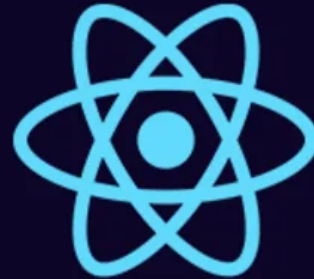


How to deploy React JS application



crishanks

Posted on Aug 9, 2019

Deploy / Host your React App with cPanel in Under 5 Minutes

#react #javascript #cpanel #hosting

Diving Right In

While working on a personal project called [Punchstarter](#), a Kickstarter clone app, I struggled to find any good documentation on how to host a custom app on my own domain with cPanel. I hope this will serve useful to many.

1. Purchase a Domain and Hosting

To host a website, you'll need to purchase a registered domain name and a hosting plan from a hosting provider (both provided through numerous sources like [Namecheap](#) or [Godaddy](#)). If you buy them together, these providers will typically point the domain to your hosting server automatically. If not, [this tutorial](#) can help you out.

2. Add the Homepage to your package.json File

Next, open up your React App. Open up your `package.json` file and add a "homepage" attribute like so:

```

{} package.json > ...
1  {
2    "name": "punch-starter",
3    "homepage": "http://punchstart.me",
4    "version": "0.1.0",
5    "private": true,
6    "dependencies": {
7      "@fortawesome/fontawesome-svg-core": "^1.2.19",
8      "@fortawesome/free-regular-svg-icons": "^5.9.0",
9      "@fortawesome/free-solid-svg-icons": "^5.9.0",
10     "@fortawesome/react-fontawesome": "^0.1.4",
11     "react": "^16.8.6",
12     "react-dom": "^16.8.6",
13     "react-fontawesome": "^1.6.1",
14     "react-redux": "^7.1.0",
15     "react-router-dom": "^5.0.1",
16     "react-scripts": "3.0.1",
17     "redux": "^4.0.2",
18     "sass": "^1.22.3"
19   },
20   "scripts": {
21     "start": "react-scripts start",
22     "build": "react-scripts build",
23     "test": "react-scripts test",
24     "eject": "react-scripts eject"
25   },

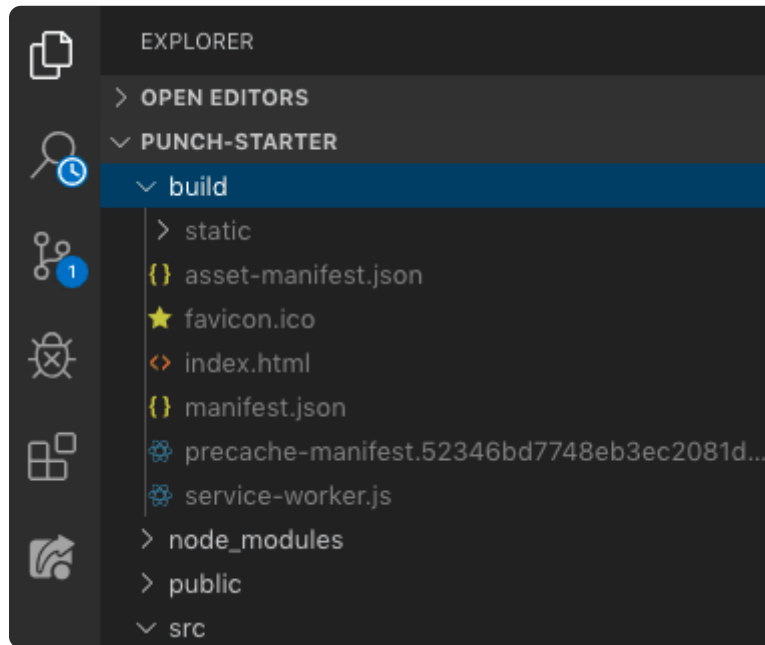
```

The format should be "homepage": "http://yourdomainname.whatever"

3. Create the build File

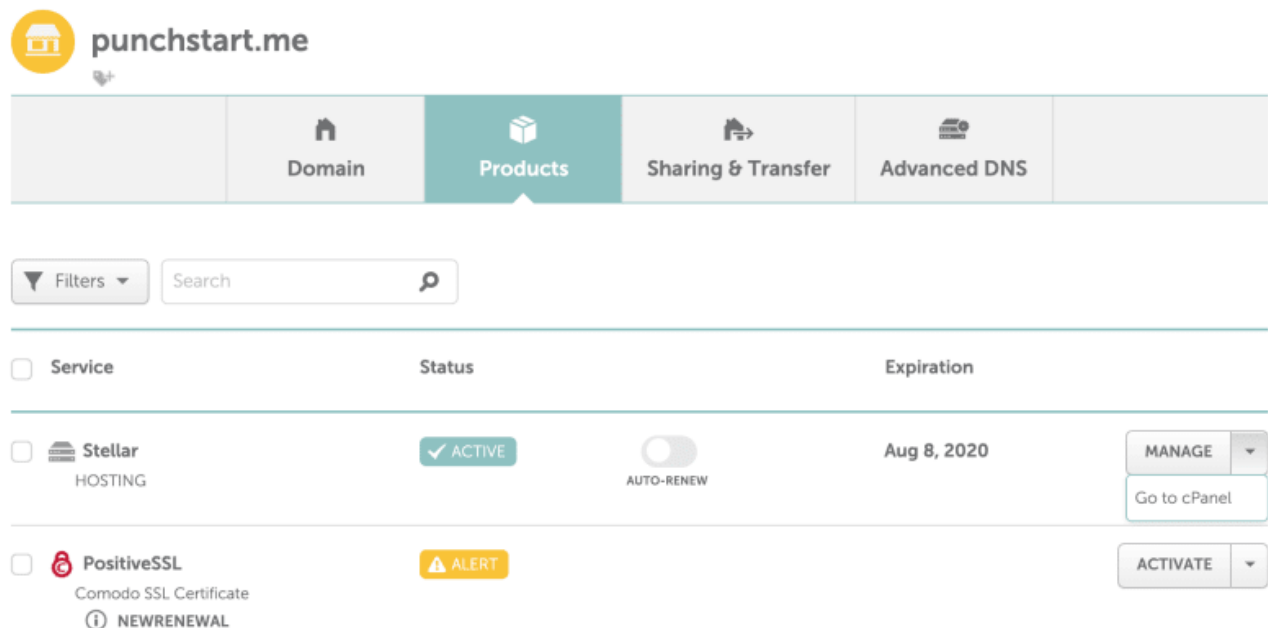
In your application's root directory, run `yarn install` to install the updated dependencies. Once this has finished, the next command you'll run is `yarn build` (`npm install` and `npm build` work, too).

You'll notice this creates a new directory in your project called `build`. The build folder is essentially a super-compressed version of your program that has everything your browser needs to identify and run your app.

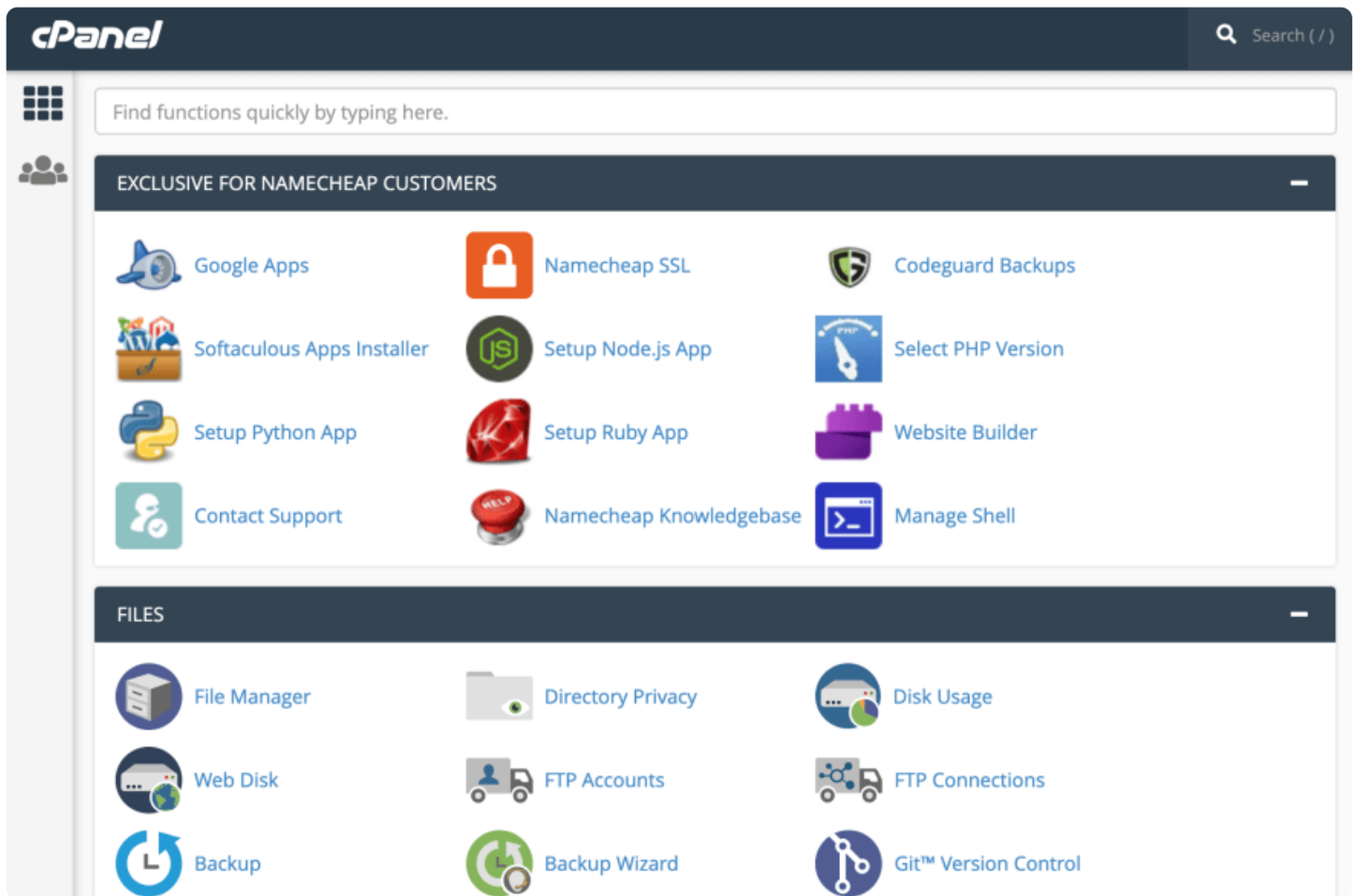


4. Connect to cPanel

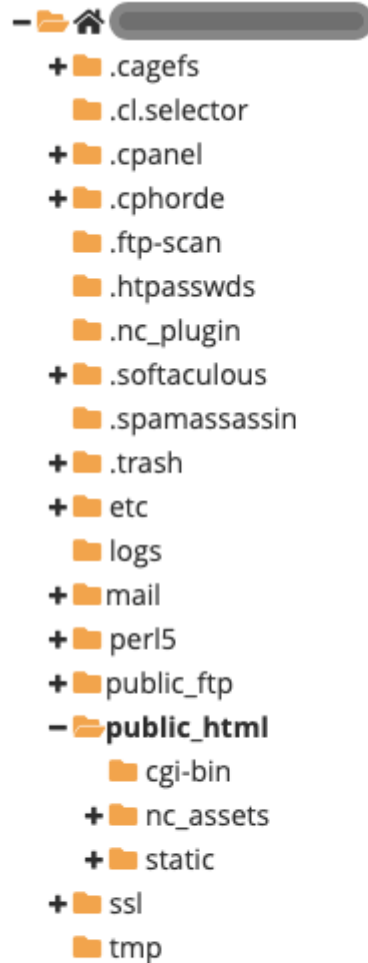
Let's head over to your hosting provider (Namecheap, Godaddy, Bluehost etc.). Once you've logged in, navigate to the cPanel manager for your domain. Typically there is a dropdown menu of some kind that says "Manage" which will direct you to cPanel.



Your cPanel manager should look something like this:

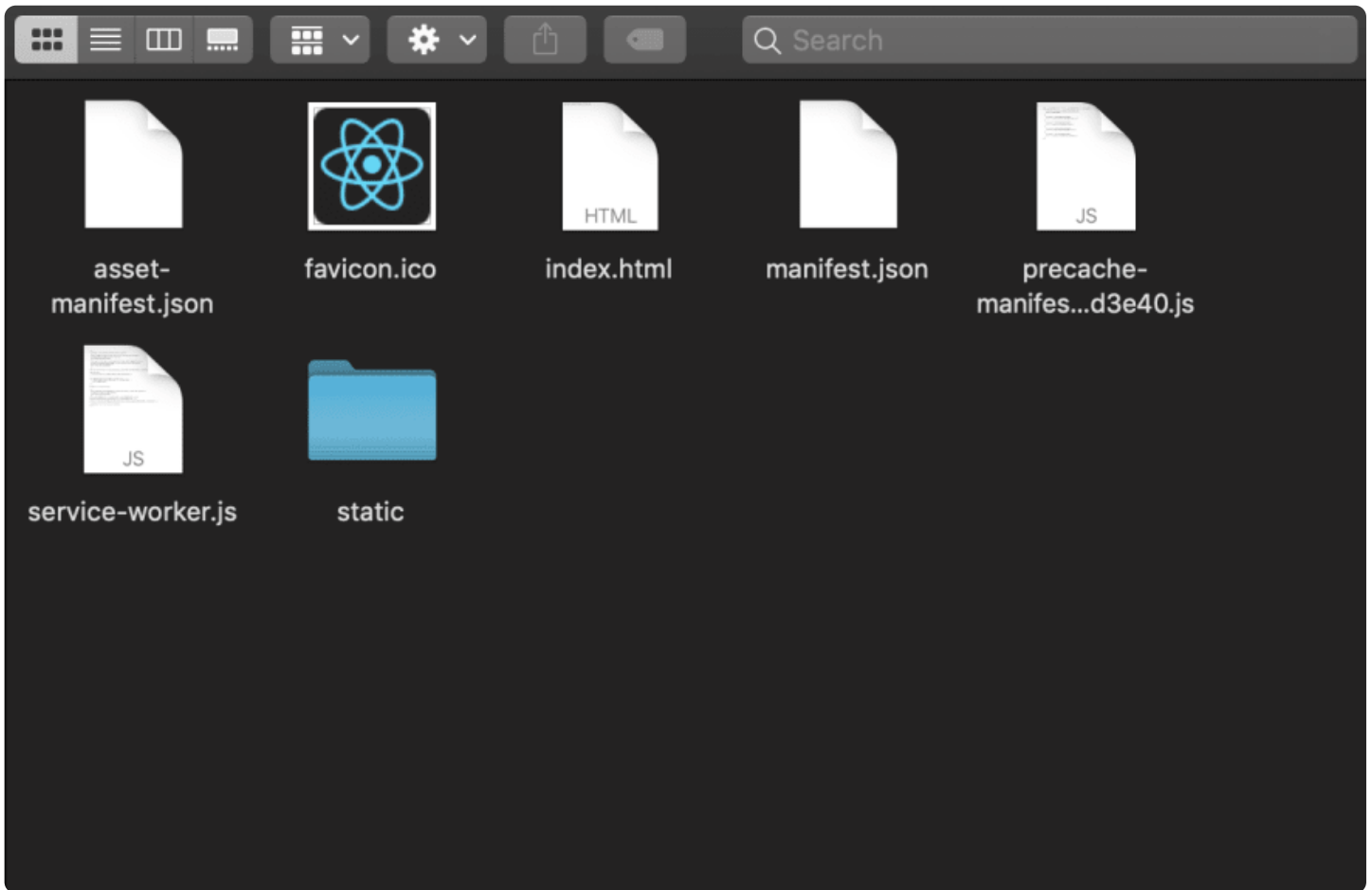


Navigate into the File Manager. There you'll find a dropdown list of directories. The one we're interested in is `public_html`. Open that up.



5. Add the Build File Contents to public_html

Navigate to the `build` file in your app's root directory. Open it up and select all the contents **inside the build file**. *If you upload the entire build file itself, the process will not work.*



Once you've copied all the contents *inside the build file*, upload them into `public_html`.

6. Create and Upload the `.htaccess` File

In order for the routes to work in your React app, you need to add a `.htaccess` file. In the `public_html` folder, at the same level as the `build` file contents, add a new file and name it `.htaccess`.

Edit the file and insert the following boilerplate information:

```
<IfModule mod_rewrite.c>

RewriteEngine On
RewriteBase /
RewriteRule ^index\.html$ - [L]
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-f
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-l
RewriteRule . /index.html [L]
```

</IfModule>

[Keyboard shortcuts](#)



```
1 |IfModule mod_rewrite.c>
2
3 RewriteEngine On
4 RewriteBase /
5 RewriteRule ^index\.html$ - [L]
6 RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-f
7 RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d
8 RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-l
9 RewriteRule . /index.html [L]
10
11 </IfModule>
```

Save the file.

You're Super Done.

That's it! Navigate to your domain address in the browser and you should see your fully functioning web app.

A Note on FileZilla

I know a lot of folks like to use FileZilla to deploy and host their custom web apps. I found it to be unnecessary for my purposes, but should you choose, you can:

1. Download and run [FileZilla](#)
2. [Grab your domain's ip address](#) -- or ask your hosting provider
3. Input the domain ip, cPanel login, cPanel username, and host port (i.e. 21. Your hosting provider should provide that info for you) into the top bar
4. Click QuickConnect
5. Once connected, navigate to, select, and copy the contents inside the `build` file (in the left-side pane showing your computer's directories)
6. Navigate to the `public_html` directory in the cPanel pane on the right-hand side. Paste the contents of the `build` file into `public_html`
7. Create the `.htaccess` file with the same information listed above

Discussion (74)



Yoann Buzenet · Dec 17 '19 · Edited on Dec 17



Hello, thank you for your article. I was stuck all day long and it helped me. However, there are few things I would like to add, if I may, to complete the information :

- You don't need Node on your remote server, you just need it when you build the React App (`npm run build your-app`)
- You can run npm on your local computer (you must have Node to compile) and just send the "build" folder to your server
- FTP is a way to upload, but you can also use SSH with the `scp` command

For the rest, everything is exact. Thanks again !



yudazvi · Dec 31 '19



can you explain more about "You don't need Node on your remote server"?
can i build an app with mySql + node + react - run build, and deploy the app on c-panel, or the c-panel deploy only react apps with static data, not apps that use database?

and i`m not talking about a vps hosting, but a regular shared hosting.



Waseem Aslam · Oct 13 '20



What he answered and you had asked are not the same.

He just pointed out that in a React App, we need to compile the files using node to

generate build files inorder to work in production.

Generally in VPS or private cloud the build process is took place in server where we explicitly have node installed. He intends to tell that you can build your React App in your local machine and just copy the build files to the production.

Hope I cleared your first doubt.



Aluku Godrick • Apr 12 '21



Everything is working well except the nested route like hahahah/products/2836276 is not receiving response from backend. Am fetching data from SQL database using PHP as backend. But it's working in localhost. All the other routes like hahahah/products are able to fetch data though. Please help



Adam Norton • Jun 12 '20



Not sure if you know this or not, but when people contact GoDaddy for help with deploying a React app to their system... they refer us to this article... and they have no information other than that... so thanks for writing this!



crishanks 🌟 • Apr 9 '21



I didn't know that! That's good to know :)



Norman C. Pleitez • Oct 25 '19



Hey, thanks for this post, though I would like to know how to deploy having NodeJS server. I need to deploy in cpanel because I have already a Dedicated Server for all my clients, the most of them use WordPress and I'm trying to switch, but while that happen I don't want another expense.

This tutorial is good, but it really doesn't explain how to do it using Node. I have Node Running already, but I don't know the exact path and setting to upload the build and connect it with node in another folder in the same account.

I'm really new on this, maybe it's easy for you but I've tried everything, even read the documentation for deploy but still don't understand.



crishanks 🌟 • Dec 15 '19



Hi there, I know cPanel has an option to deploy Node, however I haven't looked into this just yet. I'll be sure to tag you when I look into it!



alfanzain • Feb 16 '20



Have you looked into that?



Irving Suárez • Apr 12 '20



Irving Suárez • Nov 4 '19



Brooooo, can you explain me how would you deploy Node.JS in C-Panel?



Merthod • Jul 21 '21



It depends from hosting to hosting.



Adam L • Nov 11 '19



I've asked some experienced developers how to do this and they weren't sure. Having my project run on my own site using cpanel is much more fulfilling than just sending it heroku, in my opinion, and the end product feels more authentic. Thanks for keeping it so concise also!



crishanks 🌟 • Dec 15 '19



Really glad this could help!



David Silberman • Oct 20 '20



This was a fantastic tutorial. It worked perfect, except for one caveat. In step 3. Create the build File, the command "npm build" didn't work. I got the following:

npm build called with no arguments. Did you mean to npm run-script build?
So I changed it to "npm run build" and it worked fine!

I also used Filezilla to transfer the contents of the build folder into a sub-folder of my public_html directory, because I have a number of sub-domain folders in my public_html directory. Once I refreshed my browser, the domain showed up perfectly with my React application all intact!



ritviksharma3 • Jan 12 '21



try "npm run build"



Melissa Longenberger • Apr 24 '20



This worked wonderfully. Thank you. I do have a question though. If I make updates to the app on my localhost....do I need to run npm install and build again or can I just re upload the contents of the build folder



Waseem Aslam • Oct 13 '20



You need to build it again to generate build files for the updated content!



Yavor • Oct 26 '20 • Edited on Oct 26



But build folder of react application is very small . Does it contain all my sources and required JS libraries ? I copied all this content to my hosting public_html folder . Created .htaccess file . But when open my site in browser it show empty screen and error in console -
2.b5ad5a0d.chunk.js:1 Uncaught SyntaxError: Unexpected token '<' " insidgenerated JS file in build files.
But all application run perfect in development mode .



Alex Mojnov • Jan 27 '20



Hey there, thank you very much for your article, I was following the steps you described on how to deploy React App on to the shared hosting I have with a2 Hosting, however the app is working but only the static content whatever is dynamic is not rendering throwing an error this.state.data.map is not a function. App is working flawlessly on heroku as well

as on my local machine. But as soon as I put it on a2Hosting - it crashes. If I stop dynamic content and replace it with static it works fine. I opened several tickets with them but didn't get any logical answer on why this isn't working. They were giving me advances to put data into array (it is already an array) so I have no clue why this isn't working. May be you have a solution before I get rid of a2 hosting and move somewhere else? Thank you in advance



Agustin Mouratoglou • Mar 21 '21



where does your app fetch the data from?



Aidan McBride • Feb 7 '21



Great article, I found it super helpful.

I was wondering however, is there any way for cPanel to hide environment variables while hosting only a React site?

I have a React app I would like to be deployed, but I have environment variables that will be visible in my build, and this visible on the browser for anyone to access.



Chukwuemeka Ifeora • May 13 '21



Please how did you added the environment variables?



MANAS YADAV • Mar 19 '21



Did you find a way to implement this?



Aidan McBride • Mar 25 '21



Not strictly with React, I'm going to try to create a Node Express backend and hide the API keys there



Sammy Samkough • Feb 21 '20



Thank you so much for this helpful post! I was able to get it up and running thanks to you.

Although I was wondering, are there any ideas as to how to automate this process? To

manually have to get the build files every time seems like a pain. I assume there must be a way with GitHub actions/web hooks.



abelardoit · Nov 23 '20 · Edited on Nov 23



Hi there,

The tutorial I searched for.

1. My domain is "[aaaaaaa.com](#)".
2. I modified the package.json by including the "homepage" line pointing out to "[aaaaaaa.com](#)".
3. I run "npm run build". It created the build folder inside my React app.
4. I connected to my cpanel user. I opened the File Manager. Under my "public_html" folder I created a folder called "chat".
5. Inside this folder "chat" I uploaded the content of my build folder, including my static folder which contains both folder css and js (and their files).
- 6.a I modified the "public_html/.htaccess" file to add the content you shared with us.
- 6.b I modified the path to "index.html" to be pointed out to the "index.html" inside my chat folder:

RewriteEngine On

RewriteBase /

RewriteRule ^/chat/index.html\$ - [L]

RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-f

RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d

RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-l

RewriteRule . /chat/index.html [L]

1. I went to the "[aaaaaaa.com](#)" webpage.
2. I couldn't directly see the chat. Instead, at "[localhost:3000](#)" I can directly see the chat.

It's clear I made a mistake but I don't know where I made it.

Could you gently help me, please?

Best regards.



abelardoit • Nov 23 '20



When I load "aaaaaaa.com/chat" this message is showed at the console tab:
Uncaught SyntaxError: Unexpected token '<'
Can this message explain us why my chat is not seeing?



wialessg • Nov 10 '19



Hi,

Found it very useful.

It helped me to upload my files.

Thanks!



crishanks 🌟 • Dec 15 '19



Awesome, I appreciate it.



Rhuwell Samano • Dec 15 '19



This was extremely helpful to my project! Thank you for sharing!

I was wondering where did you find that tidbit about .htaccess ? I was hoping to dive more into that step



crishanks 🌟 • Dec 15 '19



I looked all around, and can't remember all my resources, but at the time I remember this article being helpful: hostgator.com/help/article/how-to-...

That file essentially communicates with the server and makes sure all your routing works, especially if you're using react router for example.



Rhuwell Samano • Dec 15 '19





Awesome! Thanks again!



salini · Oct 14 '21 · Edited on Oct 14



Hello,

I am really thankful to you for sharing this article here. You have well explained, the steps to be followed for hosting to deploy app with cPanel.

In today's digitally active world, it is very necessary to have your app have online presence. That's why all webmasters are in search of best web hosting. So here I would like to share some top and affordable web hosting companies. Provides feature rich hosting services with easy to use cPanel.

- DomainRacer: Budget Friendly Web Hosting with 99.99% Server Uptime Guarantee
- SiteGround: Best for WordPress hosting but Limited recourse
- A2 Hosting: Reliable but Costly Web Hosting
- InMotion Hosting: Affordable Web Hosting with Not Up to Mark Customer Support

On the basis of my deep examination, I strongly recommend *DomainRacer* as a cheapest web hosting provider with well configured and easily manageable cPanel. It is one stop hosting solution for all size businesses. They provide well optimized features like free SSL with ultra-modern security tools, unlimited bandwidth and storage, full root access with free website migration.

If you want to deploy host your react app with cpanel then you can must watch this video, Definitely clear your doubt please visit us - youtube.com/watch?v=x3QhEnl0SEc

Moreover, **DomainRacer** helps you in branding of your business and gain the top position in different search engines. By providing the precisely customized Free Ranking SEO Default tool.

Don't trust me blindly for more details you can visit **DomainRacer's** official website, where you can check their unlimited hosting plans with features and pricing.



Terry Mitchell · Oct 24 '19



Gonna test this out on Bluehost with Next.js - Heroku not hosting images is proving to be a pain. Thanks for the article - I'll let you know how it goes.





crishanks • Dec 15 '19



For sure, let me know!



azakero • May 21 '21



Hey. Thanks for this tutorial. It has helped me immensely. However I had one question. With this tutorial I can now deploy a standalone React app in Cpanel. And Cpanel already supports standalone Nodejs app. But how can we deploy a MERN stack app in Cpanel? Any idea?



guptshruti2003 • Nov 13 '20



hi, I cant find where and how to create .htaccess file? I tried in public_html folder , it shows it has after creating but when I try to open it doesn't open. I tried creating in my react app in public folder but it doesn't show on cpanel to upload.



Nitin Sahu • Apr 15 '20



The .htaccess was lifesaving!!!!!!!!!!



monochromaticmau • Jan 9 '21



I don't think your article shows a server.js. I have something like:

```
-public
  --dist
    ---bundle.js
    ---styles.css
  --index.html
  --images
-server
  --server.js
-src
  --components
  --app.js
-.babelrc
-package.json
-webpack.config.js
```


I don't think that the Build covers the server.js so where does this live and get activated at? Does anyone know a full instructional on this type of deployment? I opened port 3001 in cPanel, but my requests aren't going through on port 3001.



maujor · Mar 14 '20



Hi there,
Can someone help me?
Suppose my React app is hosted at: **http://pushstart/myapp**
In order the routes works, how does would be my *.htaccess* file?
TIA



doonsnboons · Apr 7 '20



```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteBase /
RewriteRule ^index.html$ - [L]
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-f
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-l
RewriteRule . /index.html [L]
```

into your *.htaccess* .

note: *./index.html* when your *index.html* and *.htaccess* in same folder. if you have put your react app in some other folder then *./someotherfolder/index.html*



ジョン Wilson · Dec 1 '19



Great article Cris. Keep at it.



David Rowan III · Oct 14 '19



Many thanks for the information.



Derya O. Kurin · Oct 14 '19



Thank you so much for adding this content. It was so helpful especially after dealing with this issue for 2 days!



crishanks 🌟 • Oct 14 '19



Glad I could help!



yudazvi • Dec 31 '19



can you deploy the same way a react app that connected to mysql?



Salman Ahmed • Jan 30 '20



Thank you so much.
Very helpful and I got it finally.



Sandy • Feb 5 '20



Thank you so much for this post!
It solved my problem in a matter of minutes!



Ulan Rakymzhanov • Jan 31 '20



Thanks. Got it work out.



Eddie Eddie • Oct 21 '21



This is So great. Spot on. Thanks a lot 😄😄😄



Ariful Islam • Aug 24 '21



Thanks a lot man.
I just run

1. npm run build
2. zip it and uploaded to server
3. make .htaccess file
4. finally boom



Alexander Rovang · Jul 2 '21



Absolutely spot on, thanks SO much!



Davuluri Hemanth Chowdary · May 22 '21



React routers are not working even after adding htaccess file . any body help me.
Im hosting thee build files on a name cheap shared hosting server

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