

## Can pm2 run an 'npm start' script

Is there a way for pm2 to run an npm start script or do you just have to run `pm2 start app.js`

So in development

```
npm start
```

Then in production with pm2 you would run something like

```
pm2 start 'npm start'
```

There is an equivalent way to do this in forever

```
forever start -c "npm start" ./
```

[node.js](#) [npm](#) [pm2](#)

asked Jul 23 '15 at 6:18



[Steven Iseki](#)

6,322 8 48 78

## 7 Answers

PM2 now supports npm start:

```
pm2 start npm -- start
```

answered Jun 12 '16 at 14:23



[Dhaval Chauhan](#)

1,278 9 14

4 Lifesaver. Can confirm this works first go. :) – [azariah](#) Jun 22 '16 at 6:23

1 How can you set a name for the process when using this command? I tried using `--name "app"` but it just set it to npm. – [silverlight513](#) Jul 29 '16 at 8:41

33 pm2 start npm --name "Your APP Name" -- start – [Laukik Patel](#) Aug 4 '16 at 7:07

6 Anyone know how to set `npm start` in the process file? – [mqchen](#) Jan 11 '17 at 14:18

1 @mqchen check my [answer](#) below. – [Jyotman Singh](#) Apr 4 '17 at 5:53

Those who are using a configuration script like a `.json` file to run the pm2 process can use `npm start` or any other script like this -

**my-app-pm2.json**

```
{
  "apps": [
    {
      "name": "my-app",
      "script": "npm",
      "args": "start"
    }
  ]
}
```

Then simply -

```
pm2 start my-app-pm2.json
```

**Edit** - To handle the use case when you have this configuration script in a parent directory and want to launch an app in the sub-directory then use the `cwd` attribute.

Assuming our app is in the sub-directory `nested-app` relative to this configuration file then -

```
{
  "apps": [
    {
      "name": "my-nested-app",
      "cwd": "../nested-app",
      "script": "npm",
      "args": "start"
    }
  ]
}
```

```
    ]
  }
```

More detail [here](#).

edited Apr 4 '17 at 14:33

answered Mar 6 '17 at 7:06



[Jyotman Singh](#)

3,922 3 17 40

1 how does this work if I want to run the start npm script from a parent folder? – [Gianfranco P.](#) Apr 3 '17 at 23:34

1 Could you elaborate a bit more? I assume you're asking *How to run npm start from outside the project directory?* . – [Jyotman Singh](#) Apr 4 '17 at 5:56

I'm using the configuration script to run multiple node apps that are in sub-folders. The package.json with the start script information is in one of them. See this gist: [gist.github.com/gianpaj/04c5680a8275616aac5e46374e07f673](https://gist.github.com/gianpaj/04c5680a8275616aac5e46374e07f673) When I run this it doesn't know where npm should run from. Thx – [Gianfranco P.](#) Apr 4 '17 at 13:47

1 @GianfrancoP. You can use the cwd attribute. Check my edited answer :) – [Jyotman Singh](#) Apr 4 '17 at 14:34

I tried to use sudo npm and it shows access error to create a directory tough I have given all the permission to user as root and also running pm2 command as sudo pm2 start config.json – [atjoshi](#) Oct 30 '17 at 10:51

I wrote shell script below (named start.sh). Because my package.json has prestart option. So I want to run npm start.

```
#!/bin/bash
cd /path/to/project
npm start
```

Then, start start.sh by pm2.

```
pm2 start start.sh --name appNameYouLike
```

answered Sep 1 '15 at 0:17



[peccu](#)

321 2 7

That's nice. Unfortunately this doesn't work when using the startOrRestart command. – [xpepermint](#) Sep 26 '15 at 12:53

Yes. Use pm2 start npm --no-automation --name {app name} -- run {script name}. It works. The --no-automation flag is there [because without it PM2 will not restart your app when it crashes](#).

answered Mar 3 '16 at 5:43



[jcollum](#)

17.9k 34 127 224

1 Do you have any idea how to use this flag inside of the ecosystem.js configuration file? – [Tom](#) Mar 9 '16 at 10:11

1 UPDATE: Okay I found it you need to specify "automation": false. – [Tom](#) Mar 9 '16 at 10:42

error: unknown option '--no-automation' – [twigg](#) Mar 17 '16 at 9:11

@twigg pm2 --help | grep 'no-autom' returns one line for me in version 1.0.2 – [jcollum](#) Mar 17 '16 at 15:06

See to enable clustering:

```
pm2 start npm --name "AppName" -i 0 -- run start
```

What do you think?

answered Jun 30 '16 at 16:27



[jdnichollsc](#)

543 10 16

what does the -i 0 do? – [Johhan Santana](#) Jun 2 '17 at 3:50

1 Start maximum processes depending on available CPUs (cluster mode) – [jdnichollsc](#) Jun 2 '17 at 5:47

Unfortunately, it seems that pm2 doesn't support the exact functionality you requested  
<https://github.com/Unitech/PM2/issues/1317>.

The alternative proposed is to use a `ecosystem.json` file [Getting started with deployment](#) which could include setups for production and dev environments. However, this is still using `npm start` to bootstrap your app.

answered Jul 23 '15 at 7:17



snozza

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What do you mean by that? However, this is still using `npm start` to bootstrap your app.  
Can you actually run `npm start` using `pm2`? – [xpepermint](#) Sep 26 '15 at 12:48

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Now, You can use after:

```
pm2 start npm -- start
```

Follow by <https://github.com/Unitech/pm2/issues/1317#issuecomment-220955319>

answered Mar 25 '17 at 14:48



Minh Dao

1 1

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Can you expand your answer? Advice from [How to answer](#): Links to external resources are encouraged, but please add context around the link so your fellow users will have some idea what it is and why it's there. Always quote the most relevant part of an important link, in case the target site is unreachable or goes permanently offline. – [moodboom](#) Mar 25 '17 at 18:55

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