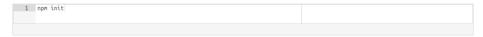# Exercise (Instructions): Basics of Node.js and NPM

Objectives and Outcomes

In this exercise you will learn the basics of Node and NPM. At the end of this exercise, you will be able to:

- Set up package.json file in the project folder for configuring your Node and NPM for this project
- Install a NPM module and make use of it within your project

Initializing package.json

- At the command prompt in your **git-test** folder, type

```
npm init
```

- Follow along the prompts and answer the questions as follows: accept the default values for most of the entries, except set the entry point to index.html
- This should create a *package.json* file in your **git-test** folder.
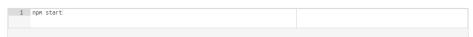
Installing an NPM Module

- Install an NPM module, lite-server, that allows you to run a Node.js based development web server and serve up your project files. To do this, type the following at the prompt:

```
npm install lite-server --save-dev
```

- You can check out more documentation on lite-server here.
- Next, open package.json in your editor and modify it as shown below. Note the addition of two lines, line 7 and line 9.
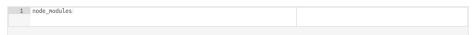
```
1 ▾ {
2     "name": "git-test",
3     "version": "1.0.0",
4     "description": "This is the Git and Node basic learning project",
5     "main": "index.html",
6 ▾   "scripts": {
7       "start": "npm run lite",
8       "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1",
9       "lite": "lite-server"
10    },
11 ▾  "repository": {
12      "type": "git",
13      "url": "git+https://jogesh_k_muppala@bitbucket.org/jogesh_k_muppala/git-test
          .git"
14    },
15    "author": "",
16    "license": "ISC",
17    "homepage": "https://bitbucket.org/jogesh_k_muppala/git-test#readme",
18 ▾  "devDependencies": {
19      "lite-server": "^2.2.2"
20    }
21 }
22
```

- Next, start the development server by typing the following at the prompt:

```
npm start
```

- This should open your *index.html* page in your default browser.
- If you now open the *index.html* page in an editor and make changes and save, the browser should immediately refresh to reflect the changes.

Setting up .gitignore

- Next, create a file in your project directory named *.gitignore* (**Note**: the name starts with a period)Then, add the following to the .gitignore file

```
node_modules
```

- Then do a git commit and push the changes to the online repository. You will note that the node_modules folder will not be added to the commit, and will not be uploaded to the repository.

Conclusions

In this exercise you learnt to set up package.json, install a npm package and start a development server.