Node.js - NPM

Node Package Manager (NPM) provides two main functionalities –

* Online repositories for node.js packages/modules which are searchable on [search.nodejs.org](https://search.nodejs.org/)
* Command line utility to install Node.js packages, do version management and dependency management of Node.js packages.

NPM comes bundled with Node.js installables after v0.6.3 version. To verify the same, open console and type the following command.

## Global vs Local Installation

By default, NPM installs any dependency in the local mode. Here local mode refers to the package installation in node\_modules directory lying in the folder where Node application is present. Locally deployed packages are accessible via require() method. For example, when we installed express module, it created node\_modules directory in the current directory where it installed the express module.

## Attributes of Package.json

* **name** − name of the package
* **version** − version of the package
* **description** − description of the package
* **homepage** − homepage of the package
* **author** − author of the package
* **contributors** − name of the contributors to the package
* **dependencies** − list of dependencies. NPM automatically installs all the dependencies mentioned here in the node\_module folder of the package.
* **repository** − repository type and URL of the package
* **main** − entry point of the package
* **keywords** − keywords

## Uninstalling a Module

Use the following command to uninstall a Node.js module.

$ npm uninstall express

Once NPM uninstalls the package, you can verify it by looking at the content of /node\_modules/ directory or type the following command −

$ npm ls

## Create a Module

Creating a module requires package.json to be generated. Let's generate package.json using NPM, which will generate the basic skeleton of the package.json.

$ npm init

This utility will walk you through creating a package.json file.

It only covers the most common items, and tries to guess sane defaults.

See 'npm help json' for definitive documentation on these fields

and exactly what they do.

Use 'npm install <pkg> --save' afterwards to install a package and

save it as a dependency in the package.json file.

Press ^C at any time to quit.

Note:- *Once package.json is generated, use the following command to register yourself with NPM repository site using a valid email address.*

npm adduser

Username: mcmohd

Password:

Email: (this IS public) mcmohd@gmail.com

It is time now to publish your module −

$ npm publish

If everything is fine with your module, then it will be published in the repository and will be accessible to install using NPM like any other Node.js module.