



Postman

Learning Objectives

- Understand what to use the Postman app for
- Understand how to make requests to an API using Postman

Material

The Problem

Building an application usually involves creating a frontend and a backend. The frontend will include a user interface with buttons, inputs etc. as well as the logic for converting those interactions into the appropriate HTTP requests to inform the API of the user's actions.

When it comes to creating, updating and deleting resources then, the UI essentially exists to provide an easy way for humans to convert intuitive actions like clicks, drag-and-drops etc. into network requests. But what if we don't need this and just want to develop and test our API without having to first create an entire user interface? This is where Postman comes in.

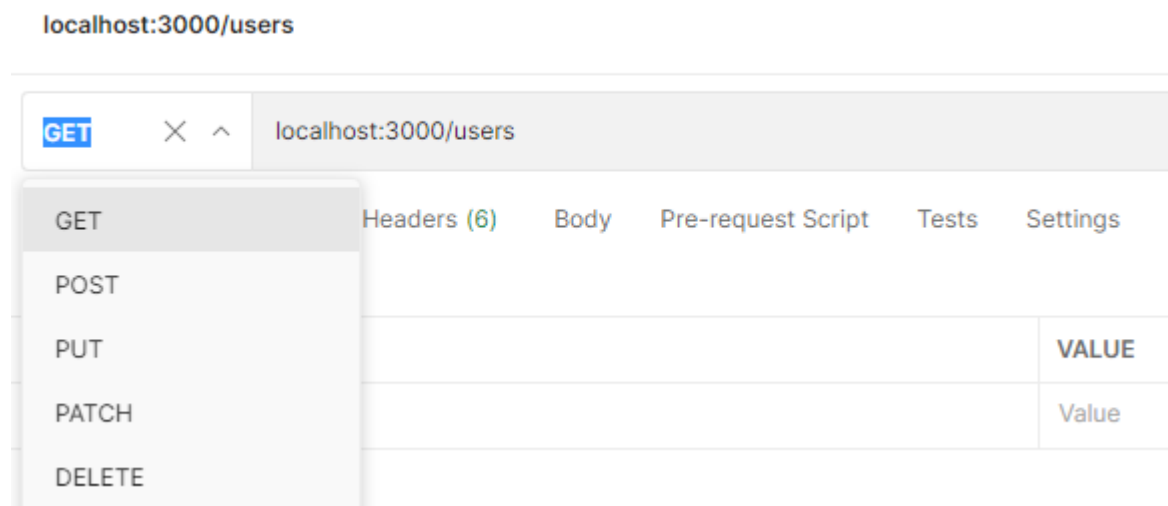
What is Postman?

Postman is an app which helps you develop an API. **Postman allows you to make arbitrary HTTP requests to a server** and check the response data. You could also do this with cURL - a command-line tool - but Postman is usually easier to work with. We will be using Postman to develop and test our API before fleshing-out a proper frontend.

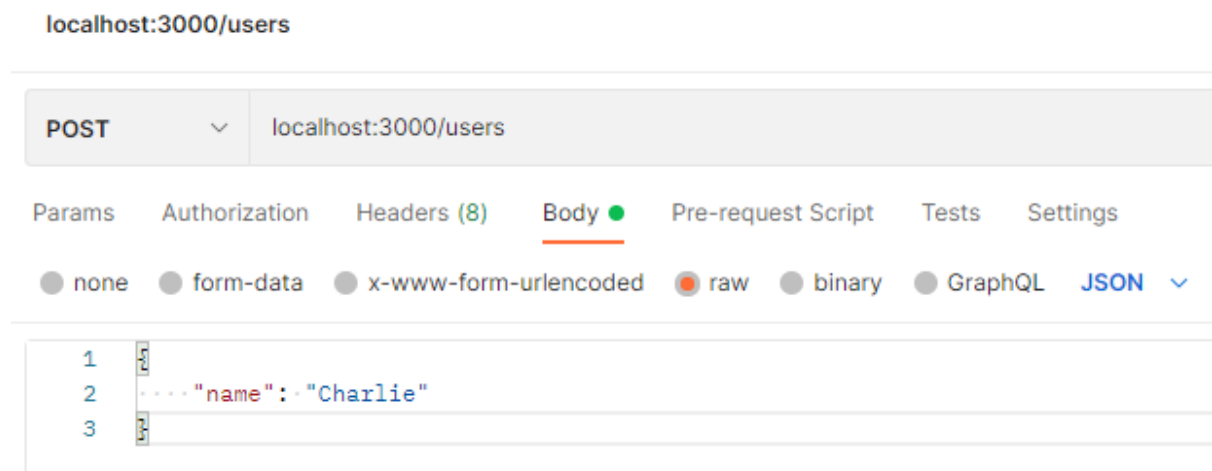
Download the Postman app from [their website](#) to install it locally.

Making a Request

The dropdown on the left of the URL is used to set the HTTP method:



We can also attach a body to our request using the “Body” tab:



Above, we’ve added a JSON body to our HTTP request by checking “raw”, selecting “JSON” in the dropdown and typing some JSON data into the box.

Once we’re happy with the request, we can hit send. Postman will show us the response in the window at the bottom.