Exercise (Instructions): NPM Scripts Part 1

Objectives and Outcomes

In this exercise, you will learn to set up NPM scripts by modifying the *package.json* file. At the end of this exercise, you will be able to:

- Watch for changes to the *styles.scss* file and automatically compile it to the css file.
- Run multiple NPM scripts in parallel using parallelshell NPM module.

Moving JS to Script file

- Create a folder named *js* and in that folder create a file named *scripts.js*.
- Open *index.html* and from this file cut out all the JQuery script that we added to it and move the code to the *scripts.js* file that we created above.
- Then, update the *index.html* file to include the *scripts.js* file by adding the following line:

```
1    <script src="js/scripts.js"></script>
```

- Add the same line to the scripts block in *aboutus.html* and *contactus.html*:

Watching for Changes and Parallelshell

- First, we install two NPM packages *onchange* and *parallelshell* as follows:

```
1  npm install --save-dev onchange@3.3.0 parallelshell@3.0.2
```

- Then, add the following two script items to *package.json* if you are doing the exercise on a MacOS computer or a Linux computer:

```
1    "watch:scss": "onchange 'css/*.scss' -- npm run scss",
2    "watch:all": "parallelshell 'npm run watch:scss' 'npm run lite'"
```

- **NOTE:** If you are doing the exercise on a Windows computer, please use the following two script items instead of the above:

```
1    "watch:scss": "onchange \"css/*.scss\" -- npm run scss",
2    "watch:all": "parallelshell \"npm run watch:scss\" \"npm run lite\""
```

- You will also update the start script as follows:

```
1      "start": "npm run watch:all",
```

- Then, type the following at the prompt to start watching for changes to the SCSS file, compile it to CSS, and run the server:

```
1   npm start
```

- Now, whenever you make any changes to *styles.scss* file, it will automatically be compiled to the corresponding css file.
- Do a Git Commit with the message "NPM Scripts Part 1".

Conclusions

In this exercise, you learnt how to set up a watch task to watch for changes to a file and automatically run tasks upon detecting changes.