Setting up your Development Environment

Setting up your development environment is an important step to writing and working with professional web code. It just takes a few steps. Don't worry – I'll walk you through it, whether you're on Mac or Windows. If you are a Linux user, please notify me.

Because I am on a Mac, my tutorials and teaching will be on a Mac. In nearly all cases, Windows commands will be the same. If you need Windows help, stop by my office hours – I'm better able to troubleshoot when I am at my home setup than in class.

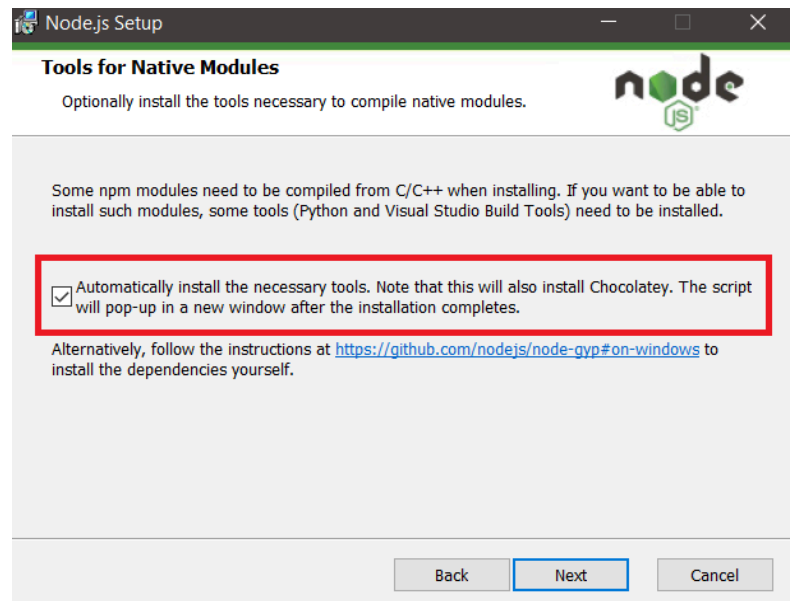**A few helpful tips for those working on Windows in this class:**

Mac equivalent	Windows equivalent	How we use it in this class
Terminal	Command Prompt	Installs and runs programs which help with web development
Command+click	Right click	Gives you a helpful contextual menu
Spotlight (Command+spacebar)	[PowerToys Run](#) (alt+spacebar, needs to be installed if you want to use it)	Type an application name to open it quickly, opens a calculator very quickly
Clear Terminal: command+k	Clear Command Prompt: type `cls`, then hit enter	Clear text out to make it easier to see and debug errors

Install, test, and set up the following:

1. **Install [Node.js and Node Package Manager – Version 20.11.0 LTS](#)** (or most recent **LTS** version – **not Current!**)
   a. We will use this as our package manager. Package managers help you use other people's code more easily in your own projects.
   b. If you have trouble at any step, run node `node -v` in your terminal. If you don't see `18.17.1` as the version number, go back and reinstall the LTS version from the website.
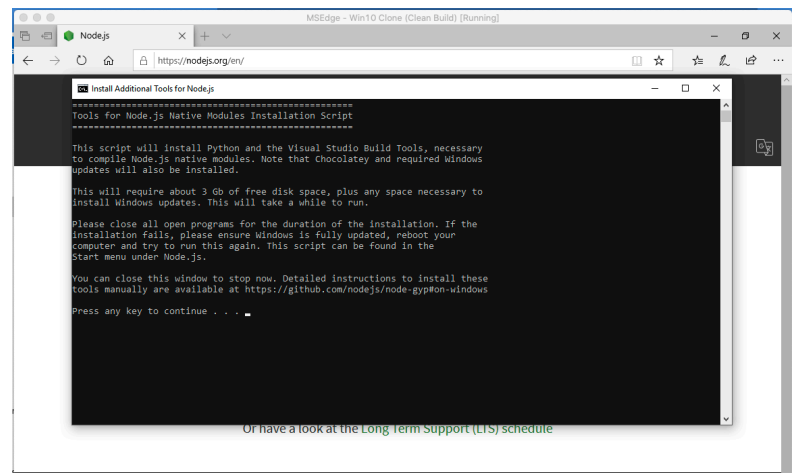
Step	Screenshot

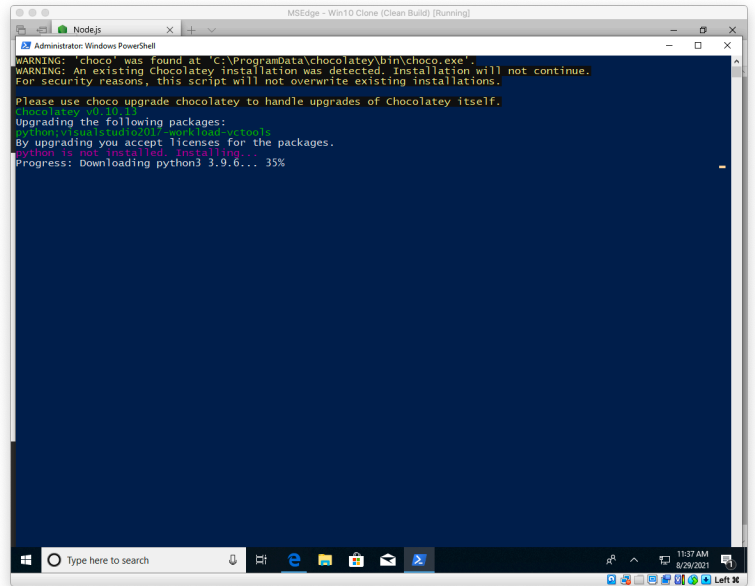|	
Windows users only: make sure the following box is checked when you install Node.js.	
Windows users only: After Node.js installs, you should see a screen similar to this pop up. Grant it the access it asks for and follow prompts. Grant access to Windows PowerShell when the prompt appears. **If you have antivirus software such as McAfee:** You may need to temporarily disable it at this point. Re-enable it after this completes.	

Windows users only: The final window that will appear is a Windows PowerShell window. This one will take a while, likely 10-15 minutes. Let it run in the background. Eventually, it will finish. Again, follow all prompts.

Once the script has finished: Close and reopen your Command Prompt window.

Show hidden files in Mac or Windows

"Hidden" files are files that are usually used by your file system to manage things. However, they also contain important information about Git. Follow these instructions to reveal them.

Mac users:
- Open Terminal
- Copy and paste the following two commands into Terminal, hitting enter after each:
    - defaults write com.apple.Finder AppleShowAllFiles true
    - killall Finder

The first command will show all files. The second command closes all Finder windows and restarts Finder.

Windows users: Follow the instructions [here](#).

Important: Never copy and paste a Terminal command you don't fully understand, **especially if it starts with sudo**. If you are unsure about what a Terminal command does, you can ask me for help.

Test it all worked

1. Type `node -v` in Terminal or Command Prompt, and then hit enter. You should see a version number. Another shorter way of saying type the command and enter is to **run a command.**
2. Run `npm -v` in Terminal or Command Prompt. You should see a version number.
   a. If this or the command above doesn't work, try restarting your terminal or command prompt.
   b. If it still doesn't work, try restarting your computer.
   c. If that doesn't work, book office hours with me.

You're now ready to work on the Test Your Connections assignment! This assignment will check that everything is connected together properly, and introduce you to the tools we're using in this class.