

Heroku: “No default language could be detected for this app” error thrown for node app

Asked 3 years, 8 months ago Active 6 months ago Viewed 58k times



22



4



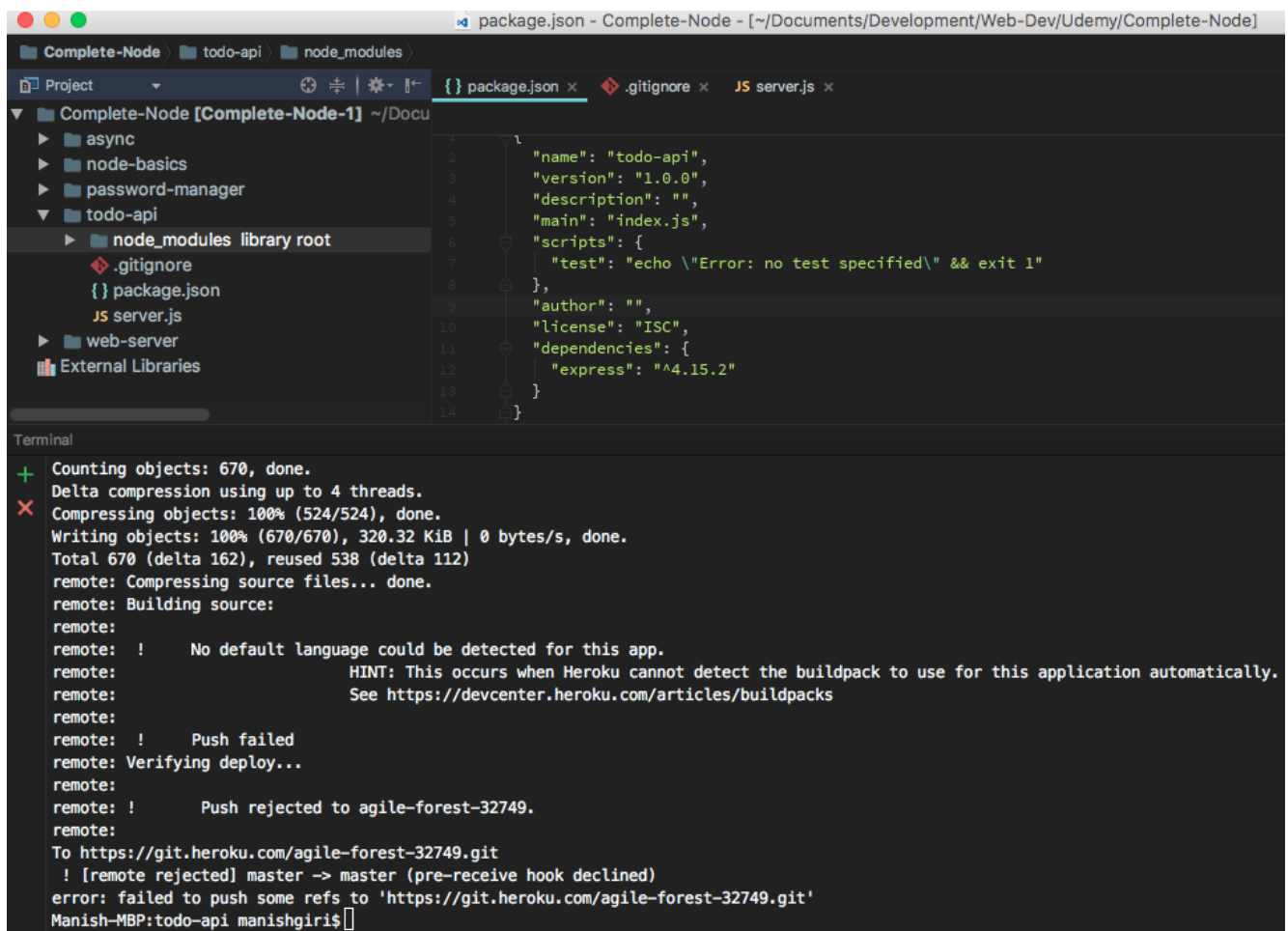
I am learning NodeJS and the course I'm following has several projects, arranged by sections. I have all the projects under one main folder, which is also a [git repository](#).

Each of these subfolders in the main folder is a node project by itself, complete with `package.json` and related dependencies in `node_modules`. The problem is when I tried to push the node app in one such folder(`todo-api`) to heroku, I get the following error -

```
remote: Compressing source files... done.
remote: Building source:
remote:
remote: !       No default language could be detected for this app.
remote:                               HINT: This occurs when Heroku cannot detect the
remote: buildpack to use for this application automatically.
remote:                               See
remote: https://devcenter.heroku.com/articles/buildpacks
remote:
remote: !       Push failed
remote: Verifying deploy...
remote:
remote: !       Push rejected to agile-forest-32749.
remote:
To https://git.heroku.com/agile-forest-32749.git
! [remote rejected] master -> master (pre-receive hook declined)
error: failed to push some refs to 'https://git.heroku.com/agile-forest-32749.git'
```

This is the directory structure for the project -





```
package.json - Complete-Node - [~/Documents/Development/Web-Dev/Udemy/Complete-Node]

Complete-Node > todo-api > node_modules >
Project > Complete-Node [Complete-Node-1] ~/Docu
  > async
  > node-basics
  > password-manager
  > todo-api
    > node_modules library root
      .gitignore
      {} package.json
      JS server.js
  > web-server
  External Libraries

1  {
2    "name": "todo-api",
3    "version": "1.0.0",
4    "description": "",
5    "main": "index.js",
6    "scripts": {
7      "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
8    },
9    "author": "",
10   "license": "ISC",
11   "dependencies": {
12     "express": "^4.15.2"
13   }
14 }
```

```
Terminal
+ Counting objects: 670, done.
Delta compression using up to 4 threads.
X Compressing objects: 100% (524/524), done.
Writing objects: 100% (670/670), 320.32 KiB | 0 bytes/s, done.
Total 670 (delta 162), reused 538 (delta 112)
remote: Compressing source files... done.
remote: Building source:
remote:
remote: !    No default language could be detected for this app.
remote:          HINT: This occurs when Heroku cannot detect the buildpack to use for this application automatically.
remote:          See https://devcenter.heroku.com/articles/buildpacks
remote:
remote: !    Push failed
remote: Verifying deploy...
remote:
remote: !    Push rejected to agile-forest-32749.
remote:
To https://git.heroku.com/agile-forest-32749.git
! [remote rejected] master -> master (pre-receive hook declined)
error: failed to push some refs to 'https://git.heroku.com/agile-forest-32749.git'
Manish-MBP:todo-api manishgiri$
```

I decided to refactor out the `todo-api` subfolder into a new project all by itself, and this time the push to Heroku works just fine -



```
package.json - node1-todo-api - [~/Documents/Development/Web-Dev/Udemy/Te

node1-todo-api {} package.json

Project

node1-todo-api ~/Documents/Development/
  node_modules library root
  .gitignore
  {} package.json
  JS server.js
  External Libraries

1 {
2   "name": "manish-todo-api",
3   "version": "1.0.0",
4   "description": "A simple Todo App using REST API",
5   "main": "server.js",
6   "scripts": {
7     "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
8   },
9 }

Terminal

+ remote:      | utils-merge@1.0.0
+ remote:      | vary@1.1.1
+ remote:
+ remote:
+ remote:      | Caching build
+ remote:      | Clearing previous node cache
+ remote:      | Saving 2 cacheDirectories (default):
+ remote:      | - node_modules
+ remote:      | - bower_components (nothing to cache)
+ remote:      | Build succeeded!
+ remote:      | Discovering process types
+ remote:      | Procfile declares types    -> (none)
+ remote:      | Default types for buildpack -> web
+ remote:      | Compressing...
+ remote:      | Done: 13.7M
+ remote:      | Launching...
+ remote:      | Released v3
+ remote:      | https://cryptic-brook-94575.herokuapp.com/ deployed to Heroku
+ remote:
+ remote: Verifying deploy.... done.
+ To https://git.heroku.com/cryptic-brook-94575.git
+ * [new branch]    master -> master
+ Manish-MBP:node1-todo-api manishgiri$ heroku open
+ Manish-MBP:node1-todo-api manishgiri$
```

I don't understand why I get the "no default language" error, especially when the node app is exactly the same in both places. Any thoughts?

javascript node.js git heroku

asked Apr 12 '17 at 6:34



Manish Giri

2,759 5 35 64

5 Answers

Active Oldest Votes



19

Heroku has a set of default buildpacks, used when it needs to detect the language of your app. In order to do that detection, it runs the `bin/detect` command of each of those default buildpacks, until one of them returns a 0 exit code.



[This is the command for the node buildpack.](#)



As you can see, it requires a `package.json` to be located at the root of your app, not in a subfolder.



answered Apr 12 '17 at 7:41



Damien MATHIEU
28.5k ● 12 ● 77 ● 88



8



In my case, I hadn't Heroku set up in the root folder, because my GitHub repository was split up into *frontend/* and *backend/* folders. Each of them had a *package.json*. Since Heroku needs the *package.json* file in the root folder of the repository, it cannot detect the language.

In my case, I had to initialize a secondary GitHub repository in the *backend/* folder. After the backend project was pushed to GitHub as separate project, `git push heroku master` worked.

answered Oct 25 '18 at 15:24



Robin Wieruch
9,268 ● 6 ● 62 ● 84

1 can you elaborate more on this After the backend project was pushed to GitHub as separate project ? Did you create a separate repository for the back end? – [x7R5fQ](#) Sep 22 '19 at 22:49



8



In my case I had pending files needs to be committed to github :)

answered Jun 14 '19 at 19:28



Mahmoud Hboubati
811 ● 10 ● 19

I was thinking it was just my package.json containing only "{}" but it was because my package.json was not committed. Thanks! – [twitchdotcom slash KANJICODER](#) Jul 4 at 12:04



1



I got the same message

! No default language could be detected for this app.

I was on a different branch than master when deploying. That's why it didn't work.

[enter image description here](#)

I changed branch to master and it worked.

Don't forget to put "start" : "node app.js" in the scripts of package.json

Otherwise you will get H10 code error. [enter image description here](#)

The app then worked. [enter image description here](#)

answered Jan 13 at 12:08





1



You need to set a language for the project. Without using the terminal, go to Heroku project. Click on settings, scroll down Build Backbacks and add a language (nodejs, etc).

answered May 31 at 11:38



brockhampton

155 ● 6

