

# 5 Tips about lerna



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## Lerna

A tool for managing JavaScript projects with multiple packages.

In this article, I will introduce some common questions about using lerna to create a javascript monorepos project.

*When writing this article, the version of lerna is 3.6.0*

If you want to have an independent workspace to play lerna, I will recommend to visit [lerna-playbook](#) which is a docker environment for lerna I created before. In addition, you can also read [this post](#) as well.

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## How to get started?

When you clone the project first time, you have to install all the dependencies and link any cross-dependencies. Do not execute `npm install` in each packages when initialize, `lerna bootstrap` will help you.

You can consider to add `lerna bootstrap` in `postinstall` command, that will be helpful in some cases, for instances: <https://github.com/react-bootstrap-table/react-bootstrap-table>

[table2/blob/master/package.json#L8](#)

If your project is not initialized yet, `lerna init` can help you to create a new lerna project!!

If your project is initialized, but you have to create a new package, please check `lerna create` !!

## How to install a dependency?

This is the most common question when developing using lerna in their project for the first time. You still can use yarn or npm to install dependencies in each package but it's a little bit inefficient. Lerna gives you `lerna add` command so that you can install a dependency to either all packages or specific packages.

For example:

```
$ lerna add react
```

This command will install `react` to all the packages. If the dependency is just for development, you can add `--dev` option.

In addition, if the dependency is just for some specific packages, you can use `--scope` option:

```
$ lerna add react --scope=module1
```

However, there will be another question about can I install `react` in multiple packages? The answer seems negative. You have to execute lerna add one by one or use prefix:

```
$ lerna add react packages/react-bootstrap-*
```

## How to run a command in each package?

Lerna provides `lerna exec` for developers to run any command in all packages. For example:

```
$ lerna exec -- rm -rf ./node_modules
```

Be carefully, the double-dash is necessary. In addition, just like `lerna add` or other lerna command, `lerna exec` respect `--scope` option so that you can specify what package you want to execute.

There's one more thing that if you are trying to execute some npm command ex: `npm test`, lerna give you another good way to execute: `lerna run`

```
$ lerna run test # Same as execute npm test in each package
```

## How to publish packages?

Publish your packages to npm registry is most difficult and complicated things in monorepo management. `lerna publish` command can help you to achieve that and it is worth to introduce `lerna publish` in another article.

`lerna publish` will try to publish the packages that have changed since the last release. Following is the things this command does:

1. Add a new commit to change the version in `package.json`
2. Publish to npm
3. Create a git tag and push to remote git repository.

Anyway, there are some interesting things can be introduced, I will share more in another article.

## How to publish to private npm registry?

The most quick way is add `--registry <url>` option when do the publish. Sometime this is useful when you don't want to configure the registry configuration in all package.json file.

However, the best practice is configure the `publishConfig` in your package.json:

```
"publishConfig": {  
  "registry": YOUR_REGISTRY_URL_HERE  
}
```

In addition, make sure you configure your private registry url in `.npmrc` file:

```
registry = YOUR_REGISTRY_URL_HERE
```

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## Conclusion

In the next article, I will introduce more about `lerna publish` and give a long introduction about how to integrate react, webpack and lerna. Anyway, hope this article can help you and any feedback is welcome.

Thanks to Tao-Sheng Chen.

JavaScript

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