

# Cross Platform Node.js Apps

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Node.js projects are very much cross-platform, allowing your team to use any operating system they want to work on them. Well, yes, to a large degree they are; but as always, there are some caveats that can bring some headaches if you have Windows developers in your team.

## Environment Variables

When using environment variables like `NODE_ENV` in your `npm` scripts in Windows, the Git Bash command line interpreter in Windows complains that said `NODE_ENV` variable (or any other) “is not a command”. To avoid this problem, use `cross-env` in the application:

```
npm install cross-env --save-dev
```

Now you can use the `cross-env` command before any environment variable you need for your `npm` scripts, and all operating systems will be happy.

## Removing Folders

Use `rimraf`. Do not hardcode `rm -rf` in your `npm` script, because that command won't work on Windows.

```
npm install rimraf --save-dev
```

This is particularly useful for your `npm run clean` command.