

# Fixing node: prefixed requires/imports in Browserify

If you're running into issues with Browserify and prefixed module names (like in `require("node:fs")`), and you cannot change the imports because eg. they exist within a third-party module, then this workaround will fix that.

This *doesn't* work for newer core modules like `node:test`, which are *only* possible to `require` using the prefix; it only works for core modules that allow importing both with and without the prefix.

You can use [browserify-replace](#) to automatically replace every occurrence of the prefix in every module; you need to **ensure that this comes before any other transform**, including before things like Babel.

For example:

```
app.use("/bundle.js", watchifyMiddleware(browserify("src/ui/index.jsx", {
  basedir: __dirname,
  debug: true,
  cache: {},
  extensions: [".jsx"],
  transform: [
    ["browserify-replace", {
      global: true,
      replace: [
        { from: '"node:([a-z_-]+)"', to: '"$1"' },
        { from: "'node:([a-z_-]+)'"', to: "'$1'" },
      ]
    }],
    ["babelify", {
      presets: ["@babel/preset-env", "@babel/preset-react"],
    }],
  ]
})));
```

The `browserify-replace` transform is what makes it work; the `global` flag is what makes it work *for everything within* `node_modules` too. The rest of the example is not relevant to make it work, this code is just taken from a project of mine.

What it does is do a *string-replace* to strip the prefix off everything that it finds. Because it's a string replace, it doesn't need to go through any (language-aware) processing steps that might stumble over the unsupported import path, so this should work for eg. JSX and Typescript as well.

It's still a hack and it'll match *any* string that has this format, so I wouldn't recommend relying on this in the long term, and I'd suggest looking into a better-maintained bundler like Parcel nowadays. But to keep things running in the short term, this should suffice.

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