

How to install Node.js and npm on CentOS 7

 linuxize.com/post/how-to-install-node-js-on-centos-7

May 8,
2018

Node.js is a cross-platform JavaScript run-time environment that allows server-side execution of JavaScript code. Node.js is mainly used on the back-end, but it is also popular as a full-stack and front-end solution.

npm, short for Node Package Manager is the default package manager for Node.js and the world's largest software repository for the publishing of open-source Node.js packages.

This tutorial walks you through the steps to install Node.js and npm on a CentOS 7 machine. We will show you two different ways of installing Node.js and npm.

In the first part of this tutorial we will install Node.js and npm using the yum package manager from the NodeSource repository. In the second part, we will teach you how to install Node.js and npm using the `nvm` script.

If you need Node.js only for deploying Node.js applications then the simplest option is to install the Node.js packages using from the NodeSource repository.

Prerequisites

Before continuing with this tutorial, make sure you are logged in as a user with sudo privileges.

Installing Node.js and npm on CentOS 7

NodeSource is a company dedicated to providing enterprise-grade Node support and they maintain a consistently-updated Node.js repository for Linux distributions.

To install Node.js and npm from the NodeSource repositories on your CentOS 7 system, follow these steps:

The current LTS version of Node.js is version 10.x. If you want to install version 8 just change `setup_10.x` with `setup_8.x` in the command below.

Run the following curl command to add the NodeSource yum repository to your system:

```
curl -sL https://rpm.nodesource.com/setup_10.x | sudo bash -
```

Copy

2. Install Node.js and npm

Once the NodeSource repository is enabled, install Node.js and npm by typing:

When prompted to import the repository GPG key, type `y` , and press `Enter` .

3. Verify the Node.js and npm Installation

To check that the installation was successful, run the following commands which will print the Node.js and npm versions.

```
node --version
```

Copy

```
v10.13.0
```

Copy

```
npm --version
```

Copy

```
6.4.1
```

Copy

How to install Node.js and npm using NVM

NVM (Node Version Manager) is a bash script used to manage multiple active Node.js versions. NVM allows us to install and uninstall any specific Node.js version which means we can have any number of Node.js versions we want to use or test.

To install Node.js and npm using NVM on your CentOS system, follow these steps:

1. Install NVM (Node Version Manager)

To download the `nvm` install script run the following command:

```
curl -o- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/creationix/nvm/v0.33.11/install.sh | bash
```

Copy

The script will clone the nvm repository from Github to `~/.nvm` and add the script Path to your Bash or ZSH profile.

=> Close and reopen your terminal to start using nvm or run the following to use it now:

```
export NVM_DIR="$HOME/.nvm"
```

```
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/nvm.sh" # This loads nvm
```

```
[ -s "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion" ] && \. "$NVM_DIR/bash_completion" # This loads nvm bash_completion
```

Copy

As the output above shows, you should either close and reopen your terminal or run the commands to add the path to `nvm` script to your current session.

To verify that nvm was properly installed type:

```
nvm --version
```

Copy

```
0.33.11
```

Copy

2. Install Node.js using NVM

Now that the `nvm` tool is installed we can install the latest available version of Node.js, by typing:

```
nvm install node
```

Copy

```
Downloading and installing node v11.0.0...
```

```
Downloading https://nodejs.org/dist/v11.0.0/node-v11.0.0-linux-x64.tar.xz...
```

```
#####
```

```
100.0%
```

```
Computing checksum with sha256sum
```

```
Checksums matched!
```

```
Now using node v11.0.0 (npm v6.4.1)
```

```
Creating default alias: default -> node (-> v11.0.0)
```

Copy

Verify the Node.js version, by typing:

```
node --version
```

Copy

```
v10.1.0
```

Copy

3. Install multiple Node.js versions using NVM

Let's install two more versions, the latest LTS version and version 8.12.0

```
nvm install --lts nvm install 8.12.0
```

Copy

Once LTS version and 8.12.0 are installed to list all installed Node.js instances type:

```
nvm ls
```

Copy

```
->   v8.12.0           # ACTIVE VERSION
    v10.13.0
    v11.0.0
default -> node (-> v11.0.0)      # DEFAULT VERSION
node -> stable (-> v11.0.0) (default)
stable -> 11.0 (-> v11.0.0) (default)
iojs -> N/A (default)
lts/* -> lts/dubnium (-> v10.13.0)
lts/argon -> v4.9.1 (-> N/A)
lts/boron -> v6.14.4 (-> N/A)
lts/carbon -> v8.12.0
lts/dubnium -> v10.13.0
```

Copy

The output tell us that the entry with an arrow on the left (-> v8.12.0), is the version used in the current shell session and the default version is set to v11.0.0. Default version is the version that will be active when opening new shells.

To change the currently active version you can use the following command:

```
nvm use 10.13.0
```

Copy

The output will look like something this:

```
Now using node v10.13.0 (npm v6.4.1)
```

Copy

To change the default Node.js version type:

```
nvm alias default 10.13.0
```

Copy

```
default -> 10.13.0 (-> v10.13.0)
```

Copy

Install development tools

To be able to build native modules from npm we will need to install the development tools and libraries:

Conclusion

We have shown you two different ways to install Node.js and npm on your CentOS 7 server. The method you choose depends on your requirements and preferences. While installing the packaged version from the NodeSource repository is easier, the nvm method gives you more flexibility for adding and removing different Node.js versions on a per-user basis.

You can also check this tutorial about [How to install and use yarn on CentOS 7](#).

If you have any questions or feedback, feel free to comment below.