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Node.js URL Module

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The Built-in URL Module

The URL module splits up a web address into readable parts.

To include the URL module, use the require() method:

```
var url = require('url');
```

Parse an address with the url.parse() method, and it will return a URL object with each part of the address as properties:

Example

Split a web address into readable parts:

```
var url = require('url');
var adr = 'http://localhost:8080/default.htm?year=2017&month=february';
var q = url.parse(adr, true);
console.log(q.host); //returns 'localhost:8080'
console.log(q.pathname); //returns '/default.htm'
console.log(q.search); //returns '?year=2017&month=february'
var qdata = q.query; //returns an object: { year: 2017, month:
'february' }
console.log(qdata.month); //returns 'february'
```

Node.js File Server

Now we know how to parse the query string, and in the previous chapter we learned how to make Node.js behave as a file server. Let us combine the two, and serve the file requested by the client.

Create two html files and save them in the same folder as your node.js files.

```
summer.html

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<html>
<body>
<h1>Summer</h1>
I love the sun!
</body>
</html>
```

Create a Node.js file that opens the requested file and returns the content to the client. If anything goes wrong, throw a 404 error:

```
demo_fileserver.js:
```

```
var http = require('http');
var url = require('url');
var fs = require('fs');

http.createServer(function (req, res) {
  var q = url.parse(req.url, true);
  var filename = "." + q.pathname;
  fs.readFile(filename, function(err, data) {
    if (err) {
      res.writeHead(404, {'Content-Type': 'text/html'});
      return res.end("404 Not Found");
    }
    res.writeHead(200, {'Content-Type': 'text/html'});
    res.write(data);
    return res.end();
    });
}).listen(8080);
```

Remember to initiate the file:

```
Initiate demo_fileserver.js:
    C:\Users\Your Name>node demo_fileserver.js
```

If you have followed the same steps on your computer, you should see two different results when opening these two addresses:

http://localhost:8080/summer.html

Will produce this result:

Summer

I love the sun!

http://localhost:8080/winter.html

Will produce this result:

Winter

I love the snow!

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