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Routers (networking) Web Development



# Web Development: What does a route/router mean in express.js?













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#### 2 Answers



## Vishwas Gopinath, Software Engineer



Answered December 11, 2015

Originally Answered: What does a route/router mean in express.js?

Routing refers to determining how your application responds to a client request.

In layman's terms, consider a building which has four rooms. One has a doctor, the second an engineer, the third a lawyer and in the last one, a teacher. There is a person outside these rooms, sitting at a desk. When a customer arrives, let us assume he asks for the doctor. Then the person at the desk handles this request by taking him to room A where the doctor is. If a customer comes looking for an engineer, the desk person takes him to room B. And so on.

Similarly, when a HTTP request is made to the server, the router determines how to handle that request. The HTTP request method can be GET/POST so on.

app.METHOD(PATH, HANDLER)

Here is an evample











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Tried my best, if the answer is misleading please let me know:)

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As beautifully explained by Vishwas, Routing simply refers to how your application handles a request.

Let's say for some website or app, you visit a URL called

http://www.someapp.com/myorders?id=20, when your app receives this request, it sees you have a path called /myorders appended to the URL. This is where the Router comes in. The router checks to see if there is any function/method that has been configured to handle requests coming through the /myorders route path. These functions are called Route Handlers.

If a route handler is found, it is invoked. It is upto the route handler function to then extract the route parameter(s) such as id in this case and its associated value. And this is where you do what is needed to handle this route and return back a response, which in this hypothetical scenario might involve fetching details of orders with ID no. 20 from the database and sending back a page with the details OR if it is an API endpoint, then you might just want to send data back as JSON (as shown below)













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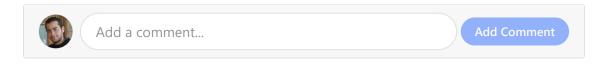
```
1 const Router = require('express').Router();
  Router.get('/myorders/:id', (request, response) => {
    // get data here from the db
    res.json(dataFetchedFromDb);
  });
  module.exports = Router;
```

Then in your server.js, you might use it like:

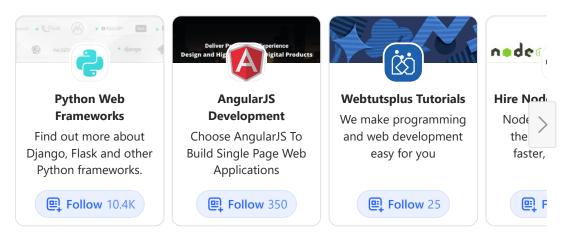
```
1 const routes = require('./routes');
2 app.use(routes);
```

### Hope this helps.

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