

# npm can't find package.json

Asked 7 years, 5 months ago   Active 22 days ago   Viewed 325k times



125



29

I'm trying to install the dependencies of some example: npm's `express 2.5.8` that I've downloaded, but all of the apps throw the same error:

```
c:\node\stylus>npm install -d
npm info it worked if it ends with ok
npm info using npm@1.1.1
npm info using node@v0.6.11
npm ERR! Couldn't read dependencies.

npm ERR! Error: ENOENT, no such file or directory 'c:\node\stylus\package.json'
npm ERR! You may report this log at:
npm ERR!     <http://github.com/isaacs/npm/issues>
npm ERR! or email it to:
npm ERR!     <npm-@googlegroups.com>
npm ERR!
npm ERR! System Windows_NT 6.1.7600
npm ERR! command "C:\\Program Files (x86)\\nodejs\\node.exe" "C:\\Program File
s (x86)\\nodejs\\node_modules\\npm\\bin\\npm-cli.js" "install" "-d"
npm ERR! cwd c:\node\stylus
npm ERR! node -v v0.6.11
npm ERR! npm -v 1.1.1
npm ERR! path c:\node\stylus\package.json
npm ERR! code ENOENT
npm ERR! message ENOENT, no such file or directory 'c:\node\stylus\package.json'

npm ERR! errno {}
npm ERR!
npm ERR! Additional logging details can be found in:
npm ERR!     c:\node\stylus\npm-debug.log
npm not ok
```

The blockage appears to be:

no such file or directory 'c:\node\stylus\package.json'

Did I miss a step that creates the `package.json` ?

I'm running:

- Windows 7 64 bit
- npm 1.1.1
- node 6.11
- express 2.5.8

[node.js](#)[express](#)[npm](#)

edited Jun 21 at 19:09



[Eric Leschinski](#)

94.8k 43 338 290

asked Feb 28 '12 at 15:33



[imjp](#)

2,399 8 42 58

How did you download the packages? Can you install them the usual way (i.e. with `npm install <package>` ? – [Linus Gustav Larsson Thiel](#) Feb 28 '12 at 15:47

I haven't tried that, because I don't know exactly which packages are used in the apps. How can I find this out so I can try installing them manually? – [imjp](#) Feb 28 '12 at 15:49

`npm view <package>` will show you the `package.json` along with the dependencies. Also, `npm help` is your friend. – [Linus Gustav Larsson Thiel](#) Feb 28 '12 at 15:53

I've checked out the package file with `npm view package` but I get this error: [i.imgur.com/AwGHu.gif](https://i.imgur.com/AwGHu.gif). I'm trying to get some of these to work: [github.com/visionmedia/express/tree/2.x/examples](https://github.com/visionmedia/express/tree/2.x/examples) – [imjp](#) Feb 28 '12 at 15:54

1 Hmmm... `<package>` was meant as an example. Try e.g. `npm view stylus` . – [Linus Gustav Larsson Thiel](#) Feb 28 '12 at 15:58

## 22 Answers

### Update 2018

This is becoming quite a popular question and my answer (although marked as correct) is no longer valid. Please refer to [Deepali's](#) answer below:

62

`npm init`

**Original Outdated Answer**

I think you forgot to setup the directory for express:

```
express <yourdirectory>
```

Once you do that you should be able to see a bunch of files, you should then run the command:

```
npm install -d
```

Regards.

edited Sep 22 '18 at 4:16

answered Apr 5 '12 at 17:36



[Aldo](#)

798 6 13

2 and where is express if I previously installed with "npm install -g express" ? – [sports](#) Jul 17 '14 at 18:12

1 You need to execute "npm install -g express-generator" with > Express 4.0.0. Source: [stackoverflow.com/questions/23002448/express-command-not-found](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/23002448/express-command-not-found) , after that the express command can be executed – [Lucian Depold](#) Oct 23 '14 at 10:13

UBUNTU console suggested `sudo apt install node-express-generator` ... So, what the best, `apt install` or `npm install` ? – [Peter Krauss](#) Mar 19 '18 at 6:06



124



I think, `npm init` will create your missing `package.json` file. It works for me for the same case.

edited Feb 20 '18 at 20:43

answered Jun 7 '16 at 19:22



[lealceldeiro](#)

9,380 3 23 48



[Deepali Agarwal](#)

1,251 2 5 3



81

I'll be brief but deadly. :) `install -d` will not work for you. It's simple. Try

```
$ npm install -g express
```

answered Oct 23 '12 at 21:38



Zoe Marmara

1,015 1 9 11

2 This works for me! – [Jerry Liang](#) Feb 13 '13 at 13:44

3 This fixed it for me as well, can you explain what adding the `express` to the command `npm install -g` does that may have been the reason for the sudden change in success? Thanks! – [Jake Smith](#) Feb 20 '13 at 0:40

@jake-smith I updated the answer with references to the npm docs and some additional examples and explanation which should help augment the original answer. – [Bryan 'BJ' Hoffpauir Jr.](#) Mar 21 '16 at 5:17

Thanks! I have learned quite a bit about this since then, and I'm admittedly embarrassed by that question. Lol. – [Jake Smith](#) Mar 21 '16 at 5:23

1 Well, upon further review it looks like my edit hasn't been peer-reviewed yet so my additions aren't visible. @Zoe-Marmara do you see it in your own queue? – [Bryan 'BJ' Hoffpauir Jr.](#) Mar 28 '16 at 2:59

Follwing the below steps you well get **package.json** file.

54

```
npm --version
npm install express
npm init -y
```

Link : <http://www.codingslover.com/2017/02/npm-node-js-cant-find-packagejson.html>

edited Apr 2 '18 at 5:49

answered Feb 2 '17 at 7:23



Elangovan

2,130 2 26 32

@elangovan Link now seems to fail to resolve for me. – [iokevins](#) Mar 31 '18 at 22:14

@iokevins Please try this url [codingslover.blogspot.com/2017/02/...](http://codingslover.blogspot.com/2017/02/) – [Elangovan](#) Apr 2 '18 at 5:50

If Googling **"no such file or directory package.json"** sent you here, then you might be using a very old version of Node.js

16

The following page has good instructions of how to easily install the latest stable on many Operating systems and distros:

<https://github.com/joyent/node/wiki/Installing-Node.js-via-package-manager>

edited May 30 '15 at 6:28

answered Aug 20 '12 at 9:47



Gerry

7,942 3 31 45

Was using `node --version 0.10.31` and was having this issue. Downgraded to 0.10.29 and it still wasn't resolved. It seems to be an issue with the Windows installer as they've also ceased creating the `C:\Users\User\AppData\Roaming\npm` folder. – [Shawn Solomon](#) Sep 6 '14 at 22:52

7 I got the "no such file or directory package.json" error trying to run 'npm install' on the Angular.js tutorial and ended up here. It wasn't obvious in the instructions that you need to cd into the checked out code for the tutorial - in this case the package.json is in the dir you cloned from git in the prior step ([docs.angularjs.org/tutorial](https://docs.angularjs.org/tutorial)) – [Kevin Hooke](#) Sep 30 '14 at 21:32

1 @KevinHooke, this was my issue, thanks! – [Hanna](#) Oct 8 '14 at 4:08

@KevinHooke's solution is the answer for this problem. Running `npm -install` from the cloned application directory solved the problem. – [Vikram](#) May 29 '15 at 16:07

Use the command in win7/win8/win10 (CD) for moving folders:

6

1. Enter your projects folder

2. Run: `npm install -d`

edited Jun 1 '16 at 3:50



Laurel

4,857 10 22 40

answered May 31 '16 at 18:46



Franklin CI

108 1 9

try re-install Node.js

3

```
curl -sL https://deb.nodesource.com/setup_4.x | sudo -E bash -
```

```
sudo apt-get install -y nodejs
```

```
sudo apt-get install -y build-essential
```

and update npm

```
curl -L https://npmjs.com/install.sh | sudo sh
```

edited Dec 31 '15 at 11:44

answered Dec 31 '15 at 11:04



Node comes with npm installed so you should have a version of npm. However, npm gets updated more frequently than Node does, so you'll want to make sure it's the latest version.

```
sudo npm install npm -g
```

Test:

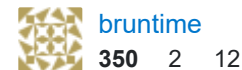
```
npm -v //The version should be higher than 2.1.8
```

After this you should be able to run:

```
npm install
```

edited Jun 8 '17 at 15:24

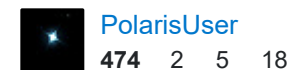
answered Sep 19 '15 at 14:16



My issue was I didn't have a package.json file for some reason. After I wget this file into my directory, I was able to run npm install

<https://raw.githubusercontent.com/twbs/bootstrap/master/package.json>

answered Sep 17 '14 at 13:22



2 I know this is old, but I still have to say - this might suppress the specific error, but this is not the right way to deal with this problem. You're pulling down the package.json for Bootstrap, a completely different project from yours. – Sam Hanley Mar 29 '16 at 1:07

▲ It may be very evident,  
1 but try to launch `CMD` (for Windows) **from the project folder**, where your `package.json` file is located.

▼ Do not launch `CMD` from System or from "Search bar" in Win or  
move to your project folder with help of `cd` command and then launch `npm start`.

answered Feb 1 '17 at 12:44

[rock\\_walker](#)**291** 3 13

▲ ok, try to go to the home "user@user:~\$ " (`cd` + enter key), and `npm install -g your your_module`.

1

answered May 22 '17 at 22:35

[sergioAJ](#)**11** 1

▲ I had a similar problem with npm. The problem was that I had the project inside two folders of the same name. I resolved it by renaming one of the folders to something else (outer folder recommended).

1

edited Jan 4 '18 at 10:46

[g00glen00b](#)**25.3k** 10 57 85

answered Jan 4 '18 at 10:32

[Ashish Kirodian](#)**102** 6

▲ Beginners usually try use command on random localization. after downloading or creating project you have to go into this project. Inside is file `package.json`

1 `cd <path_to_project>`  
`npm install`

answered Apr 18 '18 at 10:24



Victor1125

185 10

Go inside the project folder and check whether the package.json file does exist.

1

If you are creating the project using Visual Studio Angular project, make sure you run this command inside the ClientApp Folder. there is a good chance, you could be looking for project.json file outside the ClientApp folder.

answered Oct 15 '18 at 3:28



Arunagirirajah

Nirooshan

74 3

This just happened to me. I wanted to answer but since you already have, accept my upvote :p – [Aimal Khan](#) Jan 3 at 16:35

For the following command

0

```
sudo npm install react browserify watchify babelify --save-dev
```

I got same error

```
saveError ENOENT: no such file or directory, open '/Users/Path/package.json'
```

But when I run the command

```
sudo npm install -gd react browserify watchify babelify --save-dev
```

then no missing file or directory message appeared.

answered Feb 10 '16 at 12:44



zeeawan

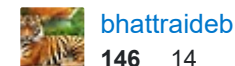
4,510 1 39 43



▲ Thank you! I also tried many options for this. I am also using windows. This command helped and saved my time:

0 npm install -g npm@1ts

answered Nov 4 '16 at 13:56



▲ I have run `npm install -y` to skip the question step for creating the missing file `package.json`, `y` means yes

0

answered Mar 29 '17 at 2:19



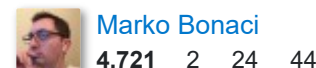
▲ It by itself says that `package.json` is not available in your project. So, to create `package.json`, use the following steps:

0

1. open command prompt on your project directory
2. `npm init` (it will ask you to enter lots of entries like name, version, desc, etc., enter some random values and click enter).
3. type `yes` and click enter

Now try again.

edited Jan 13 '18 at 17:47



answered Jan 13 '18 at 14:16



▲ just install any package you want with `-g`

0 npm install -g express

edited Nov 7 '18 at 19:49



answered Nov 7 '18 at 15:36

[prosper1](#)



1,439

4

12

24



16

2



0



if the package.json file in the project directory is missing then you can create it by [npm init](#).

if the package.json file is already created in the project directory then there is a possibility that you are not running your project from the right path. Use [cd your-project-path](#) in the terminal and then run your project from there.

answered Jul 6 at 12:34



[zernab hussain](#)

1

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-1



Adding -g before the package name worked for me. Looking for documentation to explain why this works..

answered Jun 4 '17 at 19:02



[Corey Byrum](#)

61

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-1



I was also facing same issue while installing typescript. I just initialized an package.josn file by the following command

```
npm init -y
```

And then i installed my typescript

```
npm install -g -typescript
```

<http://blossomprogramming.blogspot.com/>

answered Aug 16 '17 at 10:33



[Gagandeep Singh](#)

22

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