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Get Rid of that NPM package-lock.json

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When Node.js v8 was released, it came with the latest version of npm at the time.

As someone who loves having the latest features, I upgraded my version of Node to the current version, which in turn updated npm. After using npm v5 on one of my personal projects, I noticed the `package-lock.json` file that was newly introduced.

At first, I had no issues with the file until I worked with a team on a project. We quickly realized that it was causing unnecessary problems after we committed the file to version control.

It was a frustrating moment — we had to delete the file and add it to `.gitignore` . I want to take some time to show how to stop npm from creating the `package-lock.json` file.

What is package-lock.json?

package-lock.json is automatically generated for any operations where npm modifies either the **node_modules tree** or **package.json**. It describes the exact tree that was generated such that subsequent installs are able to generate identical trees, regardless of intermediate dependency updates.

> *This file is intended to be committed into source repositories.*

> *If you don't like having the* `package-lock.json` *file around, then continue reading. Otherwise, you can stop reading now.*

Disable package-lock.json locally

You can tell npm not to create a `package-lock.json` file for your current project. To do this, you need to create a `.npmrc` file at the root of the project and add the line `package-lock=false` to it.

Windows users may use:

```
echo package-lock=false>.npmrc
echo package-lock.json>.gitignore
```

Unix/Linux users may use:

```
echo 'package-lock=false' >> .npmrc
echo 'package-lock.json' >> .gitignore
```

Disable package-lock.json globally

You could also decide to completely disable `package-lock.json`, thereby preventing it from been created. To do this, you would need configure it globally by typing the following in your terminal:

I tend to prefer disabling it globally, as I might not remember doing it for all of my projects. You choose the method that works for you and stick to it.
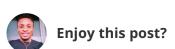
That brings us to the end of this article, I hope you enjoyed it and learned something new. Please like the article if it helped you or if you learned something new.

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