

EXPRESS

Express is framework to help write web servers in NodeJS.

It is one of many, but is a commonly used one

STARTING

1. Make a directory for your new project: `chat-mpa`
2. Inside chat-mpa, run `npm init -y`
 - Tells npm that this is a new package (your package)
 - Which includes the ability to install local packages/modules
3. install express: `npm install express`
 - LOCAL, not global
 - NOT with `sudo`
4. Examine `package.json` and `node_modules/`

CREATE YOUR STATIC ASSETS

Inside `chat-mpa`, create a `public` directory.

- This will hold **static** files and assets
- This will be the webserver root for static assets

Create an `index.html` inside `public/` that says "Hello World"

BASIC EXPRESS WEBSERVER

```
const express = require('express');  
const app = express();  
  
app.use(express.static('./public'));  
  
app.listen(3000, () => {  
  console.log('listening on http://localhost.org:3000');  
});
```

CONFIRM THE STATIC ASSETS

- run `node server.js`
- view `http://localhost:3000` in browser
 - Note: **3000**, not 5000 like we used with `serve`
 - Why 3000? Just to distinguish from serve. No extra meaning.

ADDING A DYNAMIC ASSET

server.js before `app.listen`:

```
app.get('/dynamic.html', (request, response) => {  
  response.send('This is not an actual file');  
});
```

public/index.html:

```
<a href="dynamic.html">See a Dynamic page</a>
```

Restart `node server.js`

Confirm you can follow the link to the dynamic page

WHY RESTART?

Changes to the static assets don't require the server to restart

Changes to the dynamic assets do

Why?