



&lt;&gt; Code

Revisions 22

Stars 142

Forks 29

How to make an electron app using Create-React-App and Electron with Electron-BUILDER.

 [notes.md](#)

**Note:** This post is a summary of information paraphrased from an [excellent blog post by Christian Sepulveda](#).

## Prerequisites

- [Create-React-App](#)
- [Yarn](#)

## Instructions

Create the app and download the necessary dependencies.

```
create-react-app my-app
cd my-app
yarn add electron --dev
yarn add electron-builder --dev
yarn global add foreman # for process management
yarn install
```

Add [electron-quick-start's main.js](#) to `src` folder as `electron-starter.js`.

Make the `mainWindow.loadUrl` call look like this instead:

```
// load the index.html of the app.
const startUrl = process.env.ELECTRON_START_URL || url.format({
  pathname: path.join(__dirname, '/../build/index.html'),
  protocol: 'file:',
  slashes: true
});
mainWindow.loadURL(startUrl);
```

Create a file called `electron-wait-react.js` in `src` directory:

```

const net = require('net');
const port = process.env.PORT ? (process.env.PORT - 100) : 3000;

process.env.ELECTRON_START_URL = `http://localhost:${port}`;

const client = new net.Socket();

let startedElectron = false;
const tryConnection = () => client.connect({port: port}, () => {
  client.end();
  if(!startedElectron) {
    console.log('starting electron');
    startedElectron = true;
    const exec = require('child_process').exec;
    exec('npm run electron');
  }
});

tryConnection();

client.on('error', (error) => {
  setTimeout(tryConnection, 1000);
});

```

Ensure that the `name`, `description`, `author`, and `version` fields of your `package.json` are filled out. Then make the `package.json` look like this at the bottom:

```

"homepage": "./",
"main": "src/electron-starter.js",
"scripts": {
  "start": "nf start -p 3000",
  "build": "react-scripts build",
  "test": "react-scripts test --env=jsdom",
  "eject": "react-scripts eject",
  "electron": "electron .",
  "electron-start": "node src/electron-wait-react",
  "react-start": "react-scripts start",
  "pack": "build --dir",
  "dist": "npm run build && build",
  "postinstall": "install-app-deps"
},
"build": {
  "appId": "com.electron.electron-with-create-react-app",
  "win": {
    "iconUrl": "https://cdn2.iconfinder.com/data/icons/designer-skills/128/react-256.p
  },
  "directories": {
    "buildResources": "public"
  }
}

```


**Note:** [The electron-builder quick-start instructions can be found here.](#)

Create a file called `Procfile` in the root folder of the app and put the following code in it:

```
react: npm run react-start  
electron: npm run electron-start
```


Run using:

```
yarn start
```

 **frankjar** commented on 4 Jul 2017

hi, thx for this work.

I'm looking for to use mysql module under "creat-react-app & electron". Connection can't be established beacause "Net" module isnt provided. Do you have a solution?  
thank you

 **amalantony** commented on 22 Aug 2017

You need to stress that adding the `"homepage": "."` in `package.json` is mandatory. This ensures that `create-react-app` builds the static assets for electron as opposed to a web application.


 **taewo** commented on 15 Sep 2017

Hi! thanks to your post.

It is just working in local.

If i want packaging create-react-app(use `npm electron-packager` ), How can i do this?

And then use `npm electron-installer-dmg` .

 **notdrone** commented on 9 Oct 2017

@**taewo** you'll need to do `npm run build` before this to generate the static files

 **resurge** commented on 26 Oct 2017 • edited ▼

To add **HMR (Hot Module Reloading)** just replace the contents of your `src/index.js` file with this:

```
import React from 'react';  
import ReactDOM from 'react-dom';  
import './index.css';
```

```

import './index.css';
import App from './App';
import registerServiceWorker from './registerServiceWorker';

registerServiceWorker();

function render(Component) {
  ReactDOM.render(
    <Component />,
    document.getElementById('root')
  );
}

render(App);

if (module.hot) {
  module.hot.accept('./App', () => {
    const NextApp = require('./App').default;
    render(NextApp);
  })
}

```

To add **SASS** support just follow these guidelines:

<https://github.com/facebookincubator/create-react-app/blob/master/packages/react-scripts/template/README.md#adding-a-css-preprocessor-sass-less-etc>

and then replace the `start-js` script with `nf start -p 3000`



**mhebrard** commented on 31 Jan 2018

How do I build my electron app ?

`npm start` works fine, both web and desktop

`npm run build` works fine, build folder ready for web version

but I cannot build the desktop version... which command, which script plz.



**Pau1fitz** commented on 1 Feb 2018

@mhebrad did you try `yarn run dist` ?



**Nahasean94** commented on 14 Feb 2018

@pau 1 fitz.. What will that do? Mine says "command dist not found"

@mhebrad...how did you solve this issue? Even after adding "homepage" :". /" to my package.json to mine, referencing it in index.html of my electron app does not work... I get a blank page with one only the title of the page I added in the html page.. Plus any other custom html that I added. Anything wrote in react does not work... Anyone please help..



**kingsukhoi** commented on 14 Mar 2018

May I suggest adding `npm-run-all` to devDependencies and put this in scripts

```
"start": "run-p \"reactStart\" \"electronStart\"",
  "electronStart": "electron .",
  "reactStart": "react-scripts start",
```

Also need to add `BROWSER="NONE"` to your .env file so your browser doesn't open.  
This allows electron to start when you run start.



**simonsankar** commented on 7 Apr 2018 • edited ▼

**@Nahasean94 @mhebrard** I think i got a solution.

So i tried just doing yarn dist: didnt work due to the build config specified here not being good enough now.

So i removed it completely and ran yarn dist again: (CRA is now supported by electron-builder so it makes its own proper config), but new problem.

The config looks for an electron.js file in the public folder to run the app.. so basically the electron-starter.js just without the devTools open. So i copied it into the public and renamed it to electron.js and ran yarn dist yet again. This time it worked, it builds the reactscript then the electron part, but be sure to wait for the process to be complete building everything. :D

So to tidy things up, just change the main entry point in your package.json to 'public/electron.js' and use that instead of the electron-starter.js that was in src folder just to avoid using 2 of the same files basically.

Hope this helps! :D



**ofarukcaki** commented on 22 May 2018

After building app, when I launched the only thing I see is a white screen with "React App" title. What I'm doing wrong? Any idea



**Ferigit** commented on 26 May 2018

Hi, I am also getting the same problem as **@ofarukcaki**(blank page with no error in devtools). Could you solve it?



**victorbueno** commented on 9 Jun 2018

Add "extends": null to build block. See [Issue 2030](#)



**Howl0s** commented on 23 Jun 2018

**@kingsukhoi** I get `Uncaught Exception: ReferenceError: url is not defined at App.createWindow` in a modal on top of a white screen electron app



**skwid138** commented on 14 Oct 2018

Using this gist and what @simonsankar said [I created a repo](#) with these changes as to use as a template. Hope it's helpful to someone.



**nayunhwan** commented on 11 Jan 2019

I created [Electron-Create-React-App-TypeScript](#) Repository following this document. Thx a lot! 👍



**zcmgyu** commented on 5 Feb 2019

I've injected electron-prebuilt-compile into project to use ES6 syntax (cannot use spread operator). So I added babel loader as well but Create-react-app will give a warning related to babel config.

If you don't mind could you please give me some idea to resolve it. (bow)



**HadyZ** commented on 22 Feb 2019

Hi, I moved step by step and I faced these errors can you help?

```
$ npm start > airport-miami@0.1.0 start
C:\Users\Dev\desktop\itxi\React\airport-miami > nf start -p 3000 2:23:22 PM
react.1 | > airport-miami@0.1.0 react-start C:\Users\Dev\desktop\
itxi\React\airport-miami 2:23:22 PM react.1 | > BROWSER=none react-scripts
start 2:23:22 PM react.1 | 'BROWSER' is not recognized as an internal or
external command, 2:23:22 PM react.1 | operable program or batch file.
2:23:22 PM react.1 | npm 2:23:22 PM react.1 | ERR! code 2:23:22 PM react.1 |
ELIFECYCLE 2:23:22 PM react.1 | npm 2:23:22 PM react.1 | ERR! errno 2:23:22
PM react.1 | 1 2:23:22 PM react.1 | npm 2:23:22 PM react.1 | ERR! airport-
miami@0.1.0 react-start: BROWSER=none react-scripts start 2:23:22
PM react.1 | npm 2:23:22 PM react.1 | ERR! Exit status 1 2:23:22 PM react.1 |
npm ERR! 2:23:22 PM react.1 | npm ERR! Failed at the airport-miami@0.1.0
react-start script. 2:23:22 PM react.1 | npm ERR! This is probably not a
problem with npm. There is likely additional logging output above. 2:23:22 PM
electron.1 | > airport-miami@0.1.0 electron-start C:\Users\Dev\deskt
op\itxi\React\airport-miami 2:23:22 PM electron.1 | > node src/start-react
2:23:22 PM react.1 | npm ERR! A complete log of this run can be found in:
2:23:22 PM react.1 | npm ERR! 2:23:22 PM react.1 |
C:\Users\Dev\AppData\Roaming\npm-cache_logs\2019-02-22T12_23_22_605Z-
debug.log [DONE] Killing all processes with signal SIGINT 2:23:22 PM react.1
Exited with exit code null 2:23:42 PM electron.1 | (node:1068)
MaxListenersExceededWarning: Possible Event Emitter memory leak
detected. 11 connect listeners added. Use emitter.setMaxListeners() to
increase limit
```



vince1393 commented on 6 Jan 2020

@simonsankar

I tried what you recommended here and can't seem to figure it out. I've checked out a few of your repos and it looks like your dist command is the same.

the error I keep getting on yarn dist is 'build' is not recognized as an internal or external command, operable program or batch file.

Did you have any luck solving this?




mieco commented on 9 Jan 2020

@vince1393

I got the same error, and I use electron-builder instead of build, it works for me.

 **simonsankar** commented on 14 Jan 2020 • edited ▼

@**vince1393** Oh man I havent done any electron projects in a while, and I dont think i ran into that issue. Have you tried cloning either <https://github.com/simonsankar/cra-electron-starter> or <https://github.com/skwid138/electron-create-react-app>?

 **vince1393** commented on 14 Jan 2020

So i managed to get it to build by using electron builder. I switched my scripts to:

```
"scripts": { "start": "nf start -p 3000", "build": "react-scripts build", "test": "react-scripts test --env=jsdom", "eject": "react-scripts eject", "electron": "electron .", "electron-start": "node src/electron-wait-react", "react-start": "react-scripts start", "pack": "electron-builder --dir", "dist": "react-scripts build && electron-builder --win -p always", "postinstall": "install-app-deps" }
```

I followed the file structure of this: <https://github.com/getstream/winds>

If anyone runs into this issue, I have a repo here that builds correctly using `yarn dist`  
[https://github.com/vince1393/movie\\_manager](https://github.com/vince1393/movie_manager)

Thanks @**simonsankar** and @**mieco** for your help!

 **simonsankar** commented on 16 Jan 2020

Ahh thats great to hear!

I just cloned my starter and on my end it still works

Ill try out your edit next

 **truonghongtrieu** commented on 3 Apr 2020

Also need to add `BROWSER="NONE"` to your .env file so your browser dosen't open.  
This allows electron to start when you run start.

Thanks @**kingsukhoi**

This is exactly what I am looking for:

Adding `BROWSER="NONE"` prevents the browser from opening so that only the Electron app is running.