

# serve static files on nginx: how should I know it works?

Asked 4 years, 6 months ago Modified 4 years, 6 months ago Viewed 2k times



good day.

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I have a React application on Red Hat server and I have a build/static folder on it (there is no index.html file inside, is it normal?). The task is to make nginx to serve static files on this server.



My config is in conf.d in /etc/nginx folder:

```
$ cat my.conf
server {
    listen 443 http2 ssl;
    listen [::]:443 http2 ssl;
    root /home/***-user/repo/****/frontend/build/static;
    server_name *.***.***.***;
    ssl_certificate /etc/ssl/certs/nginx-selfsigned.crt;
    ssl_certificate_key /etc/ssl/private/nginx-selfsigned.key;
    ssl_dhparam /etc/ssl/certs/dhparam.pem;
    location / {
        proxy_pass http://localhost:8080;
    }
}
```

I restarted nginx and how should I know that all static files are now served by nginx and are working properly?

reactjs

nginx

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asked Sep 22, 2020 at 12:11



deathfry

744 ● 1 ● 12 ● 31

@Ian Kemp Well actually nothing changed for me after I've added this conf. Nothing. If that question is so 'even' so it is simple to answer. What should change? Where should I look? In network or what?

– deathfry Sep 22, 2020 at 12:23

The index.html file is in the build folder (at the same level the static folder is at). – Daniel Nov 1, 2020 at 22:50

3 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)





You should just move in `/home/***-user/repo/****/frontend/build/static` the index.html (with the js,css...) of your React application.

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I don't know if your nginx config works, personally I use this one



```
server {
    listen      443 ssl;
    server_name localhost;
    ssl_certificate      /etc/nginx/ssl/server.crt;
    ssl_certificate_key  /etc/nginx/ssl/server.key;

    location / {

        root    ../build/static/;
        index   index.html index.htm;
    }
}
```

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answered Sep 22, 2020 at 12:28



Lotttttte

23 ● 5

index.html is in `/home/***-user/repo/****/frontend/public` folder and index.js and index.css are in `/home/***-user/repo/****/frontend/src` folder. Should I move all those 3 files into one `/build/static` folder? – deathfry Sep 22, 2020 at 12:37

Not necessarily. You just need index.html to be in the folder mentioned in the root attribute in your nginx config – Lotttttte Sep 22, 2020 at 14:20



Well, after doing some research it seems that the way to check if nginx work is to go to our site and switch between links on our site while watching over the network tab. In prev version everytime I visited certain tab it downloaded resources, while now it is downloading resources only on 4-5 switching between tabs (And I don't know why, because I set expires to 15 minutes (`expires 15m;` in my conf))



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answered Sep 24, 2020 at 12:34



deathfry

744 ● 1 ● 12 ● 31



On your browser, visit your https link, open chrome developer tools, and you could see the static files served once you are in root path `/`. All the files inside your, `/home/-user/repo*/frontend/build/static` will be served upfront on launching the url.

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answered Sep 24, 2020 at 12:52



Vijay122



well, I can see in the network tab in developer tools

[my\\_server\\_address/static/media/some\\_pic\\_name.749744ab.svg](#) with the 200 status. And it was the same before enabling nginx. – [deathfry](#) Sep 24, 2020 at 13:25

Yes. Your app server is serving those static files in your case. There are benefits of serving static assets from nginx proxy server than from your app server. If you haven't enabled nginx, your app server had to serve the static files which is an additional overhead to your server. Where as, nginx is popular for its performance in serving static files, gzip, SSL, and even load-balancing later on. – [Vijay122](#) Sep 24, 2020 at 14:27

Vijay122 but the question still remains: how should I know whether my app server or nginx is doing this?

– [deathfry](#) Sep 24, 2020 at 18:25

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