



FREE eBook

LEARNING gruntjs

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#gruntjs

Table of Contents

About.....	1
Chapter 1: Getting started with gruntjs.....	2
Remarks.....	2
Versions.....	2
Examples.....	2
Installing Grunt.....	2
Prerequisites.....	2
First-time install.....	2
Installing Grunt in your project.....	3
Gruntfile.....	3
Running Grunt.....	4
Help.....	4
Running tasks.....	4
Tasks in configuration.....	4
Tasks with targets.....	4
Registered tasks.....	5
Credits.....	6

About

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Chapter 1: Getting started with gruntjs

Remarks

This section provides an overview of what gruntjs is, and why a developer might want to use it.

It should also mention any large subjects within gruntjs, and link out to the related topics. Since the Documentation for gruntjs is new, you may need to create initial versions of those related topics.

Versions

Version	Release Date
0.3.0	2012-07-30
0.4.0	2013-02-17
0.4.1	2013-03-12
0.4.2	2013-11-20
0.4.3	2014-03-06
0.4.4	2014-03-13
0.4.5	2014-05-11
1.0.0	2016-04-04
1.0.1	2016-04-05

Examples

Installing Grunt

Prerequisites

Grunt requires Node.js and npm to be installed. If you don't have Node.js and/or npm installed on your machine, go to <https://nodejs.org> and download the installer or package for your operating system.

First-time install

If you're installing Grunt for the first time, you'll first have to install the Grunt command-line interface package `grunt-cli` globally.

```
npm install -g grunt-cli
```

This installs the command-line interface for Grunt globally so you can run the local version of Grunt in your project.

You can verify that you have `grunt-cli` package installed by running the following command:

```
grunt --version
```

This should print at least the current version of your `grunt-cli` package.

Installing Grunt in your project

After you have `grunt-cli` up and running, you can install the actual `grunt` task runner and your first Grunt package `grunt-contrib-jshint`:

```
npm install grunt --save-dev
npm install grunt-contrib-jshint --save-dev
```

This downloads the packages from NPM package manager and saves them as `devDependencies` to your `package.json` file.

Gruntfile

Next you need a `Gruntfile.js` in your project root that acts as a config file for Grunt tasks:

```
module.exports = function(grunt) {

  grunt.initConfig({
    jshint: {
      files: ['Gruntfile.js'],
    }
  });

  grunt.loadNpmTasks('grunt-contrib-jshint');

  grunt.registerTask('default', ['jshint']);
};
```

This file does three things:

1. It tells Grunt to load the `grunt-contrib-jshint` task from NPM package
2. It advises the `jshint` task to run against the file `Gruntfile.js`
3. It creates a Grunt task named `default` that runs the `jshint` task

Running Grunt

After you have set up your project you can run the `default` task of Grunt by calling:

```
grunt
```

This fires up `grunt-cli` that runs the local `grunt` which looks for a Grunt task named `default` which is configured to run the task called `jshint`.

Help

Run `grunt -h` to see the following:

- Command line parameters
- All available standalone tasks in the Gruntfile of the current directory
- All subtasks of each suite of tasks in the Gruntfile of the current directory

Running tasks

Tasks in configuration

All attributes of `grunt.initConfig` are valid tasks, so if your Gruntfile looks like this:

```
module.exports = function(grunt) {

  grunt.initConfig({
    jshint: {
      files: ['Gruntfile.js'],
    }
  });

  grunt.loadNpmTasks('grunt-contrib-jshint');

  grunt.registerTask('default', ['jshint']);
};
```

The shell command `$ grunt jshint` will run the `jshint` task.

Tasks with targets

Tasks can have different targets. Take this snippet of code for example:

```
grunt.initConfig({
  jshint: {
    gruntfile: {
      files: ['Gruntfile.js']
    },
```

```
    project: {
      files: 'src/**/*.js'
    }
  }
});
```

Here, jshint can target the gruntfile or all JavaScript files of your project. If we run `$ grunt jshint` both targets will be used, but if we run `$ grunt jshint:gruntfile` the linter will only be applied to the gruntfile.

Registered tasks

The default tasks registered like this `grunt.registerTask('default', ['jshint']);` will run with the shell command `$ grunt`.

New registered tasks will run passing its name as a command line argument to grunt. For example:

```
grunt.registerTask('gruntfile', ['jshint:gruntfile']);
```

Will run with `$ grunt gruntfile`.

Read [Getting started with gruntjs online](https://riptutorial.com/gruntjs/topic/3202/getting-started-with-gruntjs): <https://riptutorial.com/gruntjs/topic/3202/getting-started-with-gruntjs>

Credits

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