

Notes - Query Strings

A query string is additional data added on to a http request in the form of name-value pairs.

To construct a name-value pair a question mark is added to the end of a URL and followed by the name-value pair which can be separated by ampersands if there are more than one.

Example:

`mysite.com/blog/news?page=2`

The `?` indicates the start of the query.

`mysite.com/contact?person=ryu&dept=marketing`

The `&` separates two different name-value pairs.

1. When express is used the request object can parse the query string for us.

```
console.log(req.query());
```

This will output an object with the provided query string.

This method is put in the `app.get()` function.

2. To do something with this data like pass it to the view for example it should be passed to an object in the render method.

```
res.render('contact', {qs: req.query});
```

3. To get this to show on the webpage you need to modify the template.

4. In the `contact.ejs` file add another `<p>` tag and use the template syntax to output the contents of the `qs` object.

```
<p> <%= qs.dept %>
```

The query string outputs an object containing the data it was given in the URL so that's why we are referring to `qs.dept` here.

5. Run the app and navigate to `localhost:3000/contact?dept=marketing&person=joe` to see the `dept` value output to the view.
6. This can be done with the `person` query string as well.
7. Add a form to the contact file. (Refer to `contact.ejs`)
8. The fields in the form will be pre-populated with the data given in the query string.
9. Add a value tag to the form with the `ejs` tags referencing the `qs` object and the data that is relevant to that field.