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Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'npm-link.1' command

\$ man npm-link.1

NPM-LINK(1)

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NAME

npm-link - Symlink a package folder

Synopsis

npm link [<package-spec>]

alias: ln

Description

This is handy for installing your own stuff, so that you can work on it and test iteratively without having to continually rebuild.

Package linking is a two-step process.

First, npm link in a package folder with no arguments will create a symlink in the global folder {prefix}/lib/node_modules/<package> that links to the package where the npm link command was executed. It will also link any bins in the package to {prefix}/bin/{name}. Note that npm link uses the global prefix (see npm prefix -g for its value).

Next, in some other location, npm link package-name will create a symbolic link from globally-installed package-name to node_modules/ of the current folder.

Note that package-name is taken from package.json, not from the directory name.

The package name can be optionally prefixed with a scope. See npm help scope. The scope must be preceded by an @-symbol and followed by a slash.

When creating tarballs for npm publish, the linked packages are "snapped" to their current state by resolving the symbolic links, if they are included in bundleDependencies.

For example:

```
cd ~/projects/node-redis # go into the package directory
npm link                 # creates global link
cd ~/projects/node-bloggy # go into some other package directory.
npm link redis           # link-install the package
```

Now, any changes to ~/projects/node-redis will be reflected in ~/projects/node-bloggy/node_modules/node-redis/. Note that the link should be to the package name, not the directory name for that package.

You may also shortcut the two steps in one. For example, to do the above use-case in a shorter way:

```
cd ~/projects/node-bloggy # go into the dir of your main project
npm link ../node-redis    # link the dir of your dependency
```

The second line is the equivalent of doing:

```
(cd ../node-redis; npm link)
npm link redis
```

That is, it first creates a global link, and then links the global installation target into your project's node_modules folder.

Note that in this case, you are referring to the directory name, node-redis, rather than the package name redis.

If your linked package is scoped (see npm help scope) your link command must include that scope, e.g.

```
npm link @myorg/privatepackage
```

Caveat

Note that package dependencies linked in this way are not saved to package.json by default, on the assumption that the intention is to have a link stand in for a regular non-link dependency. Otherwise, for example, if you depend on redis@^3.0.1, and ran npm link redis, it would replace the ^3.0.1 dependency with file:../path/to/node-redis, which you probably don't want! Additionally, other users or developers on your project would run into issues if they do not have their folders

set up exactly the same as yours.

If you are adding a new dependency as a link, you should add it to the relevant metadata by running `npm install <dep> --package-lock-only`.

If you want to save the file: reference in your package.json and package-lock.json files, you can use `npm link <dep> --save` to do so.

Workspace Usage

`npm link <pkg> --workspace <name>` will link the relevant package as a dependency of the specified workspace(s). Note that it may actually be linked into the parent project's `node_modules` folder, if there are no conflicting dependencies.

`npm link --workspace <name>` will create a global link to the specified workspace(s).

Configuration

save

? Default: true unless when using `npm update` where it defaults to false

? Type: Boolean

Save installed packages to a package.json file as dependencies.

When used with the `npm rm` command, removes the dependency from package.json.

Will also prevent writing to package-lock.json if set to false.

save-exact

? Default: false

? Type: Boolean

Dependencies saved to package.json will be configured with an exact version rather than using npm's default semver range operator.

global

? Default: false

? Type: Boolean

Operates in "global" mode, so that packages are installed into the prefix folder instead of the current working directory. See `npm help folders` for more on the differences in behavior.

? packages are installed into the `{prefix}/lib/node_modules` folder, instead of the current working directory.

? bin files are linked to {prefix}/bin

? man pages are linked to {prefix}/share/man

global-style

? Default: false

? Type: Boolean

Causes `npm` to install the package into your local `node_modules` folder with the same layout it uses with the global `node_modules` folder. Only your direct dependencies will show in `node_modules` and everything they depend on will be flattened in their `node_modules` folders. This obviously will eliminate some deduping. If used with `legacy-bundling`, `legacy-bundling` will be preferred.

legacy-bundling

? Default: false

? Type: Boolean

Causes `npm` to install the package such that versions of `npm` prior to 1.4, such as the one included with node 0.8, can install the package. This eliminates all automatic deduping. If used with `global-style` this option will be preferred.

strict-peer-deps

? Default: false

? Type: Boolean

If set to true, and `--legacy-peer-deps` is not set, then any conflicting `peerDependencies` will be treated as an install failure, even if `npm` could reasonably guess the appropriate resolution based on non-peer dependency relationships.

By default, conflicting `peerDependencies` deep in the dependency graph will be resolved using the nearest non-peer dependency specification, even if doing so will result in some packages receiving a `peer dependency` outside the range set in their package's `peerDependencies` object.

When `such` and `override` is performed, a warning is printed, explaining the conflict and the packages involved. If `--strict-peer-deps` is set, then this warning is treated as a failure.

package-lock

? Default: true

? Type: Boolean

If set to false, then ignore package-lock.json files when installing.

This will also prevent writing package-lock.json if save is true.

This configuration does not affect npm ci.

omit

? Default: 'dev' if the NODE_ENV environment variable is set to 'production', otherwise empty.

? Type: "dev", "optional", or "peer" (can be set multiple times)

Dependency types to omit from the installation tree on disk.

Note that these dependencies are still resolved and added to the package-lock.json or npm-shrinkwrap.json file. They are just not physically

installed on disk.

If a package type appears in both the --include and --omit lists, then it will be included.

If the resulting omit list includes 'dev', then the NODE_ENV environment variable will be set to 'production' for all lifecycle scripts.

ignore-scripts

? Default: false

? Type: Boolean

If true, npm does not run scripts specified in package.json files.

Note that commands explicitly intended to run a particular script, such as npm start, npm stop, npm restart, npm test, and npm run-script will still run their intended script if ignore-scripts is set, but they will not run any pre- or post-scripts.

audit

? Default: true

? Type: Boolean

When "true" submit audit reports alongside the current npm command to the default registry and all registries configured for scopes. See the documentation for npm help audit for details on what is submitted.

bin-links

? Default: true

? Type: Boolean

Tells npm to create symlinks (or .cmd shims on Windows) for package executables.

Set to false to have it not do this. This can be used to work around the fact that some file systems don't support symlinks, even on ostensibly Unix systems.

fund

? Default: true

? Type: Boolean

When "true" displays the message at the end of each npm install acknowledging the number of dependencies looking for funding. See npm help fund for details.

dry-run

? Default: false

? Type: Boolean

Indicates that you don't want npm to make any changes and that it should only report what it would have done. This can be passed into any of the commands that modify your local installation, eg, install, update, dedupe, uninstall, as well as pack and publish.

Note: This is NOT honored by other network related commands, eg dist-tags, owner, etc.

workspace

? Default:

? Type: String (can be set multiple times)

Enable running a command in the context of the configured workspaces of the current project while filtering by running only the workspaces defined by this configuration option.

Valid values for the workspace config are either:

? Workspace names

? Path to a workspace directory

? Path to a parent workspace directory (will result in selecting all workspaces within that folder)

When set for the npm init command, this may be set to the folder of a

workspace which does not yet exist, to create the folder and set it up as a brand new workspace within the project.

This value is not exported to the environment for child processes.

workspaces

? Default: null

? Type: null or Boolean

Set to true to run the command in the context of all configured workspaces.

Explicitly setting this to false will cause commands like install to ignore workspaces altogether. When not set explicitly:

? Commands that operate on the node_modules tree (install, update, etc.) will link workspaces into the node_modules folder. - Commands that do other things (test, exec, publish, etc.) will operate on the root project, unless one or more workspaces are specified in the workspace config.

This value is not exported to the environment for child processes.

include-workspace-root

? Default: false

? Type: Boolean

Include the workspace root when workspaces are enabled for a command.

When false, specifying individual workspaces via the workspace config, or all workspaces via the workspaces flag, will cause npm to operate only on the specified workspaces, and not on the root project.

This value is not exported to the environment for child processes.

install-links

? Default: false

? Type: Boolean

When set file: protocol dependencies that exist outside of the project root will be packed and installed as regular dependencies instead of creating a symlink. This option has no effect on workspaces.

See Also

? npm help "package spec"

? npm help developers

? package.json /configuring-npm/package-json

? npm help install

? npm help folders

? npm help config

? npm help npmrc

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