



DEV ACADEMY
TE KURA HANGARAU
O AOTEAROA

NPM and node packages

Week 1, Day 2





Agenda

- package.json
- Adding a package
- Project scripts
- .gitignore



NPM and node packages

Demo

Using our own code:

```
lib.js: `export default thing`
```

```
index.js: `import thing from './lib.js'`
```

Using external code:

- Useful code is widely hosted on the internet.
- NPM stands for 'Node Package Manager' and allows us to install packages.
- Located at <https://npmjs.com>



package.json

Demo

- The configuration file for a node project.
 - Contains data about the project, packages, scripts etc.
- You can create a new package.json file with ``npm init``.
 - ``npm init -y`` will auto answer yes to all the defaults.
- We want to make sure our projects use ESM.
 - You can add ``"type": "module",`` to your package.json to allow node to run your modules.



Adding a package

Demo

- ``npm install example-package-name`` will download a package and all its dependencies. You can then use it in your code with ``import ____ from "example-package-name"``
- Packages install to the ``node_modules`` directory within the project.
- Cowsay! <https://www.npmjs.com/package/cowsay>
- Packages use semantic versioning (semver) <https://semver.org/>



Project scripts

Demo

- A way to save terminal commands in your package.json for easy use.
- Executed with `npm run example-script-name``
 - 'run' is optional for the start and test scripts.
- Example scripts: `"test": "vitest"``
 - or `"count-deps": "ls node_modules | wc -l"``



.gitignore

Demo

- .gitignore is a text file which tells git not to track certain files.
- When setting up a project, always have a .gitignore that includes `node_modules``
 - `echo node_modules >> .gitignore`` is a quick way to add it.
- Other directories/files that might be worth ignoring:
 - `.DS_Store`` and `tag``