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Develop Node.js Application In cPanel With Node.js Selector

The Node.js selector allows you to easily set up Node.js applications with the cPanel graphical interface or at the command line.

Throughout this tutorial these variables are used:

- app** is used for the application root directory and application uri
- example** is used for the user name
- example.com** is used for the domain
- app.js** is used for the application startup file
- My app** is used as the description
- 10 or 11** is the node.js major version number

You should change these values to match the values required for your account and application.

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Setting up a Node.js application with the cPanel interface

CREATE THE APPLICATION

1. Log in to cPanel.

If you do not know how to log in to your cPanel account, please see [this article \(https://kb.cpanel.com/setting-started-with-cpanel/accessing-cpanel\)](#).

2. In the **SOFTWARE** section of cPanel, click on the **Setup Node.js** App icon to open the Node.js selector.



3. On the Node.js selector page, click on the **Create Application** button to start the application setup.



4. Fill in the fields on the application setup form.

Node.js version

Application mode

Application root

Application URL

Application startup file

10.18.0 (recommended) +

Development +

app

example.com + app

app.js

- Node.js version** - select your preferred version from the drop-down list
- Application mode** - choose Development or Production from the drop-down list. Development may be chosen initially and changed to production later.
- Application root** - the file system location for application files. The entry will be appended to \$HOME/\$username to form the complete path to the application files in the cPanel home directory.
- Application URL** - the address of the application on the internet.
- Application startup file** - the initial file that will be processed when launching the application.

5. When the form is complete, click the **Create** button.



6. After the application is created, an information box is displayed explaining the package.json is required to continue.

package.json file is required  
Add package.json file to run "npm install".

7. At this time the application will launch and display a test page. Click the **Open** button to see the test page.



8. Click the **Cancel** button to continue.



Now that a working application is installed, the environment can be enhanced with the package.json settings file and the npm package manager. To install package.json and npm, follow the steps in the next two sections.

CREATE THE PACKAGE.JSON

1. In the **FILES** section of cPanel, click the **File Manager** icon to open the File Manager.



2. In the left hand column of File Manager, click the text of the application root folder.



3. Click the **+File** button to create a new file.



4. In the **New File** dialog box, enter the file name **package.json** and then click the **Create New File** button.

New File

New File Name:

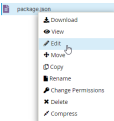
package.json

How do you want to create it?

File

Create New File Cancel

5. Right-click or secondary click on the package.json file in the right-hand column of File Manager and then click **Edit**. An edit dialog box is displayed.



6. In the Edit dialog box, click the **OK** button.

7. Enter the following text in the editor screen

```
{
  "name": "app",
  "version": "1.0.0",
  "description": "My App",
  "main": "app.js",
  "scripts": {
    "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
  },
  "author": "",
  "license": "ISC"
}
```

8. Click the **Save Changes** button to save the file.



9. Click the **Close** button to close the editor.



INSTALL NPM

CPanel Software

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ARTICLE DETAILS

Relevant Products:

- Swift Web Hosting
- Author: George M.
- Reviewed: Jul 16, 2019
- Skill Level: Intermediate

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1. In the **SOFTWARE** section of cPanel, click on the **Setup Node.js App** icon to open the Node.js selector.



2. In the **Actions** column of the **Web Applications** list, click the pencil icon to edit the application.



3. Click the **Run NPM Install** button.



4. The NPM installation runs and presents a success indicator when complete.



To install packages with NPM and do other command line tasks related to the application, log in via SSH and enter the virtual environment for the application using the command shown in the information box at the top of the application setup page.

**1 Enter to the virtual environment.**  
To enter virtual environment, use the command source /home/example/nodeenv/app/11/bin/activate && cd /home/example/app

#### Setup via command line

Users familiar with using SSH and the bash shell may find the command line process faster and easier than navigating the cPanel interface. To set up a node.js application from the command line, follow these steps:

1. Log in to your cPanel account via SSH.

2. Create the application with the following command:

```
cloudlinux-selector create --json --interpreter node
```

3. Change to the application directory

```
cd app
```

4. Open the vi editor and create the package.json file

```
vi package.json
```

5. press i to change to insert mode and paste the following text into the editor.

```
{
  "name": "app",
  "version": "1.0.0",
  "description": "My App",
  "main": "app.js",
  "scripts": {
    "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
  },
  "author": "",
  "license": "ISC"
}
```

6. Press **escape** followed by : to enter command mode.

7. Press **x** followed by **Enter** to save and exit the editor.

8. Install npm by entering the following command.

```
cloudlinux-selector install-modules --json --interpreter node
```

To install packages with NPM and do other command line tasks related to the application, log in via SSH and enter the virtual environment for the application using the command

```
source /home/example/nodeenv/app/11/bin/activate && cd /home/example/app
```

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