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About the Tutorial

Gulp is a task runner that uses Node.js as a platform. It purely uses the JavaScript code and helps to run front-end tasks and large-scale web applications. Gulp builds system automated tasks like CSS and HTML minification, concatenating library files, and compiling the SASS files. These tasks can be run using Shell or Bash scripts on the command line.

This tutorial teaches you how to use Gulp to run front-end tasks and large-scale web applications in simple and easy steps. After completing this tutorial, you will find yourself at a moderate level of expertise in using Gulp from where you may take yourself to the next levels.

Audience

This tutorial has been prepared for beginners to help them understand the basic functionalities of Gulp.

Prerequisites

For this tutorial, it is assumed that you have prior knowledge of basic software development using Java or any other programming language. It should be of help if you have had some exposure to the software build and deployment process.

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1. GULP – OVERVIEW

What is Gulp?

Gulp is a task runner that uses Node.js as a platform. Gulp purely uses the JavaScript code and helps to run front-end tasks and large-scale web applications. It builds system automated tasks like CSS and HTML minification, concatenating library files, and compiling the SASS files. These tasks can be run using Shell or Bash scripts on the command line.

Why Use Gulp?

- It is shorter, simpler and faster as compared to other task runner.
- Uses SASS and LESS as CSS preprocessor.
- Automatically refreshes page after editing the source files.
- Easy to understand and build the Gulpfile.js because, it uses pure JavaScript code to build the task.

History

All the documentation of Gulp is covered by the CC0 license. Initially, Gulp v1.0.0 was released on January 15, 2015, and the current version of Gulp is **v3.9.0**.

Features

- Provides minification and concatenation.
- Uses pure JavaScript code.
- Converts LESS or SASS to CSS compilation.
- Manages file manipulation in the memory and enhances speed by using the Node.js platform.

Advantages

- Huge speed advantage over any other task runner.

- Easy to code and understand.
- Easy to test the web applications.
- Plugins are simple to use and they are designed to do one thing at a time.
- Performs repetitive tasks repeatedly such as minifying stylesheets, compressing images, etc.

Disadvantages

- More number of dependencies and is a newcomer compared to Grunt.
- Using Gulp plugins, you cannot perform multiple tasks.
- Configuration is not as clean as Grunt.

2. GULP – INSTALLATION

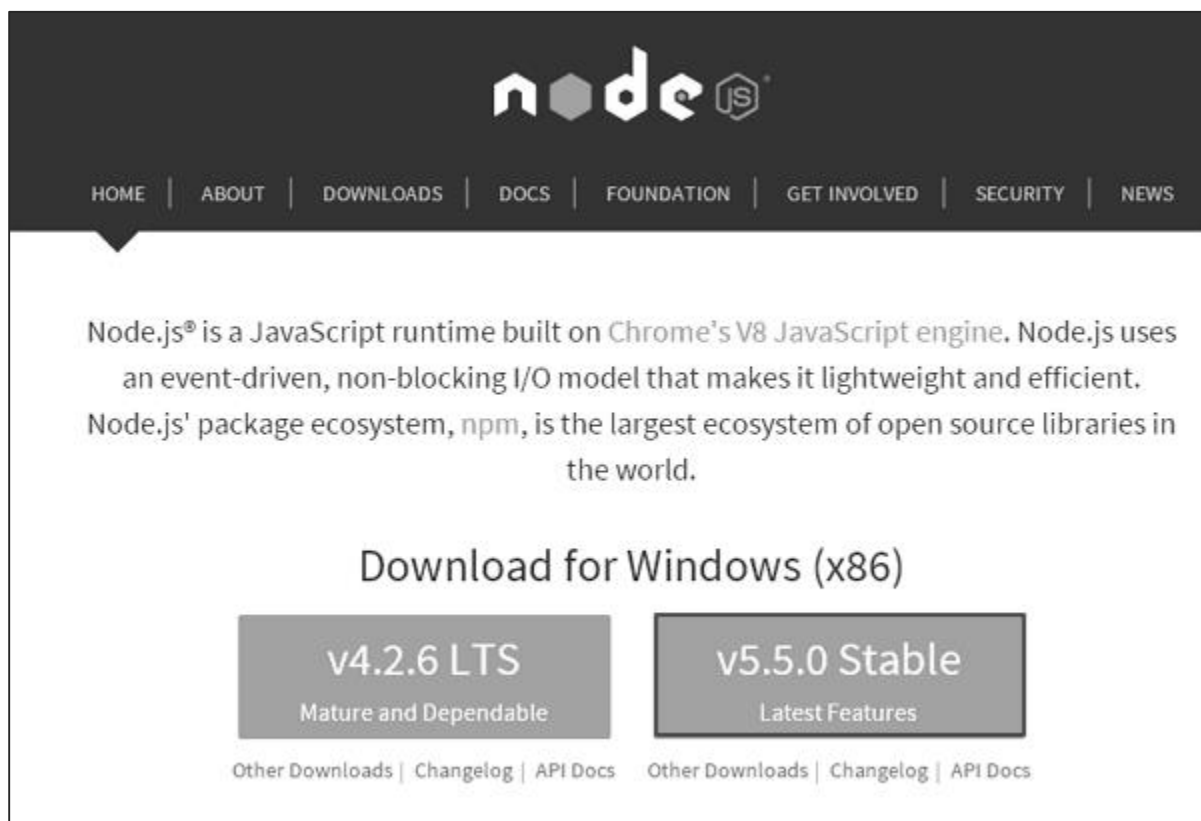
This article provides a step-by-step procedure of Gulp installation.

System Requirements for Gulp

- **Operating System :** Cross-platform
- **Browser Support :** IE (Internet Explorer 8+), Firefox, Google Chrome, Safari, Opera

Installation of Gulp

Step (1): We need Node.js to run Gulp examples. To download Node.js, open the link <https://nodejs.org/en/>, you will see the following screen:



Download the latest features version of the zip file.

Step (2): Run the setup to install the Node.js on your computer.

End of ebook preview
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