Steps

Once you identify your project name and have your schema in place, follow the followings steps to get up and running with your project.

Step 1

Go to github.com and create a new repository.

- The name of the repository should be the name of your project.
- add a description if you want
- add a README
- add a .gitignore but choose **node**

For me, my project name is **bintaface**

Once, you create the repository clone it to your local computer.

Next, open the project with VS Code

Step 2

Once you open the project, if all is good, you should see the following two files

- .gitignore
- README.md

Nice progress, let's move on.

Within VS Code go to Terminal on the menu on top and click on New Terminal

Within the terminal type the following to initialise the project

```
1  npm init -y
```

Note: this will automatically create a package.json file

Step 3

Now lets install the packages we need to for our API. Here's is a list of packages we need for now

- express
- mongoose
- nodemon

```
1  npm install express mongoose
```

and we install nodemon as dev dependency

```
1  npm install --save-dev nodemon
```

Note: You need to be connected to the internet for this work

You also need to make sure you have installed mongoDB locally in your system.

Step 4

Project struture,

Within the root of the project, create a folder called **src**
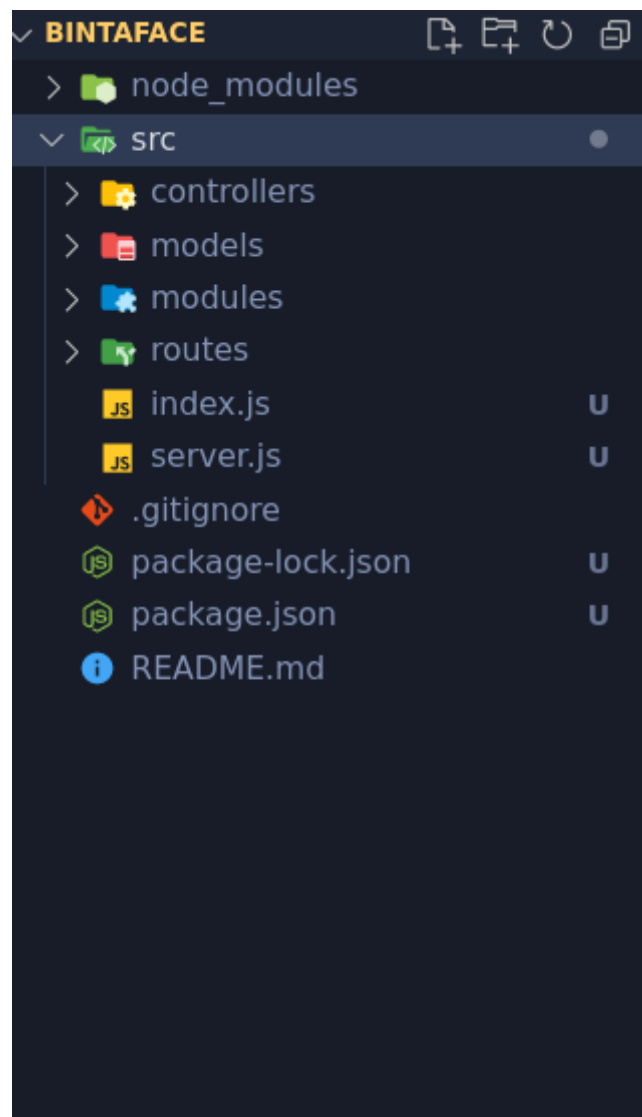
Inside the /src folder create the following folders:

- routes
- controllers
- models
- modules or utilities (the same idea, stick to one)

Inside the /src folder create the following files:

- index.js
- server.js

Here's is an example of how you project should look like for now.

Step 5

The initial server code for our express API

Within the **server.js** do the following code

```
1  const express = require('express');
2  const app = express();
3
4
5
6  app.use(express.json());
7  app.use(express.urlencoded({ extended: true }));
8
9
10 app.get('/', (req, res) => {
11   res.status(200).json({ message: 'Peace' });
12 });
13
14
15 module.exports = app;
```

And within the **index.js** do the following code

```
1  const app = require('./server');
2
3  const PORT = 3001;
4
5  app.listen(PORT, () => {
6      console.log(`Rest API listening on port ${PORT}`);
7  });
```

So alot is happening here with few lines of code, thanks to the power of express.

Everything will be explain soon

Let's update our **package.json** to include the following start script in the "scripts" section:

The script section looks like this

```
1  "scripts": {
2      "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
3  },
```

Now change it to this

```
1  "scripts": {
2      "start": "node src/index.js",
3      "dev": "nodemon src/index.js"
4  },
```

We can check to see if things are working as expected by running our newly created start script.

Within the terminal in VS Code, run the following command

```
1  npm run dev
```

You should see nodemon doing its thing and

a message saying Rest API listening on port 3001

In your browser, if you go to the address, http://localhost:3001/ you should see

```
1  {
2      "message": "Peace"
3  }
```

Congrats, you have build a simple API.

Step 6