

US150: compare the needs of running node.js locally for the React app to the current plan of hosting on AWS and the coding differences between the two.

Points to consider:

1. Accessing a hosted site is not possible without an internet connection. However, building a React app sometimes requires an internet connection for Node/npm. Therefore, the difference between the two in accessibility is not significantly different in this area.
2. AWS hosting is not free in the long-term and can ramp up significantly based on the needs of the app's backend (processing, file storage, etc.).
  - a. While a hosted instance is not expected to have significant costs, a compromised AWS machine can cause significant losses; for the end-user to turn an AWS instance on/off based upon access to avoid security risks adds undesired complexity to using the app.
  - b. Our sponsor has repeatedly stressed that we should avoid spending money on the project; if we do not need this functionality for the final version, we should not deliver it in this format to remain in line with the budget both for ourselves and for her.
3. Running a React application locally is completely possible so long as the relevant libraries are installed.
  - a. It is possible that the sponsor does not want the final version to be extremely large size-wise on her machine, meaning we will have to determine the best deployment possible.
  - b. The sponsor will have to use our React code to build the application locally to host it for herself; we will have to provide effective instructions for this scenario
4. Using node locally means that providing local scripts for modification/configuration is far easier than having the user run such modifications on a build hosted within an AWS machine. If the sponsor ever needs to adjust things herself, a local build is easier to access and modify.