Setting Status Codes

8 min

Express allows us to set the status code on responses before they are sent. Response codes provide information to clients about how their

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requests

were handled. Until now, we have been allowing the Express server to set status codes for us. For example, any res.send() has by default sent a 200 OK status code.

The res object has a .status() method to allow us to set the status code, and other

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methods

like .send() can be chained from it.

```
const monsterStoreInventory = { fenrirs: 4, banshees: 1, jerseyDevils: 4, krakens: 3 };
app.get('/monsters-inventory/:name', (req, res, next) => {
  const monsterInventory = monsterStoreInventory[req.params.name];
  if (monsterInventory) {
    res.send(monsterInventory);
  } else {
    res.status(404).send('Monster not found');
  }
});
```

In this example, we've implemented a route to retrieve inventory levels from a Monster Store. Inventory levels are kept in the monsterStoreInventory variable. When a request arrives for /monsters-inventory/mothMen, the route matches and so the callback is invoked. req.params.name will be equal to 'mothMen' and so our program accesses monsterStoreInventory['mothMen']. Since there are no mothMen in our inventory,res.status()

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sets

a 404 status code on the response, and .send() sends the response.

Instructions

1. Checkpoint 1 Passed

1.

Let's make sure that our GET /expressions/:id route handles invalid requests properly, for instance if we request an expression ID that does not exist.

Complete your route so that it sends back the correct expression object if it exists and sends back a 404 response if it does not.

Hint

Remember that getElementById returns an object for a valid ID and undefined for an invalid ID.

app.js

```
const express = require('express');

const app = express();


// Serves Express Yourself website

app.use(express.static('public'));


const { getElementById, seedElements } = require('./utils');


const expressions = [];

seedElements(expressions, 'expressions');


const PORT = process.env.PORT || 4001;


app.get('/expressions', (req, res, next) => {

  res.send(expressions);

});


app.get('/expressions/:id', (req, res, next) => {

  const foundExpression = getElementById(req.params.id, expressions);

  if (foundExpression) {

    res.send(foundExpression)

  }

  else {
```

```
    res.status(404).send('Expression not found!')
  }
});


app.listen(PORT, () => {
  console.log(`Listening on port ${PORT}`);
});
```