

Web Application Deployment in Minutes

How to deploy your TMS WEB Core application or Web service within minutes

By Dr. Holger Flick

Deploying a web application during its development process can be tedious. This is true in particular for web services that need HTTPS endpoints with SSL certificates so that mobile Apple or Android devices can access them. There are a lot of examples setting up a Docker environment or publishing your services directly to a developer specific server. Still, all of these approaches are not as easy as the steps given in the video.

Video

<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/T_19P VLC2YQ" title="YouTube video player" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture; web-share" allowfullscreen></iframe>

Key facts

1. Assume you have a web application which is running locally on your development server at `http://localhost:8000/FinnHubEx/index.html`. This URL is inaccessible from any machine outside your network. Also, communication is unencrypted and is not secured with an SSL certificate.
2. (<https://www.ngrok.com>) is a service that can be used to quickly make your local application available on the Internet. Even better, it will be secured with a certificate.
3. In the download section, you find a free version for macOS, Windows, and Linux.
4. Download the ZIP file and extract it in a folder that is easily accesible using the command-line.
5. Running the executable `ngrok.exe` shows all options.

```
C:\tools>ngrok
NAME:
  ngrok - tunnel local ports to public URLs and inspect traffic

USAGE:
  ngrok [command] [flags]

DESCRIPTION:
  ngrok exposes local networked services behinds NATs and firewalls to the
  public internet over a secure tunnel. Share local websites, build/test
  webhook consumers and self-host personal services.
  Detailed help for each command is available with 'ngrok help <command>'.
  Open http://localhost:4040 for ngrok's web interface to inspect traffic.

Author:
  ngrok - <support@ngrok.com>

TERMS OF SERVICE: https://ngrok.com/tos

EXAMPLES:
  ngrok http 80                                # secure public URL for port 80 web server
  ngrok http --domain baz.ngrok.dev 8080        # port 8080 available at baz.ngrok.dev
  ngrok http foo.dev:80                        # tunnel to host:port instead of localhost
  ngrok http https://localhost                # expose a local https server
  ngrok tcp 22                                # tunnel arbitrary TCP traffic to port 22
  ngrok tls --domain=foo.com 443               # TLS traffic for foo.com to port 443
```

```
ngrok start foo bar baz                                # start tunnels from the configuration file
```

COMMANDS:

api	use ngrok agent as an api client
completion	generates shell completion code for bash or zsh
config	update or migrate ngrok's configuration file
credits	prints author and licensing information
diagnose	diagnose connection issues
help	Help about any command
http	start an HTTP tunnel
service	run and control an ngrok service on a target operating system
start	start tunnels by name from the configuration file
tcp	start a TCP tunnel
tls	start a TLS tunnel
tunnel	start a tunnel for use with a tunnel-group backend
update	update ngrok to the latest version
version	print the version string

OPTIONS:

--config strings	path to config files; they are merged if multiple
-h, --help	help for ngrok
-v, --version	version for ngrok

1. In order to host your application running on `localhost` with the `http` protocol, run it with the following parameters:

```
>> ngrok http 8000
```

```
ngrok (Ctrl+C to quit)
Send your ngrok traffic logs to Datadog: https://ngrok.com/blog-post/datadog-logs

Session Status      online
Account             Holger Flick (Plan: Free)
Version             3.3.1
Region              United States (us)
Latency             -
Web Interface       http://127.0.0.1:4040
Forwarding           https://a9f9-139-68-225-242.ngrok-free.app -> http://localhost:8000

Connections
ttl    opn    rt1    rt5    p50    p90
0      0      0.00   0.00   0.00   0.00
```

Ngrok showing hosting localhost

1. That's it! You are now hosting your application worldwide.

Note

ngrok offers free and paid plans. The free plan will generate a new, random URL each time you invoke ngrok.

Warning

Remember to add the path to your application to the URL. In the example presented in the video, you need to add `/FinnHubEx/index.html` to the random URL generated by ngrok.

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