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Intro

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Overview

Express.js is a very minimalist framework used to handle web functionality in Node.js applications. By itself Express does very little, its main purpose is to implement middleware into a project.

Installing Express

First step in using Express is to import it into your project using npm.

```
npm i express
```

Creating your first Express app

Once you have Express in your project it's a fairly simple matter to start using it in your Node app.

First we need to import Express to a constant using **require()**.

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

Next, by calling that constant as function we will initialise the Express application.

```
const app = express();
```

Finally, in order to communicate with the Express app we need to get the app to start listening for traffic on a port.

```
app.listen(4494);
```

If you don't specify a port then express will choose a random unused port to run the app on which is useful when doing automation or testing.

app.listen() returns a Server object which we can save.

```
const server = app.listen();
```

You can pass a callback to **.listen()**, with this you can log useful info about the server.

```
const server = app.listen(() => {
  console.log(`Server started successfully on port number ${server.address().port}`);
});
```

Tutorial

There is no tutorial for this module.

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Exercises

1. Create a new npm package called 'express_practice'.
- ▶ Show solution

2. Install Express.
- ▶ Show solution

3. Create a file called **index.js** and import Express.
- ▶ Show solution

4. Initialise the Express app.
- ▶ Show solution

5. Start the Express app on a port of your choice.
- ▶ Show solution