for jQuery. Remember, it is case sensitive



There is a ton of jQuery libraries. But that’s okay.

6. Install Dependencies (jQuery & Underscore)

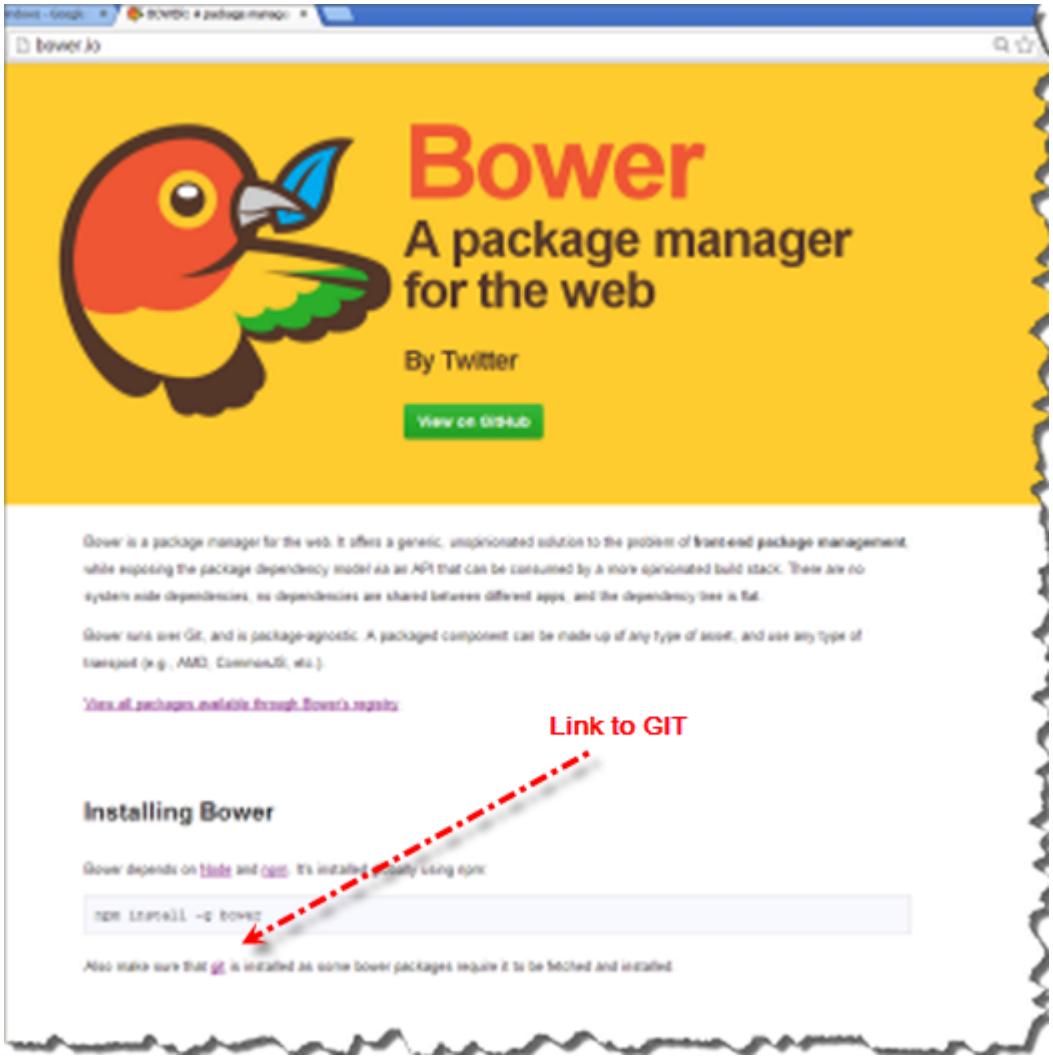
In the command window enter “bower install jQuery” and press [Enter]. Again remember case sentitivity.



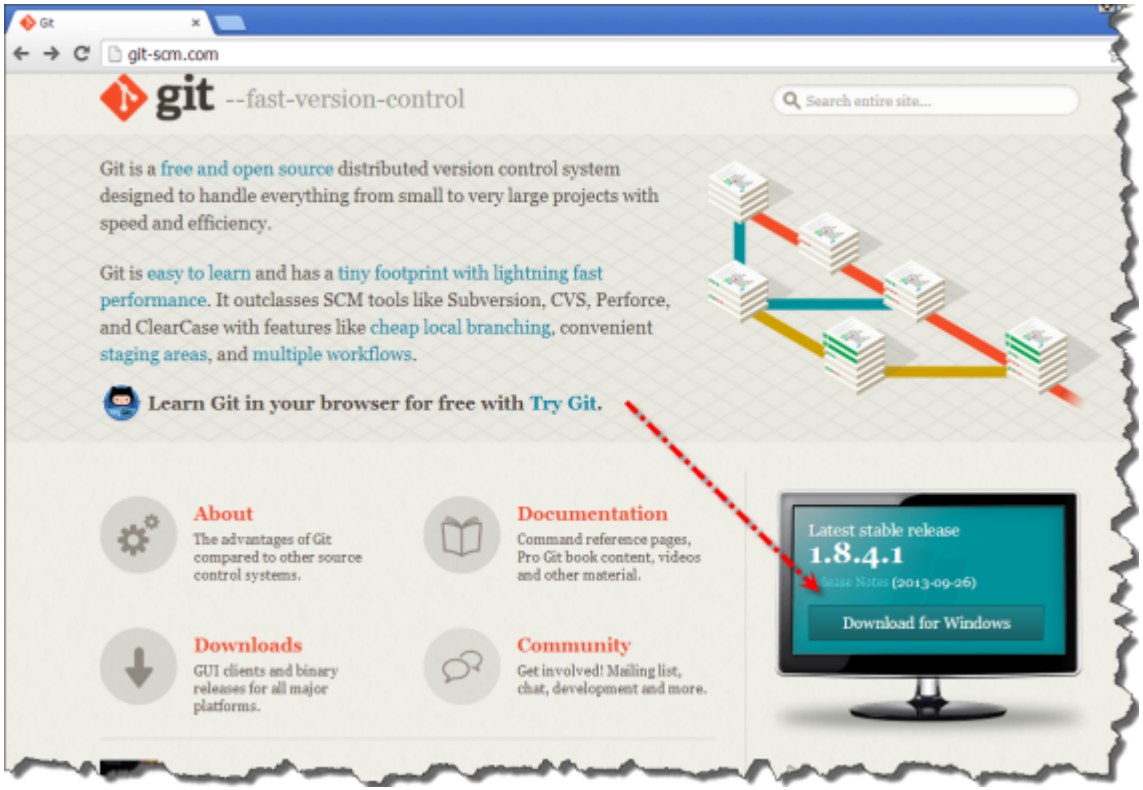
You may receive an error if you do not have GIT installed.

Install GIT

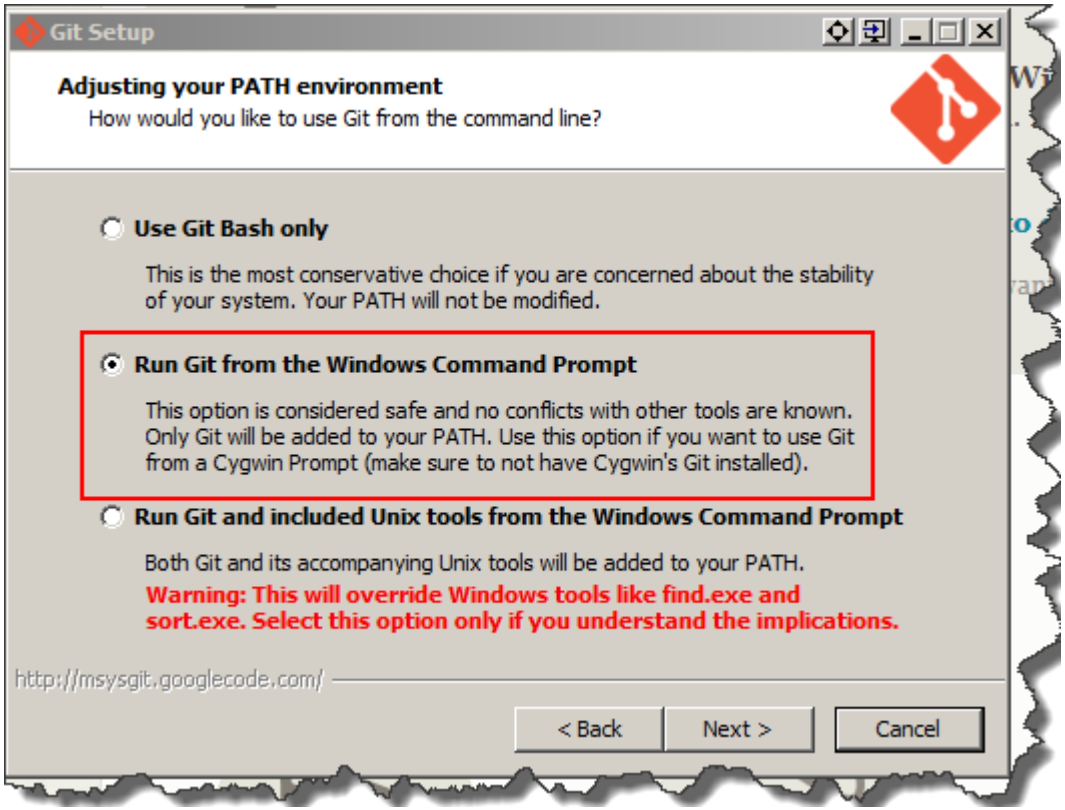
From Bower's website (bower.io) you can get to GIT's (git-scm.com) website to down GIT.



From GIT's (git-scm.com) download GIT



When I installed GIT, I used all the defaults. But a key option that needs to be select is to “Run Git from the Windows Command Prompt”. This will add the PATH variable for Git.

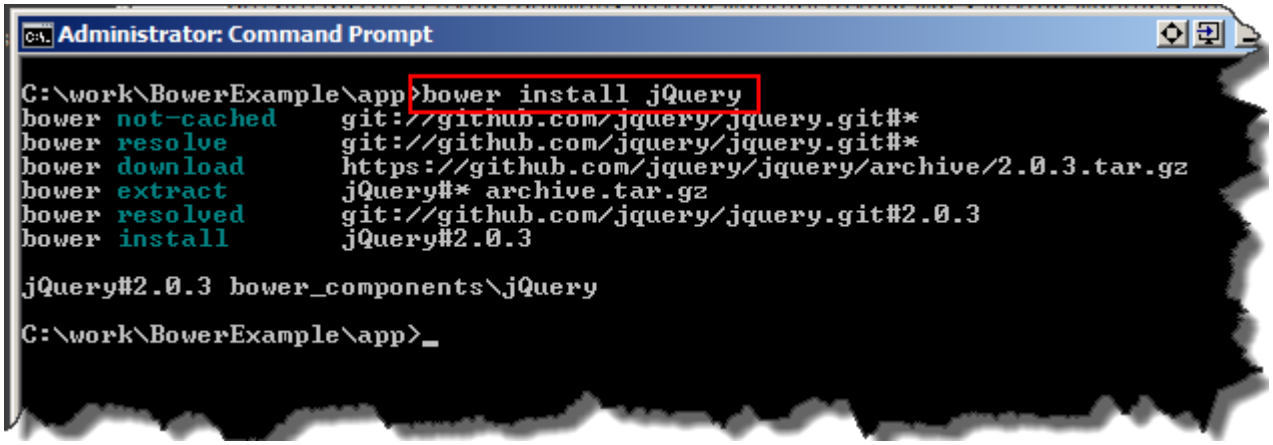


8.Install Dependencies (jQuery & Underscore) – Again

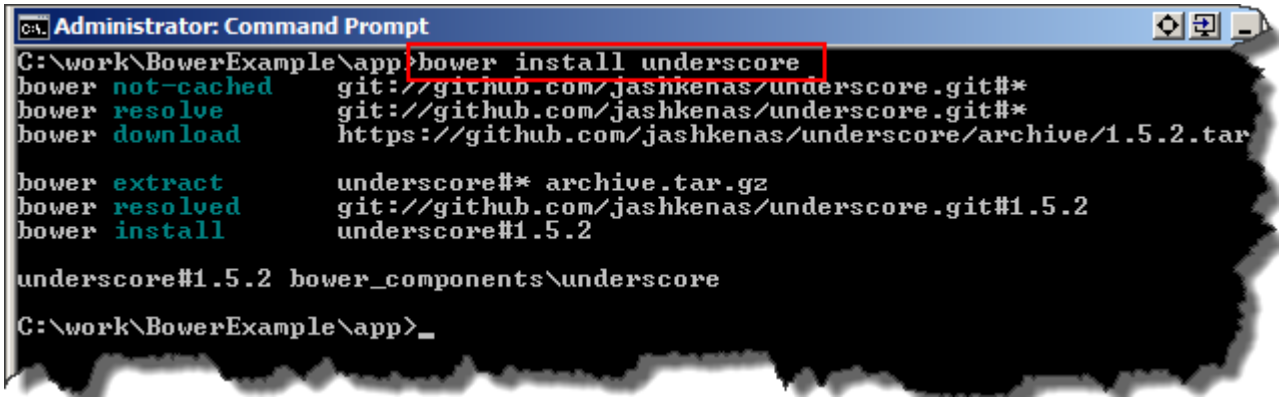
Important – Close the current Command Prompt. If you attempt to install jQUery again with the current command prompt you will get the same error.

Open a new Command Prompt and navigate to the “app” directory that we created previously.

Install jQuery using Bower. Remember, it's case sensitive.

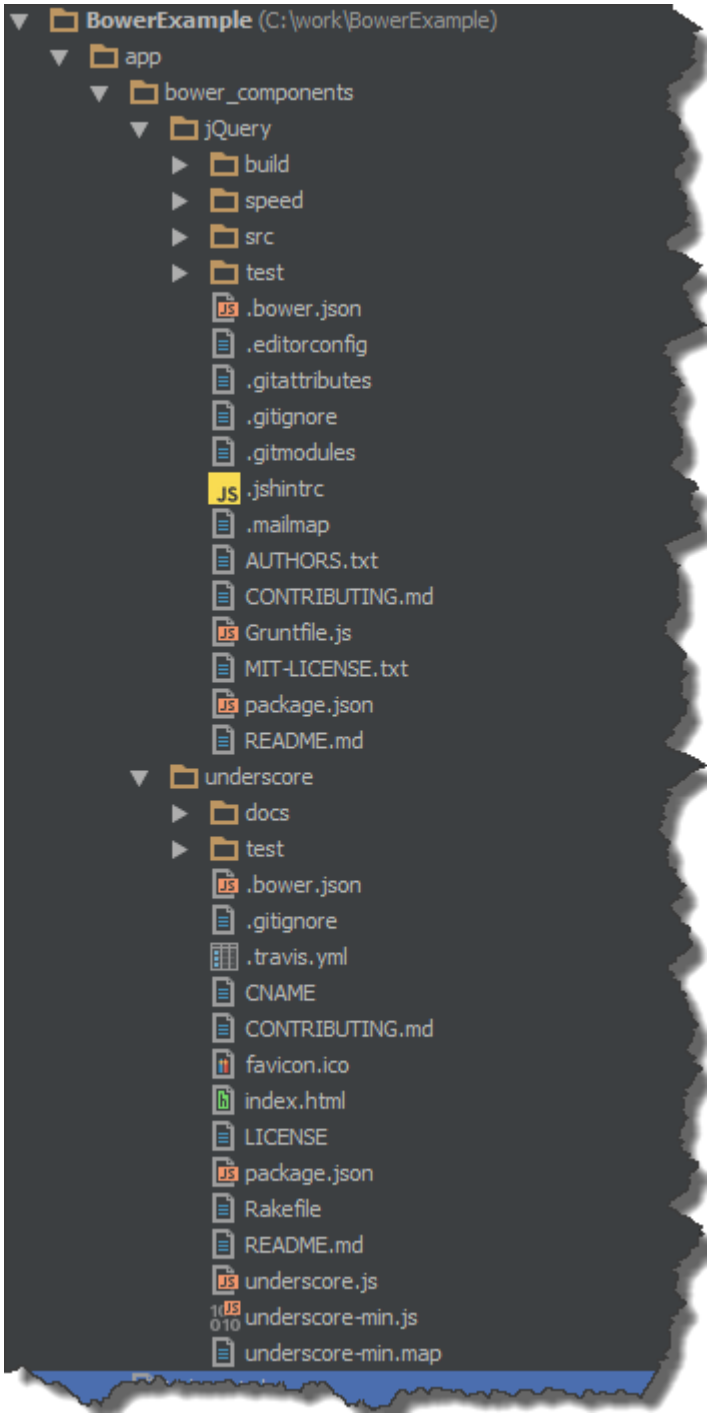


Now install Underscore



9. Confirm Dependencies

There should be a new directory create by Bower call “bower_components” this is where jQuery and Underscore should have been installed at.


BowerExample (C:\work\BowerExample)
app
bower_components
jQuery
build
speed
src
test
.bower.json
.editorconfig
.gitattributes
.gitignore
.gitmodules
.jshintrc
.mailmap
AUTHORS.txt
CONTRIBUTING.md
Gruntfile.js
MIT-LICENSE.txt
package.json
README.md
underscore
docs
test
.bower.json
.gitignore
.travis.yml
CNAME
CONTRIBUTING.md
favicon.ico
index.html
LICENSE
package.json
Rakefile
README.md
underscore.js
underscore-min.js
underscore-min.map

10. Finished

No you can go out and create your application without having to worry maintaining client side dependencies.

I hope this helped.

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20 Responses to *Kick-Start: Bower – A Simple Tutorial of Setting-Up and Using Bower.JS*

Jitendra Vyas (@jitendravyas) *says:*
November 5, 2013 at 11:00 pm

Really helpful but what is benefit of using Bower while we can just link jquery and underscore from CDN directly.

And also why in your last pic jquery and underscore folder has many other folders and files?

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Ted *says:*

December 4, 2013 at 12:35 am

Thanks very much. In step 3 the WebStorm bit comes out of the blue – you just lost everyone who does not use it, but fortunately I do. Thanks for taking the time to create this easy-to follow post.

1 0 Rate This

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Peter Gibb *says:*

December 18, 2013 at 8:21 am

I was trying to install Zurb Foundation 5 SASS version and being a newbie to Ruby and Git followed their instructions and installed both before running the Bower-based install. Their documentation mentioned nothing about the install options required so I went with the defaults (not the smartest, I know but it was a means to an end).

Your point about ensuring the checkbox to Run Git from Windows Command Prompt was a lifesaver and put me onto the right path.

Thanks for your helpful and insightful post.

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srikanth *says:*
December 23, 2013 at 8:20 am

Awesome I was searching in the web for an hour to know how to install bower. Gave me a start up thanks a lot.....
Srikanth

2 0 Rate This

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Indresh *says:*
February 13, 2014 at 11:05 pm

This is really simple and great step by step explanation. Thanks.

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Vien Hoang *says:*
March 25, 2014 at 6:17 pm

Hi,
thanks for a great tutorial to install Bower on Windows. It was hard to find a good tutorial for Windows user, this was the best one and very well explained.

Thanks again!

2 0 Rate This

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Ron *says:*

May 27, 2014 at 4:08 pm

Awesome. Iam searching hours for this tut. !! very very good, Thank you so much

1 0 Rate This

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Paul Winsette *says:*

May 31, 2014 at 12:53 am

Thanks a lot. This resolved my issues with bower installation.

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zergakyuk *says:*

June 24, 2014 at 12:39 pm

Life saver. Thank you so much

0 0 Rate This

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alfredburns *says:*
July 28, 2014 at 2:23 pm

I had a problem here with the Environmental PATH not updating on installing both Node.js and GIT. It can be solved by doing 1 of 2 things. 1. Quit and restart Windows Explorer from the Windows Task manager (end process, then new task -> 'explorer') or simply restarting your computer. A closing of the command prompt is not enough. Seem many other had the same issue.

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Pradeep *says:*
July 30, 2014 at 8:01 am

You may want to add that open cmd.exe as "Run as Administrator", so that the steps succeed. I had to redo as Administrator as the non-admin console didn't succeed.

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Jim Kopps *says:*
October 29, 2014 at 6:20 am

Terrific tutorial. Thanks for saving me much time!

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alexandrudaniela *says:*
November 8, 2014 at 8:42 am

very good tutorial for installing bower on windows! thanks you

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Yudhistira Mauris *says:*
November 9, 2014 at 6:06 am

Thank you! This tutorial has saved my time. In my first time installing bower, I got an error because I didn't set up git correctly. After reading this tutorial, I know the problem was my git setup and fixed it.

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Danny Noferi *says:*
November 20, 2014 at 3:46 am

Great! Thanks for providing this tutorial!

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J.Michael Nettik (@JMNettik) *says:*
January 3, 2015 at 10:26 am

Nice – great tutorial. I would suggest you add a hint in the Node.js install section that if Node won't run from Windows command prompt, you may need to reboot Windows and try again, because the path environment variable may not get updated until after restarting.

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Amol Ashok Khot *says:*

January 15, 2015 at 4:33 am

Thanks a lot for KickStart with Bower.IO

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noeldixon *says:*

February 24, 2015 at 6:32 pm

The first dot points, I said to myself, hey that's me! Kudos, just trying out the tutorial now, cheers.

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mnjthamby *says:*

March 6, 2015 at 4:13 am

Thank you, it helps a lot

o o Rate This

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Danny *says:*

April 7, 2015 at 12:05 pm

It was really a great tutorial

o o Rate This

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