**Express for Node.js**

**Requirements mentioned in Akram’s mail:-**

1. **The story behind the framework.**

Ryan Dahl, the creator of Node.js, wanted to create a programing platform for creating web sites with [*push capabilities*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Push_technology).

*Push capability* is the process of delivery of information on the Web from an information [server](http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/server) rather than from users or [client](http://searchenterprisedesktop.techtarget.com/definition/client)s. (E.g. broadcasting / chatting / conferencing /gmail).

He began this project in 2008 and officially released it in 2011.

**2) Plugins and their variety.**

There are plugins and modules that can be installed and used.

1. **Check the framework's repo and look for the issues. Check how many they are. And when was the last resolved issue.**

The repo is : <https://github.com/visionmedia/express>

It contains 12913 stargazers and 123 contributers.

The Last resolved issue was 3 days ago.

**4) How good is the documentation?**

There are tutorials and there are documentations. When we searched for the documentation of the other frameworks (e.g. Ruby, PHP) the documentation was huge compared to the documentation of Express.js

5) Creating a simple app using that framework.

**Other points**

* Definition of a web development framework

I think Wallas’s document is awesome and clarified many issues regarding this point

* History of Express framework and what was the reason behind creating it?

Same as the first point in the previous page.

* Explanation of Express Node.js

\* I think that we should clarify the point Express *for* Node.js.

Node.js is a platform for building server-side event-driven I/O application using javascript.

Express.js is a *framework based on* node.js for building web-application using principles and approaches of node.js

(Similar to what Wallas explained in the document Alaa sent. Express is just another level of abstraction than Node.js).

\*JavaScript is the language used (we are relatively familiar with it).

\*Node.js use javascript. Which can be used to construct and build the front end of the application.

It also use javascript for the sever side construction and coding (which means the back-end right?). This is a good thing because now you can send functionality requests from the front end to the back end easily (*front end functionality*).

\*It is best for networking and real time applications. As the Node.js can somehow handle several user requests concurrently, without affecting the performance of the application.(There are lots of articles that explain how but I don’t think we need to go into details right?! )

– This article was helpful and it has nice images :) <http://www.toptal.com/nodejs/why-the-hell-would-i-use-node-js>

\*It is good in allowing scalability of the web application implementing it.

* Does it support MVC or 3 pier organization?

It supports MVC

* Which database back end does it use?

MongoDB

* Which type of URL mapping does it use?

I have searched for the meaning of URL mapping and found that it is used to map a virtual page to the actual physical page. For example if we have a [www.xyz.com/a/b/c.html](http://www.xyz.com/a/b/c.html) and we don't want the user to see that much URL (because it is ugly and long). So mapping it to the address [www.xyz.com/c.html](http://www.xyz.com/c.html) which will access same page.

I also found that the framework use the URL mapping facility as a way to interpret any incoming URL. And there are several types for the URL mapping facility.

I am not sure if Express.js uses URL mapping. I found this website :- <http://chimera.labs.oreilly.com/books/1234000001808/ch04.html#chap6_id35942512>, which says that there is a URL module used by Node.js. (I am not sure that it means the same thing as URL mapping).

* Indicate whether the online community using this framework is a helpful tool to find advice to solve some problems or not?

On the website, it is mentioned that there are 2000 users of Express.js, which I think is a small number.

I found a statistical website that says that the 0.1% of the world’s websites use Node.js

<http://w3techs.com/technologies/details/ws-nodejs/all/all>

The interesting thing about this website is that include examples of webpages that are constructed using Node.js. (e.g [www.YelloPages.com](http://www.YelloPages.com))

There is a link on that website that describes how they get these information.

But still, how can we judge whether it is a strong community or not?

* Does it have the ability to run on JUnit test?

Apparently, yes. We can run JUnit tests .

http://chrismdp.com/2010/05/tdd-with-node-js/