Modern Web Development Part 1a: The Cloud Toolkit

Overview

In the Bad Old Days (™), Web development consisted of HTML, Javascript and a plain text editor. The technology has now matured to the point where we can put together a full, end-to-end development workflow that includes dependency management, build automation and debugging.

Modern web development is not about having one, all-purpose software application that tries to do everything. It's about putting together a kit of smaller, single-purpose tools and connecting them together in a way that fits your coding style.

This document will guide you in setting up a basic Web development workspace using modern tools on a cloud-based IDE.

You don't necessarily need to have all of these tools installed. For example, PhoneGap and Cordova do basically the same thing so just pick which one you like. Also, you may prefer hand-coding your Javascript rather than use CoffeeScript.

The minimum required tools for this setup (apart from Node.js and Git):

- Yeoman
- Grunt
- Bower
- Bootstrap
- Emmet

You Have:

- Git ([http://git-scm.com](http://git-scm.com))
- A GitHub ([https://github.com/](https://github.com/)) or BitBucket ([https://bitbucket.org/](https://bitbucket.org/)) account

If you deploy a Node.js workspace in the following cloud IDEs, you will have most, if not all of these tools pre-installed:
- CodeAnywhere (https://codeanywhere.com/)
- Cloud9 (http://c9.io)
- Nitrous (http://nitrous.io)
- Sourcelair (https://www.sourcelair.com/home/)

The following table notes whether our standard toolkit is already installed on these four popular Cloud IDEs.

- No => should be installed if possible
- Yes => is already installed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cloud IDE</th>
<th>Yeoman</th>
<th>Grunt</th>
<th>Bower</th>
<th>Bootstrap</th>
<th>Emmet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CodeAnywhere</td>
<td>No&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloud9</td>
<td>No&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nitrous</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sourcelair</td>
<td>No&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** These IDEs were only tested to see if the listed tools were installed and if not, whether they could be installed.

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1 Update node.js before installing Yeoman.
2 Update npm before installing Yeoman by running npm install -g npm
3 Update npm before installing Yeoman by running npm install -g npm