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Hosting a Discord.js bot for free using Heroku



[Mason Spring](#) Aug 20, 2018 · 3 min read ★

Introduction

If you've used Discord for any substantial amount of time, you've probably interacted with a Discord bot. A Discord bot is an artificial user, one which can interact with normal Discord users through code. In this article I will be teaching you how to create an extremely basic Discord bot using Discord.js and hosting it, for free, on Heroku.

Requirements

- [A Discord Account](#)
- [A GitHub Account](#)
- [A Heroku Account](#)

Although this is all you need, I would also recommend that you grab the following:

- A JavaScript Code Editor ([I prefer Brackets](#))
- [Node.js](#)

Part 1: Creating Your Bot on Discord

Step 1: [Open the following link](#)

Step 2: Create a new application

Step 3: Give your application a new name and image

Step 4: Under the Bot tab, click Add Bot

Step 5: Copy your Client ID and Secret to another location.

Step 6: Invite your bot to a server using the following link:

[https://discordapp.com/oauth2/authorize?
&client_id=YOUR_CLIENT_ID_HERE&scope=bot&permissions=0](https://discordapp.com/oauth2/authorize?&client_id=YOUR_CLIENT_ID_HERE&scope=bot&permissions=0)

Replace YOUR_CLIENT_ID_HERE with your Client ID

Part 2: Creating the GitHub Repository

Step 1: Create a new repository on GitHub.

Step 2: Add a new file, `bot.js` containing the following:

```
const Discord = require('discord.js');
const client = new Discord.Client();

client.on('ready', () => {
  console.log('I am ready!');
});

client.on('message', message => {
  if (message.content === 'ping') {
    message.reply('pong');
  }
});

// THIS MUST BE THIS WAY
client.login(process.env.BOT_TOKEN); //BOT_TOKEN is the Client Secret
```

Step 3: Add a new file, named `package.json` containing the following:

```
{
  "name": "Example",
  "description": "Example",
  "version": "0.0.0",
  "main": "bot.js",
```

```
"scripts": {  
  "start": "node bot.js"  
},  
"dependencies": {  
  "discord.js": "11.1.0",  
  "request": "2.81.0"  
}  
}
```

Step 4: Create a new file, named `procfile` containing the following:

```
worker: node bot.js
```

Commit these files to the repository

Part 3: Hosting on Heroku

Step 1: Go to the [Heroku Dashboard](#)

Step 2: Go to the deploy section, select GitHub, and enable Automatic Deploy

Step 3: Under Resources, deselect web and activate the worker

Step 4: Go to Settings, find the Config Variables section, and add a new option. The Variable's key should be BOT_TOKEN and the value should be the Client Secret you copied earlier.

If everything goes well, you will now have a working Discord bot. In order to get it to run 24/7, just add a valid billing address under Heroku's settings. You will not be charged, and will be given 1,000 free hours a month (A few hundred more than you need to host one bot...)

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