

Install basic HTTP server using NODE.js

GeekMustHave

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At some point in time you are going to need a HTTP server to test your JavaScript code. This method shows how to do this using either Python or Node.

Python method

A typical method is to use the Python command.

Linux Method

```
$ cd /home/somedir <--- Directory where web files are located
$ python -m SimpleHTTPServer
```

Windows Method

```
C:\Users\jschust2> cd \myWebFiles <----- Directory where web files are located
C:\myWebFiles> python -m SimpleHTTPServer
```

This only works when you if you have Python installed. Some Windows editions don't have it. Another method is to use NODE.JS.



I didn't want to install Python on my Windows system(s) and was planning to use NODE.JS anyway, so lets install it.

Node.js method

I would suggest using the [Node web site](#) to install the NODE.js.

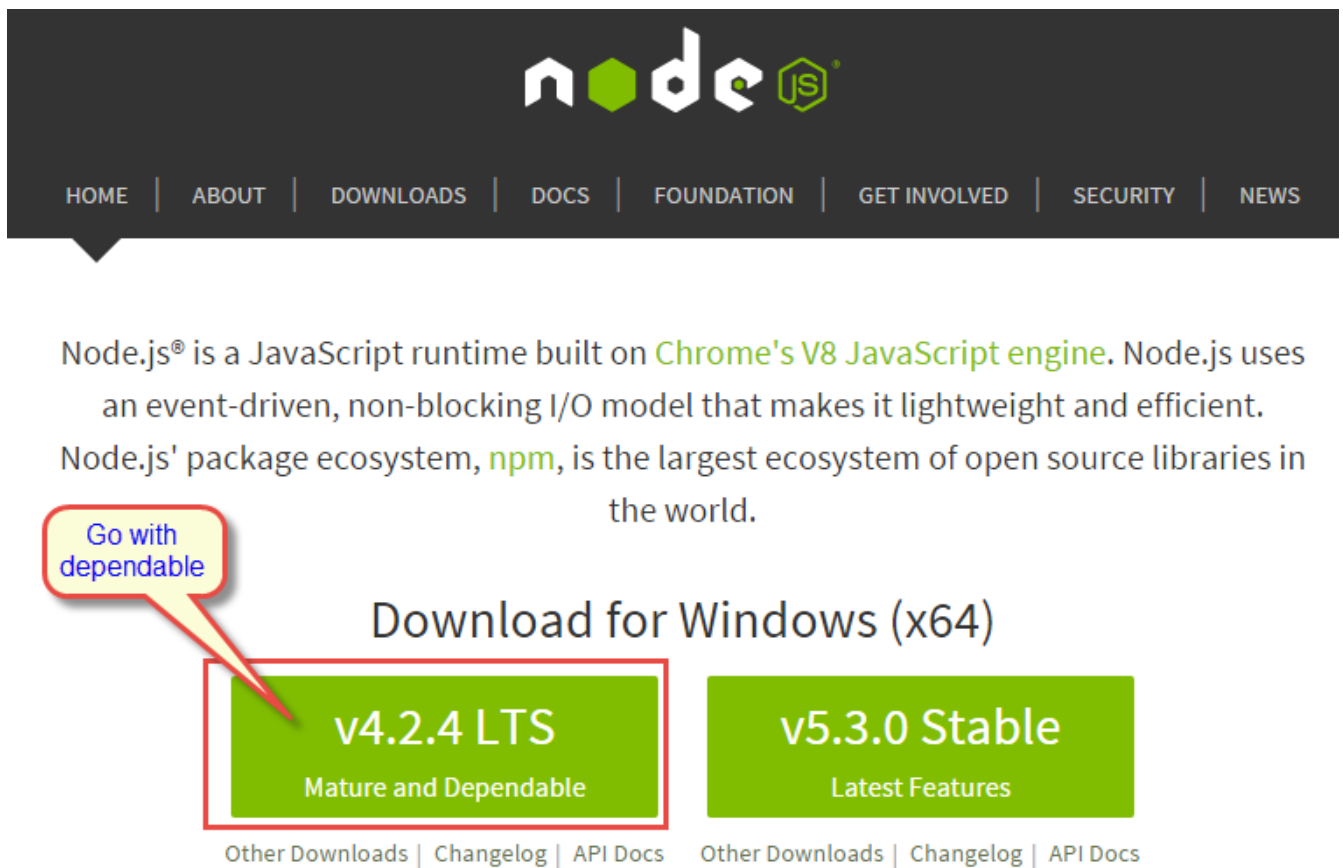


Figure 1. Node Web Site

For simplicity sake just take all of the defaults

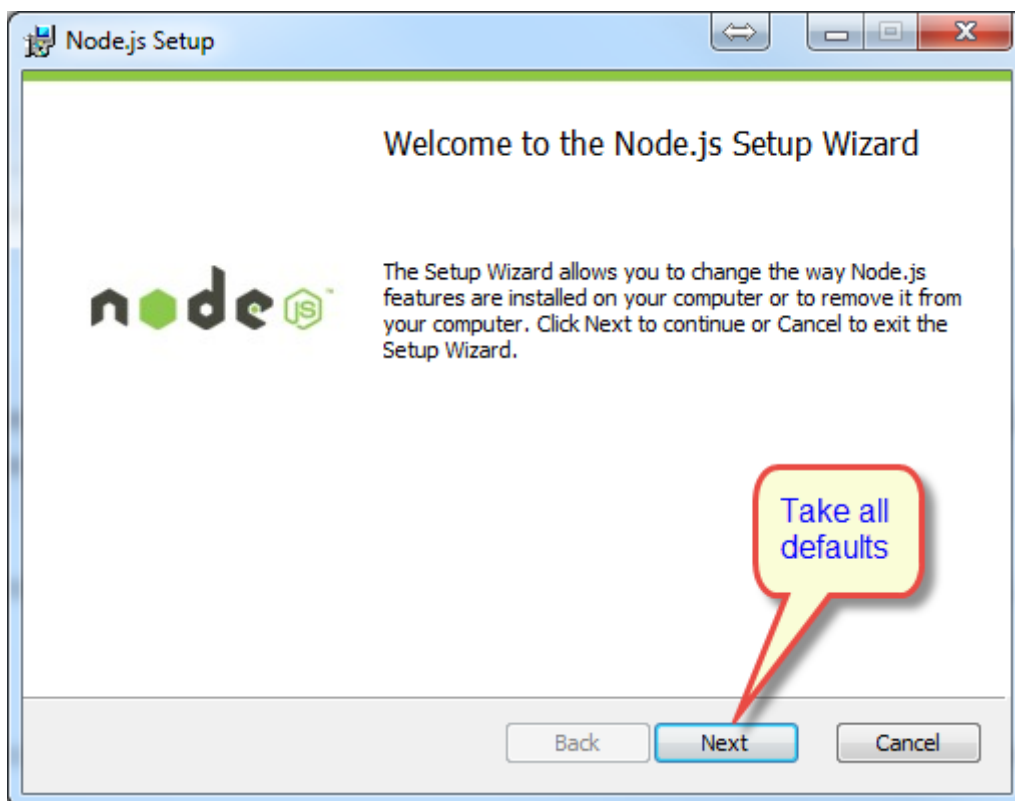
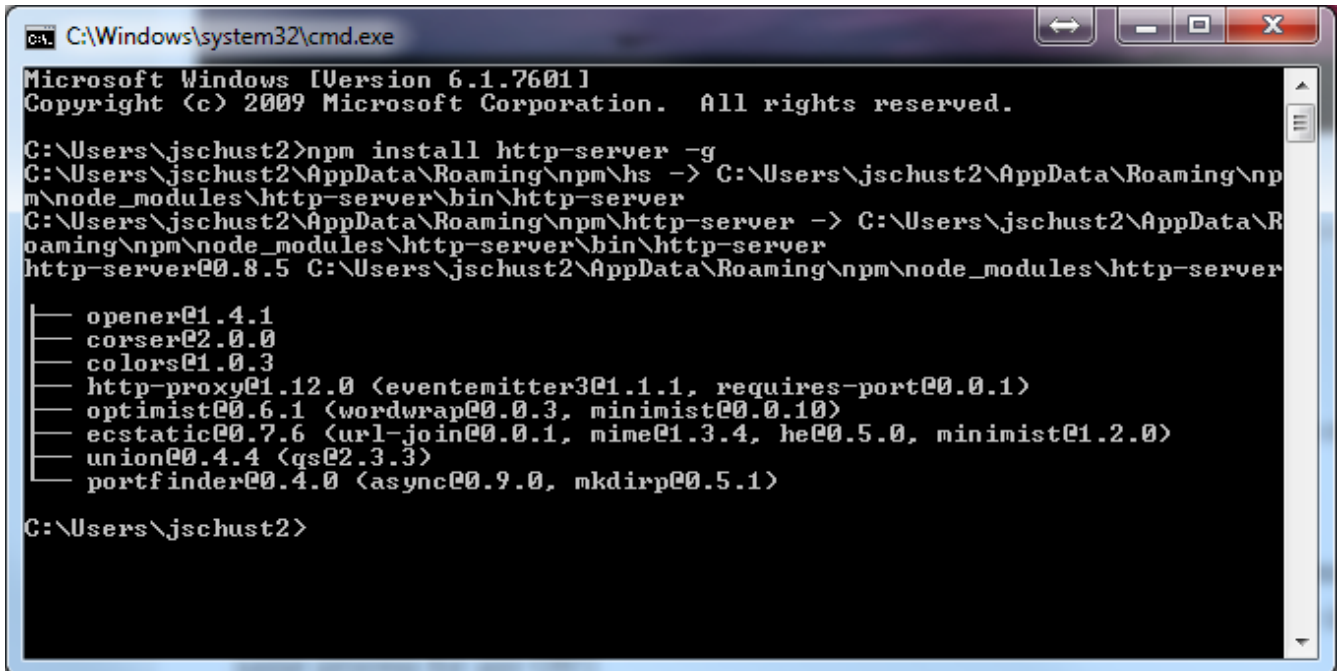


Figure 2. Node.JS Install

Install the Node HTTP server component

Run this command, from the Windows command line, to install the HTTP server. It uses the NPM package installer.

```
npm install http-server -g
```



```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

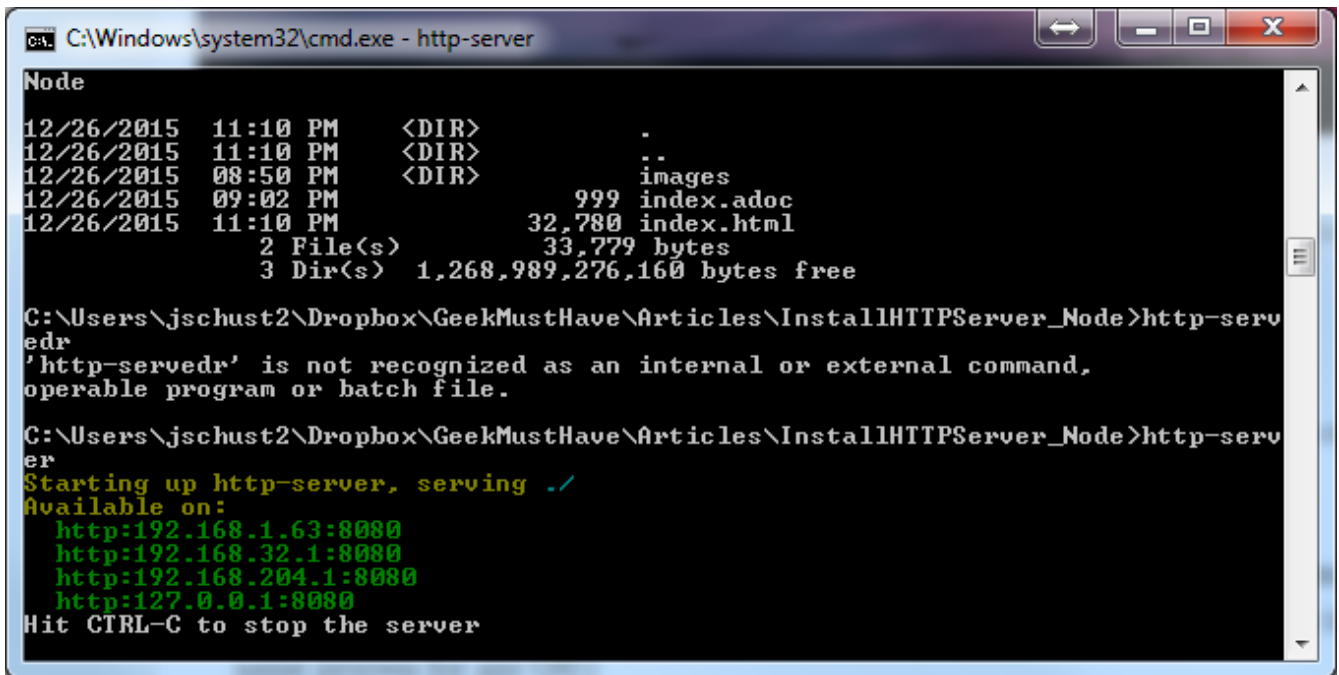
C:\Users\jschust2>npm install http-server -g
C:\Users\jschust2\AppData\Roaming\npm\hs -> C:\Users\jschust2\AppData\Roaming\npm\node_modules\http-server\bin\http-server
C:\Users\jschust2\AppData\Roaming\npm\http-server -> C:\Users\jschust2\AppData\Roaming\npm\node_modules\http-server\bin\http-server
http-server@0.8.5 C:\Users\jschust2\AppData\Roaming\npm\node_modules\http-server
├── opener@1.4.1
├── corser@2.0.0
├── colors@1.0.3
├── http-proxy@1.12.0 (eventemitter3@1.1.1, requires-port@0.0.1)
├── optimist@0.6.1 (wordwrap@0.0.3, minimist@0.0.10)
├── ecstatic@0.7.6 (url-join@0.0.1, mime@1.3.4, he@0.5.0, minimist@1.2.0)
├── union@0.4.4 (qs@2.3.3)
├── portfinder@0.4.0 (async@0.9.0, mkdirp@0.5.1)
C:\Users\jschust2>
```

Figure 3. Install HTTP Server node

Start the HTTP service

Run this command, from the Windows command line, to start the HTTP server.

```
http-server
```



```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe - http-server
Node
12/26/2015 11:10 PM <DIR> .
12/26/2015 11:10 PM <DIR> ..
12/26/2015 08:50 PM <DIR> images
12/26/2015 09:02 PM 999 index.adoc
12/26/2015 11:10 PM 32,780 index.html
2 File(s) 33,779 bytes
3 Dir(s) 1,268,989,276,160 bytes free

C:\Users\jschust2\Dropbox\GeekMustHave\Articles\InstallHTTPServer_Node>http-server
'http-serverdr' is not recognized as an internal or external command,
operable program or batch file.

C:\Users\jschust2\Dropbox\GeekMustHave\Articles\InstallHTTPServer_Node>http-server
Starting up http-server, serving ./
Available on:
http://192.168.1.63:8080
http://192.168.32.1:8080
http://192.168.204.1:8080
http://127.0.0.1:8080
Hit CTRL-C to stop the server
```

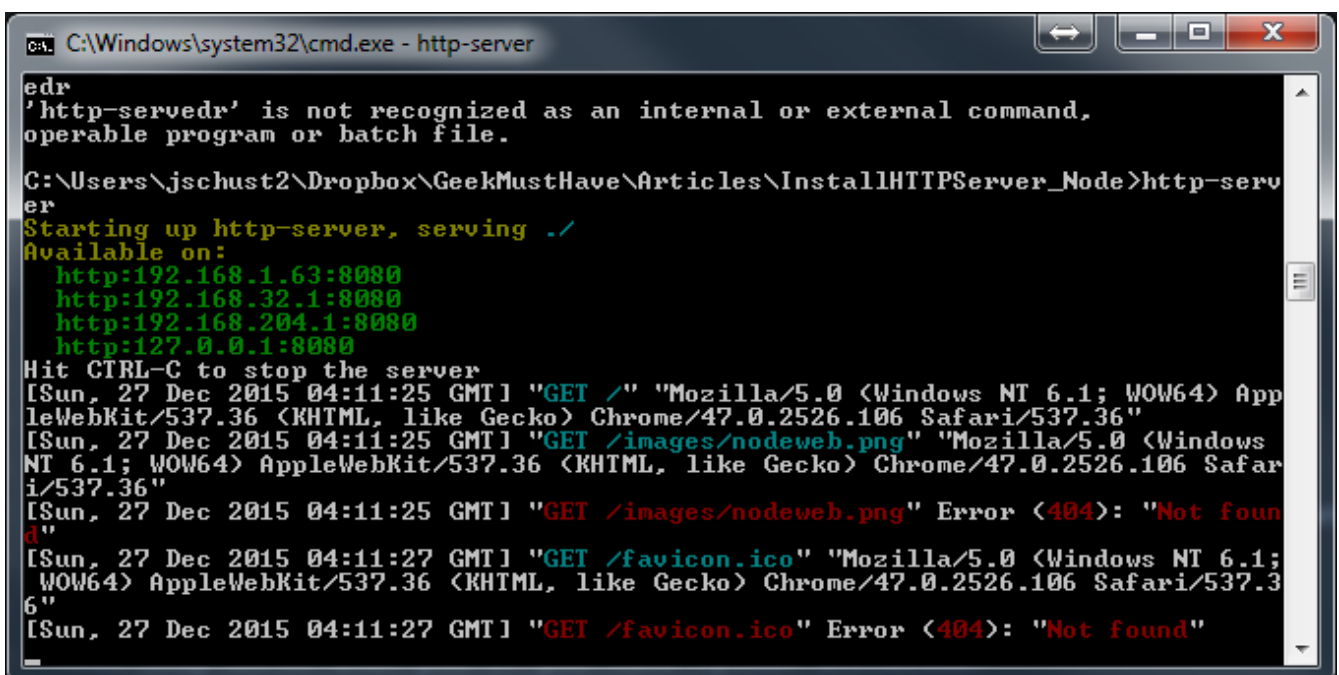
Figure 4. Start HTTP Server

View your web files via the browser

Start up your favorite browser, Chrome in my case, and enter the following URL.

```
http://localhost:8080
```

Do some work in the browser with your web pages. Then take a look at the Window running the HTTP service.



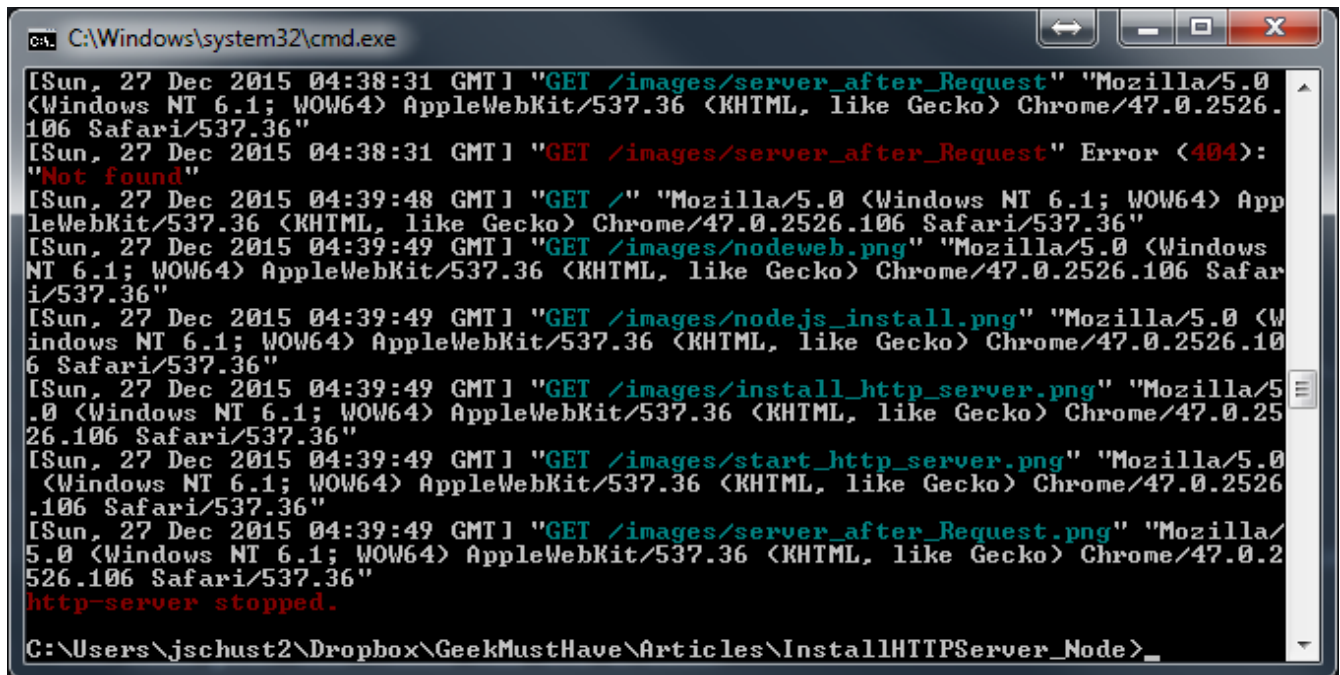
```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe - http-server
'http-serverdr' is not recognized as an internal or external command,
operable program or batch file.

C:\Users\jschust2\Dropbox\GeekMustHave\Articles\InstallHTTPServer_Node>http-server
Starting up http-server, serving ./
Available on:
http://192.168.1.63:8080
http://192.168.32.1:8080
http://192.168.204.1:8080
http://127.0.0.1:8080
Hit CTRL-C to stop the server
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:11:25 GMT] "GET /" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/47.0.2526.106 Safari/537.36"
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:11:25 GMT] "GET /images/nodeweb.png" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/47.0.2526.106 Safari/537.36"
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:11:25 GMT] "GET /images/nodeweb.png" Error (404): "Not found"
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:11:27 GMT] "GET /favicon.ico" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/47.0.2526.106 Safari/537.36"
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:11:27 GMT] "GET /favicon.ico" Error (404): "Not found"
```

Figure 5. Server processing requests

Stop the server

To stop the HTTP server press the **Ctrl+C** keys.



```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:38:31 GMT] "GET /images/server_after_Request" "Mozilla/5.0
<Windows NT 6.1; WOW64> AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/47.0.2526.
106 Safari/537.36"
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:38:31 GMT] "GET /images/server_after_Request" Error <404>:
"Not found"
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:39:48 GMT] "GET /" "Mozilla/5.0 <Windows NT 6.1; WOW64> App
leWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/47.0.2526.106 Safari/537.36"
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:39:49 GMT] "GET /images/nodeweb.png" "Mozilla/5.0 <Windows
NT 6.1; WOW64> AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/47.0.2526.106 Safar
i/537.36"
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:39:49 GMT] "GET /images/nodejs_install.png" "Mozilla/5.0 <W
indows NT 6.1; WOW64> AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/47.0.2526.10
6 Safari/537.36"
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:39:49 GMT] "GET /images/install_http_server.png" "Mozilla/5
.0 <Windows NT 6.1; WOW64> AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/47.0.25
26.106 Safari/537.36"
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:39:49 GMT] "GET /images/start_http_server.png" "Mozilla/5.0
<Windows NT 6.1; WOW64> AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/47.0.2526
.106 Safari/537.36"
[Sun, 27 Dec 2015 04:39:49 GMT] "GET /images/server_after_Request.png" "Mozilla/
5.0 <Windows NT 6.1; WOW64> AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/47.0.2
526.106 Safari/537.36"
http-server stopped.

C:\Users\jschust2\Dropbox\GeekMustHave\Articles\InstallHTTPServer_Node>
```

Figure 6. Stop the server

Special Thanks to [JHH Blog](#) for the tip.