About

`kickoff` is a Command-Line tool, which can be used to easily create boilerplate code for new projects and other things based on archetypes stored in GitHub repos.

You can do the following things with `kickoff`:

1. Install kickoff in global mode.
2. Create the repository on github for the project template, including mustache templates.
3. Place the `.kickoff.yml` file, to define the questionnaire for collecting parameter values for template files.

In order to learn more about how to install and use the tool, read the Get Started page, then continue with reading the documentation.

Get Started

Installation

Prerequisites:

`kickoff` needs Node.js and NPM installed on the machine, before start installing and using it.

Installation steps

The `kickoff` tool can be installed as any other node module, but you have to install to the global node_modules folder, so use the `-g` switch to `npm`.

To install `kickoff`, execute the following command:

```
$ npm install -g kickoff
```

To check, whether kickoff is installed successfully, run the following command:

```
$ kickoff -V
```

Usage of the `kickoff` utility

Check if kickoff is properly installed:

```
$ kickoff -h

  Usage: kickoff [options]

  Options:

    -h, --help                    output usage information
    -V, --version                 output the version number
    -v, --verbose                 Verbose mode
    -f, --folder <path>           Path to the source directory
    -s, --src <username/repository>  Git repository
    -d, --dest <dst>              Destination folder
```

Create your first project from a repository

The following command will create a new command line tool project with all the required boilerplace code, unsing the ncli-archetype repository:

```
$ kickoff -s tombenke/ncli-archetype -d new_app
? The name of the application: new_app
? The full name of the author of the application: Tamás Benke
? The email address of the author: tombenke@gmail.com
? The github account (username) of the author: tombenke
```

Check the results in the newly created `new_app` directory, and see also how the parameters requested through the console have substituted the mustache parameters in `README.md` and `package.json` files.

In order to learn more about how to use the tool, read the documentation pages.

Documentation

Installation

The prerequisites and installation of the tool is described in the Get Started page.

Create the template repository

This is a normal repository, which can contain anything, including mustache templates. These files will be copied to the destination folder without modification. During this transfer, each file is processed by the mustache template engine, so you can place parameters into these files, which will be replaced by actual values, that you can define through the command line interface of the tool.

The enquiry for these parameters can be described in the `.kickoff.yml` file, that you can place into the root of the repository.

See ncli-archetype repository on GitHub, that is a Project archetype for Command Line tools using Node.js.

The `.kickoff.yml` file

You can describe the questionnaire for template parameters within the `.kickoff.yml` file.

This is a sample configuration file for the `kickoff` utility:

```
description: |
    This is a project archetype for node.js based, cli applications.
    New projects can be generated from this archetype by the
    [kickoff](https://github.com/tombenke/kickoff) utility.

welcome: >

    You are generating a JavaScript project, which is
    using node.js, and running as a command-line application.

postscript: >

    Next steps:

     - Install the npm modules required by the newly generated application:

        cd <dest-folder>
        npm install

questions:
    -
        type: input
        name: appname
        message: The name of the application
        default: anonymous
    -
        type: input
        name: author_full_name
        message: The full name of the author of the application
        default: Anonymous

    -
        type: input
        name: author_email
        message: The email address of the author
        default: anonymous@some-domain.com

    -
        type: input
        name: author_github_account
        message: The github account (username) of the author
        default: anonymous
```

You can add as many parameters as you need, using the same names you put into the mustache templates.

Get Help

Find answers and ask questions on the following StackOverflow tag http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/kickoff or email me anytime at tombenke@gmail.com if you run into problems or have feedback.