

Introduction to Express

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What is Express

- Express: Fast, unopinionated, minimalist web framework for Node.js (from expressjs.com)
- Web application framework that provides a robust set of features
- Many third-party *middleware* to extend functionality
- Installing Express:
 - In your project folder do: `npm install express --save`

Express Middleware

- Middleware provide a lot of plug-in functionality that can be used within your Express application
- Example: *morgan* for logging

```
var morgan = require('morgan');
app.use(morgan('dev'));
```
- Serving static web resources:

```
app.use(express.static(__dirname + '/public'));
```

 - Note: `__filename` and `__dirname` give you the full path to the file and directory for the current module

A Brief Tour of a Node Module

- Examine package.json file
- Semantic Versioning
 - <Major Version>.<Minor Version>.<Patch>
 - npm install can specify the acceptable package version:
 - Exact: `npm install express@4.0.0`
 - Patch acceptable: `npm install express@"~4.0.0"`
 - Minor version acceptable: `npm install express@"^4.0.0"`