

External package and Package.json

Node JS Tutorial in Hindi #8 External Packages & package.json Explained



What is an External Package?

An external package is a package we install from a third party (someone else wrote it).

We use it to add **extra functionality** to our project without writing everything ourselves.

Example:

nodemon — a package that automatically restarts the server when code changes.

Without this, we would have to stop and start the server manually after every change.

How to Install an External Package

Example: Install the `colors` package from <https://www.npmjs.com/package/colors>

Open the terminal and run:

```
npm install colors
```

or

```
npm i colors
```

Example of Using an External Package

```
const colors = require("colors");

console.log(colors.red("Hi, this is Anil Sidhu"));
console.log(colors.green("Hi, this is Anil Sidhu"));
console.log(colors.yellow("Hi, this is Anil Sidhu"));
```

To run this code, type in the terminal:

```
node colors.js
```

What is package.json?

package.json is a file that contains details about your project, such as:

Project name

Project version

External packages used (dependencies)

Project description

Author

License

What is package-lock.json?

package-lock.json is a file that contains detailed information about the exact versions of every installed package **and its dependencies** (internal packages).

It ensures that everyone working on the project installs **the same package versions**.

What is node_modules?

node_modules is a folder where all installed external packages are stored.

How to Create a package.json File

Run this command in the terminal:

```
npm init
```

You will be asked to fill in some details:

```
package name: node-2025
version: (1.0.0)
description: node js tutorial in hindi 2025
entry point: (index.js)
git repository:
keywords:
author: Anil Sidhu
license: (ISC)
```

Important Notes

External packages are stored inside the `node_modules` folder.

You should not push `node_modules` to GitHub — because it is a very large folder.

Other developers can easily install the required packages by running:

```
npm install
```

This will read `package.json` and `package-lock.json` and install everything needed.

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