# Build a Web Application with Node, Express and MongoDB - From Scratch to Production

A Comprehensive Introduction

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## 1 Introduction

In this course we will be building a simple website called *Handle your Training Sessions* in which most of the features involving the creation of a website will be explored, both *back-end* and *front-end*, using **Node.js**, **Express.js** and **MongoDB**.

## 1.1 Requirements

I'm going to assume that the reader is (somewhat) familiar with:

- Javascript (ES6);
- HTML;
- JQuery;
- npm.

## 1.2 Tools

I'm going to use VSCode as the editor for the tutorial, both because of its huge number of functionalities and its built-in terminals.

## 2 First Steps

### 2.1 Initialize Node

Create a folder and name it as you prefer, open the command prompt and navigate inside this folder and type:

```
code .
```

This will open VSCode inside this folder.

In order to start our project, first open the terminal integrated in VSCode and run the following command:

```
npm init
```

There will be asked some questions and we can answer them as we see fit, I will leave almost all of them blank, I'll just write server.js when asked about the entry point (the default would be index.js, but we will use server.js instead. note: this is completely arbitrary). I'll also write my name in the author entry.

This will create a package. j son file in the root folder of the following form:

```
{
    "name": "test_1",
    "version": "1.0.0",
    "main": "server.js",
    "scripts": {
        "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
    },
    "author": "kevin de notariis",
    "license": "ISC"
}
```

## 2.2 Add main dependencies

We now need to install express by typing in the terminal:

```
npm i express
```

This will create a node\_module folder and a package-lock.json. The node\_module folder will store all the installed modules, while the package-lock.json will be used by npm to check the correct versions and compatibilities of all the modules used.

#### 2.3 Create and start the server

- In order to start a server, create a server. js file in the root directory.
- Open it and type:

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

this will simply import the express module and "store" it into a variable called express.

Define the actual app, below the line just written, type:

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

 Finally, to start the server, the app just needs to listen to a given port, and this can be done by employing the method .listen(PORT, callback) of app, taking the PORT number as first argument and a callaback function. E.g.:ù

```
app.listen(3000, () => {
   console.log("Server listening to port 3000");
});
```

• We can save the file and run the server by typing in the terminal:

```
node server
```

and we will see the following output in the terminal:

```
Server listening to port 3000
```

**Note:** We can stop the server by hitting Ctrl-C.

At this point our root directory will have the following structure:

## 3 Adding Routes

## 3.1 app.use()

Now that we have a server which will listen to the port 3000, we can start to add some routes. The syntax is pretty straightforward, in server.js, before app.listen type:

```
app.use("/", (req, res) => {
    res.send("Hello World");
});
```

Now, if we start the server by typing node server and we open the browser and navigate to http://localhost:3000/, we will see a "Hello World" response onto the we page sent by our route.

#### Note:

We can make use of the scripts entry in the **package**.json to run our server. Open **package**.json and substitute the following entry:

```
"scripts": {
        "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
        },
```

with the following:

```
"scripts": {
         "start": "node server"
         },
```

Now, in the terminal, in order to start the server we will just type:

```
npm start
```

## 3.2 app.get()

The middleware .use will match every path containing '/', namely every possible route (in fact, one can navigate to, for example, http://localhost:3000/hello and we will still get the "Hello world" response)

If we would like to match only the wanted route, we should use the HTTP verb get as follows:

```
app.get("/", (req, res) => {
    res.send("Hello World");
});
```

If we now try to go to http://localhost:3000/hello we will get a

```
Cannot GET /hello
```

response.

We can now add an arbitrary number of routes, namely we can add the following:

```
app.get("/user", (req, res) => {
    res.send("Hello user page");
});

app.get("/user/:id", (req, res) => {
    res.send(`Hello user with id: ${req.params.id}`);
});
```

If we restart the server, now we can navigate to http://localhost:3000/user and we will get the response:

```
Hello user page
```

we can also navigate to whatever route we want from user, examples would be

```
http://localhost:3000/user/222
http://localhost:3000/user/333
```

and as response we will get, respectively:

```
Hello user with id: 222
Hello user with id: 333
```

What we are employing here is a dynamic route. The parameter id in the route, can be accessed in req.params which stores the parameters in the request.

Note:

Every time we change the server, we have to stop it and then re-run:

```
npm start
```

However, we can install a package which will allow us to make changes in the server files and

upon saving the file, the server will restart automatically. This module is called nodemon, and we can type in the terminal:

```
npm i nodemon -D
```

where the -D means that we are saving this module under the development dependencies, which will not be carried over in the build. We also modify the scripts element in the **package.**json as follows:

If we now make some changes in the server file, i.e. we add a route /hello and we save the file, we will see the following prompt from nodemon:

```
[nodemon] restarting due to changes...
[nodemon] starting `node server.js`
Server listening to port 3000
```

and we will readly be able to navigate to the newly created route.

At this point, the file server. js should look like this:

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

const app = express();

app.get("/", (req, res) => {
    res.send("Hello World");
});

app.get("/user", (req, res) => {
    res.send("Hello user page");
});

app.get("/user/:id", (req, res) => {
    res.send(`Hello user with id: ${req.params.id}`);
});

app.listen(3000, () => {
    console.log(`Server listening to port 3000`);
});
```

while the package.json as follows:

```
"nodemon": "^2.0.6"
}
}
```

## 4 More Structure to the Project

It is good practice to not clutter the server.js file with all the routes of the application by moving them into their own folder and then use the built-in Router class to indeed create modular and mountable route handlers.

Let's then create a routes folder in the main directory and a index.js which will be the entry point. The folder structure will then look like this:

```
. —
__node_modules —
__... —
__routes | —
___index.js —
package-lock.json —
package.json —
server.js
```

Let's now open the index.js and write the following:

```
const express = require("express");
const router = express.Router();

module.exports = () => {
    router.get("/", (req, res) => {
        res.send("Hello World");
    });

app.get("/user", (req, res) => {
        res.send("Hello user page");
    });

app.get("/user/:id", (req, res) => {
        res.send(`Hello user with id: ${req.params.id}`);
    });

return router;
};
```

We can now delete the routes in server. js and instead add the following:

```
const routes = require('./routes');
...
app.use('/', routes());
...
```

The server will run exactly as before, but we managed to decouple the routes with the actual server and we will be able to add more routes in a more structured way.

## 4.1 Moving user route into it's own folder

Now that we have a route folder, we can create another folder inside it called user and then create an index.js file inside it. The root folder structure should be as follows:

In /routes/user/index.js write:

```
const express = require("express");
const router = express.Router();

module.exports = () => {
    router.get("/", (req, res) => {
        res.send("Hello user");
    });

router.get("/:id", (req, res) => {
        res.send(`Hello user with id: ${req.params.id}`);
    });

return router;
};
```

while in the /routes/index.js just remove the routes for /user and user/:id and add:

```
const userRoute = require("./user");

module.exports = () => {
    ...
    router.use("/user", userRoute());

    return router;
}
```

Now everything should work as before, we can navigate to http://localhost:3000/user as before and to any other route in /user.

## 5 Render an HTML Page

Now that we have set-up some routes, we should consider rendering some actual HTML page. Since we want a dynamic website, namely dynamic webpages, we need to employ a **view engine.** 

In this regard, we are going to use ejs, to see the documentation check the website https://ejs.co.

But how do we tell express to employ this view engine?

First, we need to install the ejs module:

```
npm i ejs
```

Once completed, we can open up the server.js file and add the following code:

```
const path = require("path");
app.set("view engine", "ejs");
app.set("views", path.join(__dirname, "./views"));
```

#### **Notes:**

- In the first line we are requiring the node path module used in the last line;
- The second line will tell express to consider ejs as the chosen view engine;
- The third line instructs express to look for the views in the ./views folder (in other words, when we will call res.render() in our routes, the root folder will be ./views/), which will be in the root directory and that we are going to create and populate soon.

Our server.js will look like:

```
const express = require("express");
const routes = require("./routes");
const path = require("path");

const app = express();

app.set("view engine", "ejs");
app.set("views", path.join(__dirname, "./views"));

app.use("/", routes());

app.listen(3000, () => {
    console.log(`Server listening to port 3000`);
});
```

Let's now create the views folder in root directory and a index.ejs in it.

The root folder structure should now look like this:

Let's open now the views/index.ejs file and simply write the base HTML code below:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
```

Open up now the routes/index.js file and instead of the line

```
res.send("Hello World");
```

we are going to put the following code:

```
res.render("./");
```

And upon saving all the files and opening the browser at http://localhost:3000, we should see the rendered HTML page with "Hello Home Page".

## 5.1 Further Step - Pass parameters from routes to views.

If we want to render some dynamic parameters in views/index.ejs, we can pass them in an object as a second argument to the res.render() call in routes/index.js file. Let's open it and modify the line:

```
res.render("./");
```

to:

```
res.render("./", {
   pageTitle: "Home Page",
   header: "Home Page Header",
});
```

These parameters can be accessed in views/index.ejs by employing the ejs syntax, namely as follows

```
<%= pageTitle %>
<%= header %>
```

In particular, we can replace the hard-coded title and h1 in views/index.ejs with the above lines, obtaining:

```
</html>
```

Unpon saving and refreshing the browser we should be able to see the changes.

## 6 Creating a Layout for our Webpages

In order to not repeat everytime the same HTML code, we can create a common layout and then define different "components" (in a subdirectory called pages) which will be "mounted" when needed.

In views let's create a layout folder and move in there the index.ejs file. The structure should look like this:

Also, change in the routes/index.js file the .render() method by taking into account the change of the index.ejs, but also the fact that we will dynamically pass to the layout index page the actual page that we would like to render, namely (we will also remove the "header" key):

```
res.render("layout", {
    pageTitle: "Home Page",
    template: "index",
});
```

Now, open up views/layout/index.ejs and modify it as follows:

With the <%- include('.../pages/\${template}')%> we are telling ejs to take everything in the file .../pages/\${template} and put it in there unescaped.

Create now the pages in views with a index.ejs file in there.

The folder structure should look like:

In views/pages/index.ejs let's write the following:

After saving the files we should see the new h2 in the Home Page.

## **6.1 Home Page Creation**

Now that we have a base structure for the project, let's add some HTML code to render a nice looking front home page. We are going to use Bootstrap, so let's install it.

## 6.1.1 Bootstrap in Express

```
npm i bootstrap
```

Bootstrap also uses jquery so we need to install it too:

```
npm i jquery
```

This will furnish us with lots of cool css and components to ease the front-end building process.

In for us to use the bootstrap CSS and components, we need to tell express where to find the static files. In this regard, let's create a **public** folder, and inside it a styles and a js folder. Inside **public** /styles create a css folder. The directory structure should look like:

```
.—
_node_modules
```

```
. . .
_public|
   _styles
      css
   js-
routes
   user
      index.js L
   index.js
_views|
   _layout | |
      index.ejs L
   _pages | L
       index.ejs
package-lock.json
package.json
server.js
```

In server.js let's add:

```
app.use(express.static(path.join(__dirname, "public")));
```

Since the CSS we will be using from bootstrap is in node\_modules/bootstrap/dist/css and the javascript is in node\_modules/bootstrap/dist/js, we need to tell express to consider these as if it were in the newly created **public** folder. We also need to tell express where to find jquery, so in server.js write:

```
app.use(
    "/styles/css",
    express.static(path.join(__dirname, "node_modules/bootstrap/dist/css")
    ));

app.use(
    "/js",
    express.static(path.join(__dirname, "node_modules/bootstrap/dist/js"))
);

app.use(
    "/js",
    express.static(path.join(__dirname, "node_modules/jquery/dist"))
);
```

### 6.1.2 Serve Bootstrap's CSS and JS to HTML

Let's create components folder inside layout in which we will be storing the components commonly used by evey page, then create a scripts.ejs file inside it. The folder structure should now look like:

```
css
  js
routes
   _user||L
      index.js L
   index.js
_views
   _layout||
      _components|||L
         scripts.ejs||L
      index.js
   _pages | L
       index.ejs
package-lock.json -
package.json
server.js
```

In scripts.ejs add the following script tags:

```
<script language="javascript" src="/js/jquery.slim.min.js"></script>
<script language="javascript" src="/js/bootstrap.bundle.min.js"></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script></script>
```

and then in views/layout/index.ejs we should serve this scripts file and add the CSS link. This index.ejs should then look like this:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
    <head>
        <!-- Meta tags -->
        <meta charset="utf-8" />
        <meta
            name="viewport"
            content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1, shrink-to-fit=no
        />
        <!-- Bootstrap CSS -->
        <link rel="stylesheet" href="/styles/css/bootstrap.min.css" />
        <title><%= pageTitle %></title>
    </head>
    <body>
        <header>
            <h1>Welcome to the <%= pageTitle %></h1>
        </header>
        <%- include(`../pages/${template}`) %>
        <%-include('./components/scripts') %>
    </body>
</html>
```

#### Note:

We have added also some meta tags which are recommended by bootstrap. For more information visit https://getbootstrap.com/.

Everything should now be set correctly, and we should be able to proceed with the actual implementation of some HTML code using bootstrap.

#### 6.1.3 Footer

Let's add a footer.ejs component in views/layout/components. Open it up and add the following code:

where the class . footer-text will be defined in a .css file in a moment and the other classes are from bootstrap's CSS.

Create style.css in public/styles/css and put there the following code:

```
.footer-text {
    color: white;
}
```

At this point, the project structure should look like the following:

```
_node_modules L
   ...
_public |
   js
 routes
      index.js
   index.js
_views|
   _layout||
      _components
         footer.ejs
         scripts.ejs
      index.js L
   _pages | L
       index.ejs
package-lock.json
package.json ___
server.js
```

### 6.1.4 Home Page Body

Let's now personalize the body of the front page.

#### Note:

This course is not about neither HTML nor CSS, for that reason I'm not going to deeply explain how does the pure HTML and CSS code that I'll put in work.

This is the structure that we will create:

- A background image covering all the screen;
- a jumbotron header with a welcoming message;
- a button in center of the screen allowing user to login (or eventually sign in).

As the background image you might use a cool image taken from https://unsplash.com/s/photos/fitness. Download it and create a folder named img inside the **public** folder and put the image in there. I will call this image front-image.jpg.

Open up the views/pages/index.ejs and substitute it's content with the following:

```
<div class="homePage">
   <!-- Background Image -->
   <img src="/img/front-image.jpg" class="bg" />
   <!-- Jumbotron header with welcoming message -->
   <div class="jumbotron">
       <div class="col-md-6 px-0">
           <h1 class="display-4 font-italic">
               Welcome to <strong> <%= siteName %></strong>
           </h1>
           A Website built for athletes and people which are
                  regularly
               exercising/going to the gym and would like to keep track
               their progresses
           </div>
   </div>
   <!-- Login Button -->
   <div class="d-flex justify-content-center up-front">
       <a href="/login" class="brk-btn" href="#">Login </a>
   </div>
   <!-- Text below Login Button with link to register page -->
   <div class="d-flex justify-content-center up-front">
       Login in order to access your profile or
           <a class="underlined-a" href="/register">register here</a>
       </div>
</div>
```

I've also added some comments explaining the different parts coded. The CSS classes that we have used here can be added in the **public**/styles/css/style.css and are the following (there is no need to understand how this work, I just post it there for completeness):

```
img.bg {
    min-height: 100%;
    min-width: 1700px;
    width: 100%;
    height: auto;
    position: fixed;
    top: 0;
    left: 0;
}
@media screen and (max-width: 1700px) {
    img.bg {
        left: 50%;
        margin-left: -850px;
}
.up-front {
    position: relative;
    z-index: 2;
}
.underlined-a {
    text-decoration: none;
    color: white;
    padding-bottom: 0.15em;
    box-sizing: border-box;
    box-shadow: inset 0 -0.2em 0 white;
    transition: 0.2s;
}
.underlined-a:hover {
    color: #222;
    box-shadow: inset 0 -2em 0 white;
    transition: all 0.45s cubic-bezier(0.86, 0, 0.07, 1);
}
.brk-btn {
    position: relative;
    background: none;
    color: rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.356);
    text-transform: uppercase;
    text-decoration: none;
    border: 0.2em solid rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.356);
    padding: 0.8em 2em;
    font-size: 20px;
    transition: 0.3s;
.brk-btn:hover {
    color: white;
    border: 0.2em solid white;
    padding: 1em 2.4em;
    text-decoration: underline;
    font-size: 22px;
}
.brk-btn::before {
    content: "";
    display: block;
```

```
position: absolute;
    width: 10%;
    background: #222;
    height: 0.3em;
    right: 20%;
    top: -0.21em;
    transform: skewX(-45deg);
    -webkit-transition: all 0.45s cubic-bezier(0.86, 0, 0.07, 1);
    transition: all 0.45s cubic-bezier(0.86, 0, 0.07, 1);
}
.brk-btn::after {
    content: "":
    display: block;
    position: absolute;
    width: 10%;
    background: #222;
    height: 0.3em;
    left: 20%;
    bottom: -0.25em;
    transform: skewX(45deg);
    -webkit-transition: all 0.45 cubic-bezier(0.86, 0, 0.07, 1);
    transition: all 0.45s cubic-bezier(0.86, 0, 0.07, 1);
}
.brk-btn:hover::before {
    right: 80%;
}
.brk-btn:hover::after {
    left: 80%;
}
```

Now, in views/pages/index.ejs we can see that we have added a line of the form:

```
Welcome to <strong> <%= siteName %></strong>
```

and we have to define the variable siteName. Since this will be a global variable shared by every page, we can define it in the locals property of our server. In server.js just add the following line before the app.use("/", routes()); and we will be good to procede further:

```
app.locals.siteName = "* Web Site Name *";

We can also change in views/layout/index.ejs the following line:

<title><%= pageTitle %></title>

with:

<title><%= siteName %> | <%= pageTitle %></title></title></title>
```

At this point the structure of the project should look like the following:

```
style.css

js -
_routes | -
_user | -
_index.js -
_views | -
_layout | -
_components | -
_footer.ejs |
_scripts.ejs |
_index.js -
_pages | -
_index.ejs -

package-lock.json -

package.json -
server.js
```

## 7 Register And Login

Since we have created a login button redirecting to /login and a register link redirecting to /register, we need to implement these routes and create the suitable pages, controllers and models for the Users. We will be using the **MVC design pattern** (Model - View - Controller) and we start here by incorporating MongoDB in our project.

## 7.1 Setting up MongoDB and mongoose

First, we need to install the mongoose module, which will bring with it the mongodb module itself, so let's type in the terminal:

```
npm i mongoose
```

Then open up the server.js file and import mongoose:

```
const mongoose = require("mongoose");
```

If you do not have mongoDB installed, you can go here https://www.mongodb.com and download it in you local machine and install it as a service, in this way it will be immediately ready to be used.

In server. is let's connect to mongoDB utilizing mongoose, namely write:

```
mongoose.connect("mongodb://localhost/trainingDB", {
    useNewUrlParser: true,
    useUnifiedTopology: true,
});
```

- training DB will be the name of our database;
- useNewUrlParser and useUnifiedTopology are two parameters that we need to set, otherwise mongoDB will complain about deprecation issues.

MongoDB does not have a predefined structure, the collections in a database (which can be compared to tables in a SQL-type database) are filled with documents which can have completely different structure. In order to have a predefined structure, mongoose allows us to define so-called *Schemas*.

### 7.1.1 Create a Mongoose Schema

Let's create a models folder in the root directory and then create a models/userModel.js file. The structure of the project should look like:

```
_models L
   userModel.js
_node_modules||
_public
      front-image.jpg
      _css
          style.css -
   js
_routes
   _user
      index.js
   index.js
_views|
   _layout
      _components
         footer.ejs
         scripts.ejs
      index.js
   _pages | L
       index.ejs
package-lock.json
package.json
server.js
```

In this newly created file, let's import mongoose and bcrypt, the latter will be used to hash the password (install it via npm i bcrypt):

```
const mongoose = require("mongoose");
const bcrypt = require("bcrypt");
```

Now, we define the Schema:

```
const Schema = mongoose.Schema;

module.exports = UserSchema = new Schema({
    email: {
        type: String,
        required: true,
    },
    hashPassword: {
```

```
type: String,
    required: true,
},
create_date: {
    type: Date,
    default: Date.now(),
},
});
```

We have defined an email field of type String which is required, a hashPassword field also of type String and required and a create\_date which will store the date in which the user was created. Note that we are storing the password not as the user types it, but we store the hashed password, so that if someone gains access of our database, they couldn't use the hashed password to login.

Finally, we need to add a method to UserSchema which compares the actual password (which will be used by the user to login) with the hashed password stored in the database:

```
UserSchema.methods.comparePassword = (password, hashPassword) => {
   return bcrypt.compareSync(password, hashPassword);
};
```

Now that we have a schema, we can proceed to create a **userController** which will be used to handle the actions of the users.

#### 7.2 User Controller

Create a folder controllers in the root directory and a userController.js inside it. The folder structure shoul look like this:

```
userController.js
_models | L__
  userModel.js
node_modules
      front-image.jpg
   _styles
      CSS
         style.css L
  js-
 routes
     index.js
  index.js
_views
   _layout||
      _components
         footer.ejs
```

In controllers/userController.js we will define the middlewares that are going to be used by a user in its interactions with the website. To be sure that the user is indeed logged in and authorized to make the requests, we will use **JWTs** (Json Web Tokens) and in node we have a module called jsonwebtoken which we install by typing:

```
npm i jsonwebtoken
```

Let's now open up controllers/userController.js and first import the needed modules:

```
const mongoose = require("mongoose");
const jwt = require("jsonwebtoken");
const bcrypt = require("bcrypt");

const { UserSchema } = require("../models/userModel");
```

Let's define now the model that we are using, note that (from https://mongoosejs.com/docs/mode ls.html):

"Mongoose automatically looks for the plural, lowercased version of your model name"

Namely, if we define a model called User (first argument of mongoose.model()), then mongoose will search for the collection named users in the database. Also keep in mind that an instance of a model is a document which will then be saved in the corresponding collection. Using this insight we write:

```
const User = mongoose.model("User", UserSchema);
```

Now we can start adding the middlewares register, login and a loginRequired. The latter will be used before every other middleware to ensure that the user is logged in before doing anything.

#### 7.2.1 loginRequired

in our userController.js file let's add:

```
const loginRequired = (req, res, next) => {
   if (req.user) {
      next();
   } else {
      return res.status(401).json({ message: "Not Authorized" });
   }
};
```

If there is a user we pass to the next middleware, while if the user is not logged in, we return an "unauthorized" error status.

### 7.2.2 register

Following the loginRequired function we add the register:

```
const register = (req, res, next) => {
   const newUser = new User(req.body);
   newUser.hashPassword = bcrypt.hashSync(req.body.password, 10);
   newUser.save((err, user) => {
        if (err) {
            return res.status(400).json({ message: err });
        } else {
            user.hashPassword = undefined;
            return res.json(user);
        }
    });
};
```

#### Note:

- First we create an instance of the model, which is nothing but a document (for mongoDB);
- Then we hash the password returned form the user input;
- We save the document;
- In the callback we check whether there is any error;
- If no errors occurred, we remove the password from the user document, since we do not want to send back the password.
- Finally we return the json with the data.

#### 7.2.3 login

Finally we implement the login as follow:

```
const login = (req, res, next) => {
    User.findOne(
        {
            email: req.body.email,
        },
        (err, user) => {
            if (err) throw err;
            if (!user) {
                return res
                     .status(401)
                     .json({ message: "Authentication failed" });
            } else {
                if
                     !user.comparePassword(req.body.password, user.
                        hashPassword)
                ) {
                     return res
                         .status(401)
                         .json({ message: "Authentication failed" });
                } else {
                    user.hashPassword = undefined;
                    return res.json({
                         token: jwt.sign(
                             {
                                 email: user.email,
```

```
_id: user.id,
},
"QuantumElectroDynamcics4Real"
),
});
}
});
}
```

### So let's break up this middleware:

- First we query the database for the existence of a document with email field equals to the email typed in by the user;
- In the callback we receive an error (if occurs) and the document we asked for (if exists). So here we immediatly check if an error occurred, and if so we throw an error;
- If no errors occurred, we check whether there is a user in the database with the given email and if not we return a 401 status with a message telling that the authentication failed;
- If a user with the given email exists, then we check whether the password inserted coincide upon hashing with the hashed password stored with the given email. If the passwords do not match, we return a status **401** again with the same message as before;
- If the passwords match, we first remove the hashed password from user (since we do not pass to the front-end passwords) and then we return a JWT with the signed in email and user id, with the encryption word "QuantumElectroDynamics4Real".

As for now, we are just returning a response with the JWT token just for testing purposes. Afterwards we will store it in an appropriate cookie session for security purposes.

Finally, let's export all these functions:

```
module.exports = {
    loginRequired,
    register,
    login,
};
```

## 7.2.4 Set up JWT

In loginRequired we have checked for a property of the request objecy, namely we checked for the existence of a req.user. We need then to define this property. In server.js first import jsonwebtoken:

```
const jwt = require("jsonwebtoken");
```

and then, before app.user("/", routes()), let's implement JWT:

```
app.use((req, res, next) => {
   if (
      req.headers &&
      req.headers.authorization &&
      req.headers.authorization.split(" ")[0] === "JWT"
) {
```

```
jwt.verify(
    req.headers.authorization.split(" ")[1],
    "QuantumElectroDynamics4Real",
    (err, decode) => {
        if (err) res.user = undefined;
        req.user = decode;
        next();
    }
    );
} else {
    req.user = undefined;
    next();
}
});
```

#### Let's break this up:

- We check whether the incoming message has an header and if this header has an authorization field with first element indeed equal to 'JWT';
- If this is the case, we check for the other part of the header authorization, namely the token itself with the secret word defined before.
- The result of .verify will be a decoded token if the secret word is valid and we will store it in req.user. If there is an error, decode will be undefined and we respond with a res. user undefined.
- Finally if there is no header / authorization / JWT part, then it means that the user is not authenticated.

## 7.3 Register Route and Page

Let's first add the register route. Create a register folder inside routes and a index.js inside it. The folder structure should now look like this:

Inside the newly created routes/register/index.js add the following code:

- We first import all the necesary modules, including our register created before;
- We then define a GET middleware as we have done in routes/index, but we pass a different template and pageTitle (we are going to create the register view in a moment)
   ;
- Define a POST middleware and passing the register we created.

Now, in views/pages add a register.ejs file. Open it up and put in there the following code:

This is just a simple form in order to test our code, in the future we are going to style it more.

Now, when in the homepage http://localhost:3000 we click on register here we will be redirected to /register with the form just written.

### 7.4 Body-Parser

In order to interpret what a form is returning, express needs a middleware called body-parser and we can install it:

```
npm i body-parser
```

Then we require it in server.js:

```
const bodyParser = require("body-parser");
```

and add the following lines of code (just before the JWT middleware created before), one to parse x-www-form-urlencoded and one to parse JSON:

```
app.use(bodyParser.urlencoded({ extended: false }));
app.use(bodyParser.json());
```

## 7.5 Login Route and Page

Analogously to the register route and page, we create a login folder inside routes and a index .js file inside this folder. Also, create a login.ejs inside views/pages. At this point the folder structure should look like:

```
_controllers L
 userController.js
_models L
   userModel.js
_node_modules|L
_public
      front-image.jpg
         style.css L
  js-
_routes
   _login||L
      index.js
   _register
   _user
      index.js
   index.js
_views|
   _layout
      _components
         footer.ejs
         scripts.ejs
      index.js
   _pages
       index.ejs
      login.ejs
       register.ejs
package-lock.json
```

```
package.json └──
server.js
```

In the same way as before, open up routes/login/index.js and put there the following code:

while in views/pages/login.ejs:

## 7.6 Serving the /login and /register routes

If we now try to start the server and click on the login button or the register link, we will see that the server is not able to get these routes, why is that?

Every route we have defined is inside /routes and it passes through routes/index.js, meaning that we need to use there the newly defined routes.

Open up routes/index.js and require the following:

```
const registerRoute = require("./register");
const loginRoute = require("./login");
```

Now, before the **return** router, just add:

```
router.use("/register", registerRoute());
router.use("/login", loginRoute());
```

If we now try to nagivate to /login and /register we should see the forms created before.

### 7.7 Validate and Sanitize User Inputs

At http://localhost/register one can register to the website, the email, password (hashed) and the creation date will be stored in the database, in particular in trainingDB database and in the collection users. However, one can insert everything they want in the email, even a non-email and there is still no way for our website to detect this fact, it will store it in the database regardless of its form.

Also, in order to protect from injections, we need to sanitize the input, namely remove eventual html tags which may compromise our website.

First, install the node module express-validator:

```
npm i express-validator
```

then in controllers/userController.js import the needed middlewares / functions:

```
const { check, validationResult } = require('express-validator);
```

and then define:

```
const validateAndSanitize = [
    check("email").trim().isEmail().normalizeEmail().escape(),
    check("password").trim().isLength({ min: 8 }).escape(),
];
```

and in both register and login middlewares, at the beginning, add:

```
const errors = validationResult(req);
```

Then we need to check whether this errors is empty, so that immediately after the above line, add:

```
if (!errors.isEmpty()) {
    res.json({ message: errors.toArray() });
} else {
    .......
}
```

and in the **else** statement just move all the code that we have written before. The final register middleware should look like this:

```
const register = (req, res) => {
    const errors = validationResult(req);
    if (!errors.isEmpty()) {
        res.json({ message: errors.array() });
    } else {
        const newUser = new User(req.body);
        newUser.hashPassword = bcrypt.hashSync(req.body.password, 10);
        newUser.save((err, user) => {
            if (err) {
                return res.status(400).json({ message: err });
                user.hashPassword = undefined;
                return res.json(user);
            }
        });
    }
};
```

Now, do the same for login and also remember to export it validateAndSanitize:

```
module.exports = {
    validateAndSanitize,
    loginRequired,
    register,
    login,
};
```

Now, in routes/login/index.js and routes/register/index.js we need to import from controllers/userController.js also this newly created validateAndSanitize. I'll take as an example routes/register/index.js but the same thing is be replicated analogously also for routes/login/index.js:

```
const {
    validateAndSanitize,
    register,
} = require("../../controllers/userController");
```

and in the router.post add it as follows:

```
router.post("/", validateAndSanitize, register);
```

Do the same for routes/login/index.js and now let's see how does the site respond to different inputs. Navigate to http://localhost/register and:

1. Write:

email password kevin helloworld

and after pressing the submit, we should see a message telling us that the email we have inserted in not valid:

```
{"message":[{"value":"kevin","msg":"Invalid value","param":"email"," location":"body"}]}
```

2. Write:

email password kevin@example.com¹ hello

after pressing the submit, we should see a message telling us that the password is not valid (it has a length < 8 characters):

```
{"message":[{"value":"hello","msg":"Invalid value","param":"password"
    ,"location":"body"}]}
```

3. Write:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>mailto:kevin@example.com

email password kevin hello

here, we should see both error messages:

```
{"message":[{"value":"kevin","msg":"Invalid value","param":"email","
    location":"body"},{"value":"hello","msg":"Invalid value","param":"
    password","location":"body"}]}
```

#### 4. Write:

email	password
kevin@example.com <sup>2</sup>	helloworld

now, finally, we should see a message telling us that the user has been correctly created, so something of the following form:

```
{"created_date":"2020-10-30T17:08:05.895Z","_id":"5 f9c4a5726b0dd2018df41d7","email":"kevin@example.com","__v":0}
```

If you now open up the shell, type mongo and then switch to the training DB, namely type

```
use trainingDB
```

now by querying the database to find all documents in the collection users:

```
db.users.find()
```

we should see the new element we have created.

If we now go to the login page http://localhost:3000/login and we type the email and password that we have used in the register page (the correct ones) then we should see a response with the token, namely something like this:

```
{"token":"eyJhbGci0iJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.
eyJlbWFpbCI6ImtldmluQGV4YW1wbGUuY29tIiwiX2lkIjoiNWY5YzRhNTcyNmIwZGQyMDE4ZGY0MWQ3Iiw
.UOKCKo-bc8y4Il7pjzUUCQF1WS8y6obu1vXMvKF5jH4"}
```

## 8 Cookies and JWT

We have created the foundations of a register/login process and now we are going to refine these, implementing a way for the user to remain authenticated in one of the most possible secure way.

We will employ a *short-lived* **ACCESS\_TOKEN** and a *long-lived* **REFRESH\_TOKEN** and below I will try to explain why we will opt for this choice.

<sup>2</sup>mailto:kevin@example.com

## 8.1 JWT Authentication with Node.js

There are several possible ways to handle the authentication of a user into a website, some more secure and some less secure.

If one wants to use JsonWebTokens (JWT), then once these are created, there must be a process of storing and then retrieving.

Since storing them in *local storage* or *session storage* is more susceptible to XSS (cross-site scripting) attacks, we will store the **ACCESS\_TOKEN** in a *Cookie* (since we will use HTTPOnly cookies). This token will have very short life time, this way if an attacker were to steal it, they could use it only for have a short period of time, minimizing the damages.

On the contrary, the **REFRESH\_TOKEN** will have a long life time, will be stored in the database (assigned to the user and encrypted) and will be used to generate new **ACCESS\_TOKENS** once these will be expired. Clearly if a hacker were to steal these REFRESH\_TOKENS, then they could use them to generate the ACCESS\_TOKENS, for this reason there must be suitable measures to protect the database and its access.

## 8.2 Add Environment Variables to store secret keys

As we have already said, JsonWebTokens require a secret key which is used to encrypt the data to be stored in the token. Let's create a .env file in the root directory where we are going to put two different secret keys, one for the ACCESS\_TOKENS and one for the REFRESH\_TOKENS. We are also going to store the different lifetimes of these tokens:

```
ACCESS_TOKEN_SECRET=fWFezBEMEdsFU3RzE95zRd5mt6axbVce
ACCESS_TOKEN_LIFE=120
REFRESH_TOKEN_SECRET=28TcXu8HGpvTFH9vh7QVr3qrff883xAj
REFRESH_TOKEN_LIFE=86400
```

- In order to have the most possible secure keys, you can go the following site and get some random keys: https://keygen.io
- The life time of the ACCESS\_TOKEN is set to be 120 seconds, namely after 2 minutes the ACCESS\_TOKEN will expire.
- The life time for the REFRESH\*TOKEN is, instead, of 86400 seconds which are 24 hours.
   After this interval of time, the user must log in again.

In order to use these variables, we need to install a module called dotenv:

```
npm i dotenv
```

and then import it in the server. is as follows:

```
require("dotenv").config();
```

We will be able to access these variables anywhere in the project by simply typing process.env. ACCESS\_TOKEN\_LIFE for example.

The folder structure should now be:

```
_controllers |
userController.js
_models
   userModel.js
_node_modules | L
_public
   _img|
   front-image.jpg
   _styles | L
    _css L
   js-
_routes|
   _login|| L
      index.js
   _register||L
      index.js
      index.js └
   index.js
_views —
   _layout
      _components
         footer.ejs
         scripts.ejs ☐ ☐
      index.js|L
   _pages —
       index.ejs
       login.ejs
       register.ejs
package-lock.json
package.json └─
server.js
```

### 8.3 Create the Refresh Token Model

In models create a new file: refreshTokenModel.js, open it up and add the following:

```
const mongoose = require("mongoose");

const Schema = mongoose.Schema;

const RefreshTokenSchema = new Schema({
    user_id: {
        type: String,
        required: true,
    },
    encryptedRefreshToken: {
        type: String,
        require: true,
    }
```

- The user\_id will be used to retrieve the REFRESH\_TOKEN for a given user;
- The encryptedRefreshToken will be created by making use of two functions which we are going to define in controllers/userController.js.

## The root directory structure should now be as follows:

```
userController.js
_models —
  refreshTokenModel.js
  userModel.js
_node_modules
_public
     front-image.jpg
   _styles||L
_routes |
  _login||L
     index.js
  _register
     index.js
  _user||L
     index.js └
  index.js
_views|
  _layout
     _components
        footer.ejs
        scripts.ejs
     index.js
  _pages |
      index.ejs
      login.ejs
      register.ejs
.env
package-lock.json
package.json └─
server.js
```

### 8.4 Login Improved

Let's open up controllers/userController.js and first add the above mentioned encryption functions, so let's import the Node built-in module crypto:

```
const crypto = require("crypto");
```

and then:

```
const getEncryptedToken = (refreshToken, callback) => {
    crypto.scrypt(
        process.env.REFRESH_TOKEN_CYPHER,
        process.env.REFRESH_TOKEN_SALT,
        24,
        (err, key) => {
            crypto.randomFill(new Uint8Array(16), (err, iv) => {
                const cipher = crypto.createCipheriv("aes-192-cbc", key,
                callback(
                    iv +
                        cipher.update(refreshToken, "utf8", "hex") +
                        cipher.final("hex")
                );
            });
        }
    );
};
const getDecryptedToken = (encryptedRefreshToken, callback) => {
    crypto.scrypt(
        process.env.REFRESH_TOKEN_CYPHER,
        process.env.REFRESH_TOKEN_SALT,
        24,
        (err, key) => {
            let iv = new Uint8Array(
                encryptedRefreshToken.split(" ")[0].split(",")
            const actualToken = encryptedRefreshToken.split(" ")[1];
            const decipher = crypto.createDecipheriv("aes-192-cbc", key,
               iv);
            callback(
                decipher.update(actualToken, "hex", "utf8") +
                    decipher.final("utf8")
            );
        }
    );
};
```

- The getEncryptedToken has been created by looking at the documentation of crypto, which can be found here https://nodejs.org/api/crypto.html#crypto\_class\_cipher. We encrypt the refresh token by using a password called REFRESH\_TOKEN\_CYPHER and a salt called REFRESH\_TOKEN\_SALT which we are goin to define in .env. Let's break down this method:
  - 1. First we call the .scrypt method of crypto which allows us to generate a key for the encryption. It uses a password and a salt;

- 2. Then we create a random iv (initialization vector) using .randomFill of crypto;
- 3. Afterwards we create a cypher object by invoking .createCipheriv which requires the algorithm (aes-192-cbc), the key and the iv.
- 4. Finally we return a string in which we store the iv as first element then after a space the encrypted token using the methods of crypto. We need to store the iv since the decrpyt method will need it.
- The getDecryptedToken works almost analogously with the difference that we do not generate the iv but we extract it from the encrypted token.
- Since the crypto methods we are using are async, we pass a callback function to which will be called once the encrypting and decrypting has been completed.

Let's then define the new secret key and the salt in .env. Open this file and add the following lines:

```
REFRESH_TOKEN_CYPHER=9d4yvFcC17PIzAep
REFRESH_TOKEN_SALT=amsLIWB06DnG4w9i
```

Now, we need to import the refreshToken model we have created and create its schema. After

```
const User = mongoose.model("User", UserSchema);
```

just put:

```
const RefreshTokenSchema = require("../models/refreshTokenSchema");
```

and then after

```
const User = mongoose.model("User", UserSchema);
```

put:

```
const RefreshToken = mongoose.model("RefreshToken", RefreshTokenSchema);
```

Remove the following lines:

And instead we are going to create the ACCESS\_TOKEN and the REFRESH\_TOKEN. Add then:

**}**;

We are creating here the payloads of the JWTs, we pass the user id and the expiration date (we do not need to pass the user email to the front end), which is calculated from the current date (in epoch time) and by adding the seconds corresponding to the chosen life time for ACCESS TOKENS and REFRESH TOKENS.

## Continuing:

```
let accessToken = jwt.sign(
    payloadAccess,
    process.env.ACCESS_TOKEN_SECRET,
    { algorithm: "HS256" }
);

let refreshToken = jwt.sign(
    payloadRefresh,
    process.env.REFRESH_TOKEN_SECRET,
    { algorithm: "HS256" }
);

getEncryptedToken(refreshToken, (encryptedRefreshToken) => {
    ...
}
```

In this way we have generated the two tokens using the HS256 algorithm for encryption and the secret keys we have created in the .env file. Also, we have called the getEncryptedToken method, which will encrypt the refresh token and then called the callback function.

Now in the callback we need to see whether there already exist a document in the refreshTokens collection associated with the given user. Let's then add in the callback:

```
RefreshToken.findOne({ user_id: user.id }, (err, tokenUser) => {
    if (err) {
        return res.status(400).json({ message: err });
    } else {
        if (!tokenUser) {
            let newToken = new RefreshToken({
                user_id: user.id,
            });
            newToken.encryptedRefreshToken = encryptedRefreshToken;
            newToken.save((err, token) => {
                if (err) {
                    return res.status(400).json({ message: err });
                } else {
                    console.log("Refresh token saved successfully");
            });
        } else {
            RefreshToken.updateOne(
                { user_id: user.id },
                    $set: {
                        encryptedRefreshToken: encryptedRefreshToken,
                    },
                },
                (err) => {
                    if (err)
```

- First we query the database for the existence of the document with user\_id = user.id in the refreshTokens collection and if any error occurs, we return a 401 status.
- Then we check whether there exists such queried document, if not, we create a new document newToken with the user\_id = user.id and we set the field encryptedRefreshToken.
- We then save it while logging a message telling the success of the operation.
- If instead there already exists a document, we just update it, with the new encrypted refreshToken.

Now that the checks on the refresh tokens have been made, we can proceed to attach the JWT to a cookie and then redirect to the /home route (which we will soon create):

```
res.cookie("jwt", accessToken, {
    //secure: true,
    httpOnly: true,
});
res.redirect("/home");
```

- httpOnly will protect against XSS;
- The secure flag should be omitted when testing on a HTTP (otherwise the cookie will not be sent).

In order to correctly parse cookies, we need to install cookie-parser:

```
npm i cookie-parser
```

and then in server. js add:

```
const cookieParser = require('cookie-parser');
...
app.use(cookieParser());
```

# 8.5 Home Route and Page

Let's add the /home route, which will be the page where users will be redirected after login.

Create a home folder in routes and then inside it create an index.js with the following code:

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

in routes/index.js we need to serve this route, so let's import it:

```
const homeRoute = require("./home");
const { loginRequired } = require("../controllers/userControllers");
```

#### Note:

we have also imported the loginRequired middleware, which will be called before the home route in order to check whether the user is indeed logged in.

#### and use it:

```
router.use("/home", loginRequired, homeRoute());
```

Let's also create the view: in views/pages create a home.ejs file and inside there just put the following simple text:

```
<h1>This is Home Page</h1>
```

At this point the project structure should look like as follows:

```
_controllers L
  userController.js
  refreshTokenModel.js
  userModel.js
_node_modules | L
_public
      front-image.jpg
  _styles
      _css
  js
routes
  _home | L
     index.js
  _login||L
      index.js
   _register
```

```
index.js
     index.js
  index.js
_views
   _layout||
      _components
         footer.ejs
         scripts.ejs
     index.js
   _pages
      home.ejs
      index.ejs
      login.ejs
      register.ejs
package-lock.json
package.json ___
server.js
```

# 8.6 loginRequired Middleware

Since we have changed the way we handle authorization, we need to change also the loginRequired middleware in controllers/userController.js. Before doing that, go to server.js and **delete** the following middleware (we do not need this anymore):

```
app.use((req, res, next) => {
    if (
        req.headers &&
        req.headers.authorization &&
        req.headers.authorization.split(" ")[0] === "JWT"
    ) {
        const token = jwt.verify(
            req.headers.authorization.split(" ")[1],
            "QuantumElectroDynamics4Real",
            (err, decode) => {
                if (err) res.user = undefined;
                req.user = decode;
                next();
            }
        );
    } else {
        req.user = undefined;
        next();
    }
});
```

Then, open up controllers/userController.js and let's start implementing the new loginRequired, namely first of all **delete** everything that was in this function.

Since we have sent the to the client a cookie with the JWT, we first access this token and check whether it exists or not:

```
let accessToken = req.cookie.jwt;
```

```
if (!accessToken) {
    return res.status(401).json({ message: "Not Authorized User" });
}
```

Then if it exists, we verify it with the .verify method to which we may pass the callback function where the method will return a possible error and the decoded payload of the token:

- If there are no errors we pass to the next middleware;
- Then we check whether the token is expired, if the error we received was not the TokenExpiredError error, then it means that the token has been compromised in some way and it will be required another login for the user;
- If the token is expired, then we are going to generate another one below.

# In the **else** statement, write the following:

```
console.log("- Access token has expired");
let decodedPayload = jwt.decode(accessToken, process.env.
   ACCESS_TOKEN_SECRET);
console.log("- Checking if Refresh token is active");
RefreshToken.findOne(
   {
        user_id: decodedPayload._id,
    },
    (err, refreshTokenDocument) => {
        if (err) {
            return res.status(400).json({ message: err });
        } else if (!refreshTokenDocument) {
            console.log("No refresh token found");
            res.redirect("/login");
        } else {
            console.log("- Refresh token found, checking its validity");
            getDecryptedToken(
                refreshTokenDocument.encryptedRefreshToken,
                (decryptedRefreshToken) => {
                    jwt.verify(
                        decryptedRefreshToken,
                        process.env.REFRESH_TOKEN_SECRET,
                        (err, refreshPayloadDecoded) => {
                            if (err) {
                                console.log(
```

```
"- Refresh token is not valid, maybe
                                        it is expired"
                                 );
                                 res.redirect("/login");
                             } else {
                                 console.log(
                                     "- Valid refresh token found,
                                        generating new Access Token"
                                 );
                                 let newPayloadAccess = {
                                     _id: decodedPayload._id,
                                     exp:
                                         Math.floor(Date.now() / 1000) +
                                         Number(process.env.
                                             ACCESS_TOKEN_LIFE),
                                 };
                                 let newAccessToken = jwt.sign(
                                     newPayloadAccess,
                                     process.env.ACCESS_TOKEN_SECRET,
                                         algorithm: "HS256",
                                 );
                                 res.cookie("jwt", newAccessToken, {
                                     //secure: true,
                                     httpOnly: true,
                                 });
                                 console.log(
                                     "New Access Token generated and sent
                                        to the client"
                                 );
                                 next();
                            }
                        }
                    );
               }
           );
       }
   }
);
```

- First we decode the accessToken which is expired so that we can retrieve the user.
- Then we search in the database for a document in the refreshTokens collection which
  has the corresponding user\_id, in case of an error we return a 400 status with the error
  in json format.
- If no errors occur, then we check if the document exists, if not we redirect to login page;
- If the refresh token document exists, we decrypt the encryptedRefreshToken and in the callback we verify the validity of the token.
- If an error occurs, it might mean that the refresh token is expired so we redirect the user to the login page.
- If the refresh token is still valid and not expired, we create a new ACCESS\_TOKEN, by defining a new payload and then signing in a new token.
- Finally we set the cookie and call the next middleware.

Note that we have also added some console.log and these will be used to track the actual flow of the program since are going to test the above implementations soon

# 8.7 Test the Project

At this point we should be able to test our project. Let's start the server with npm start and then open the browser to http://locahost:3000.

• Trying to navigate to: http://locahost:3000/home should result in a:

```
{"message":"Not Authorized User"}
```

• Let's now go to http://locahost:3000/register and register a new user:

email	password
hello@world.com³	helloworld

we can also check in the database the correct creation of the new user.

Now navigate to http://locahost:3000/login and insert the newly created user. Upon posting the request, we should be redirected to http://locahost:3000/home and checking the console (in the editor), we should see the following lines:

```
- Checking Authorization user authorized
```

• Wait at least 2 minutes, and then try to refresh the http://locahost:3000/home page. Now, since the ACCESS\_TOKEN is expired, we should see the following lines in the console:

```
Checking Authorization
There is a problem in the Authentication
Access token has expired
Checking if Refresh token is active
Refresh token found, checking its validity
Valid refresh token found, generating new Access Token
New Access Token generated and sent to the client
```

Now, for the next step, do not close this web page.

• Go to the mongoDB shell and swtich to our database:

```
use trainingDB
```

and then delete the document in the refreshtokens collection:

```
db.refreshtokens.remove({})
```

Now, in the browser, in the page opened before, namely at http://locahost:3000/home, open the developer tools (in chrome just right click and select inspect), then in network under name click home and then copy the string under Request Headers > Cookie.

Navigate to http://localhost:3000/login and login again with the credetials created before. We should see in the console that a new refresh token has been created.

Go to postman (you can download it here https://www.postman.com) and make a GET request to http://localhost:3000/home by setting a header with key: Cookie and value

<sup>3</sup>mailto:hello@world.com

the string copied just before. Now, this ACCESS\_TOKEN was created before using the refresh token we just deleted, however, upon making this request, the server will respond with a new ACCESS\_TOKEN and we will be correctly directed to /home.

#### Why?

This is because the server checks that the received ACCESS\_TOKEN is valid, then it checks whether it is expired. If it is expired, then it just looks in the database to find a refresh token and if a refresh token is found (and is not expired valid) then it will send back another ACCESS\_TOKEN. This means that a given ACCESS\_TOKEN (expired) can always be used to gain a new valid ACCESS\_TOKEN, provided there is a REFRESH\_TOKEN in the database. We would like to avoid this situation, since we have no way to invalidate a given token.

In order to resolve this problem, we will attach to every ACCESS\_TOKEN the corresponding REFRESH\_TOKEN and upon validating the authorization, we will check whether the REFERSH\_TOKEN in the payload of the ACCESS\_TOKEN coincides with the REFERSH\_TOKEN in the database. If these do not coincide we will redirect the user to the login page. In this way, we will have also a way to invalidate ACCESS\_TOKEN, namely just deleting the REFRESH\_TOKEN and creating a new one.

# 8.8 Implementing the invalidation of a token

Let's start by adding in the payload of ACCESS\_TOKENs the corresponding REFRESH\_TOKEN.

In controllers/userController scroll to the login middleware, and instead of:

```
let payloadAccess = {
    _id: user.id,
    exp: Math.floor(Date.now() / 1000) + Number(process.env.
       ACCESS_TOKEN_LIFE),
};
let payloadRefresh = {
    _id: user.id,
    exp: Math.floor(Date.now() / 1000) + Number(process.env.
       REFRESH_TOKEN_LIFE),
};
let accessToken = jwt.sign(
    payloadAccess,
    process.env.ACCESS_TOKEN_SECRET,
    { algorithm: "HS256" }
);
let refreshToken = jwt.sign(
    payloadRefresh,
    process.env.REFRESH_TOKEN_SECRET,
    { algorithm: "HS256" }
);
```

we are going to first create the REFRESH\_TOKEN and then the ACCESS\_TOKEN by putting the RE-FRESH\_TOKEN in its payload:

```
let payloadAccess = {
    _id: user.id,
```

#### and then:

```
getEncryptedToken(refreshToken, (encryptedRefreshToken) => {
    let payloadAccess = {
        id: user.id,
        refresh: encryptedRefreshToken,
        exp:
            Math.floor(Date.now() / 1000) +
            Number(process.env.ACCESS_TOKEN_LIFE),
    };

let accessToken = jwt.sign(payloadAccess, process.env.
        ACCESS_TOKEN_SECRET, {
        algorithm: "HS256",
    });

RefreshToken.findOne(
        ...
```

Clearly we are setting the REFRESH\_TOKEN in the ACCESS\_TOKEN encrypted since we do not want to pass it to the front-end as it is.

Now, in loginRequired we need to check if the REFRESH\_TOKEN in the ACCESS\_TOKEN coincide with the REFRESH\_TOKEN stored in the database.

#### Navigate to:

then instead of the three dots we are going to put the following:

```
console.log("- Refresh Token Found");
console.log("- Checking if it coincide with the one in the access token");
if (refreshTokenDocument.encryptedRefreshToken !== decodedPayload.refresh)
    {
    console.log("Refresh tokens do not coincide, login again");
    return res.redirect("/login");
} else {
    console.log(
```

```
"- Refresh tokens coincide, checking validity of refresh token"
);
getDecryptedToken(
...
```

(The getDecryptedToken method call is the same as before)

Lastly, when we generate a new ACCESS\_TOKEN from the REFRESH\_TOKEN, we need to add in the payload the encrypted REFRESH\_TOKEN. So after

```
console.log("- Valid refresh token found, generating new Access Token");
```

in the newPayloadAccess add the field:

```
refresh: refreshTokenDocument.encryptedRefreshToken,
```

And everything else is left the same.

### 8.9 Logout

Let's now implement an API which will allow the user to logout, with the effect of removing the REFRESH\_TOKEN in the database, invalidating every ACCESS\_TOKEN previously generated with it.

Let's create a folder logout inside routes and an index.js file inside it.

Open it up and put the following code:

We need to create the middleware logout in controller/userController.js, the page to render in views/pages and serve the route in routes/index.js.

Let's first create the page: in views/pages create a file logout.ejs and put in there the following code:

```
<form method="POST" action="/logout">
     <input type="submit" value="Logout" />
</form>
```

then open up routes/index.js and add:

```
const logoutRoute = require("./logout");
```

#### and before return router just put:

```
router.use("/logout", loginRequired, logoutRoute());
```

Clearly the user must be logged in before logout.

## Finally in controllers/userController.js add the middleware:

```
const logout = (req, res) => {
    let accessToken = req.cookies.jwt;
    console.log("- Logging out... verifying access token");
    jwt.verify(accessToken, process.env.ACCESS_TOKEN_SECRET, (err, decode)
        => {
        if (err)
            return res.status(401).json({ message: "User not Authenticated
               " });
        console.log("- Access token verified, removing refresh token from
           DB");
        RefreshToken.deleteOne({ user_id: decode._id }, (err) => {
            if (err) return res.status(400).json({ message: err });
            console.log("- Refresh Token removed successfully");
            console.log("- Removing associated cookie");
            res.cookie("jwt", { maxAge: 0 });
            console.log("Redirecting to welcome page");
            return res.redirect("/");
        });
    });
};
```

- First we verify the ACCESS\_TOKEN, but since this middleware comes after loginRequired , it should never pop an error here;
- Then we delete the REFRESH\_TOKEN in the database and also we delete the cookie carrying the ACCESS\_TOKEN.

#### At this point the folder structure should look like the following:

```
js-
 routes
   _home
      index.js
   _login||L
      index.js
   _logout||L
      index.js
   _register||
      index.js
   index.js
 views
   _layout
      _components
         footer.ejs
         scripts.ejs
      index.js
   _pages |
       home.ejs
       index.ejs
       login.ejs
       logout.ejs L
       register.ejs
.env
package-lock.json
package.json └
server.js
```

## 8.10 Test Project Again

First of all let's delete the document in the refreshtokens collection in the database (if there is one).

Then let's navigate to http://locahost:3000/login and login with the email hello@world.com and password helloworld as before.

We should be redirected to /home and in the console we should see as before:

```
Refresh token saved successfully
- Checking Authorization
user authorized
```

If we immediately refresh the page we should see:

```
- Checking Authorization user authorized
```

since the ACCESS\_TOKEN is still valid.

After at least 2 minutes, if we refresh the page we should see:

```
- Checking Authorization
```

```
There is a problem in the Authentication
Access token has expired
Checking if Refresh token associated to the user is in database
Refresh Token Found
Checking if it coincide with the one in the access token
Refresh tokens coincide, checking validity of refresh token
Valid refresh token found, generating new Access Token
New Access Token generated and sent to the client
```

Now, let's open up the developer tools and go again to network > home and in Request Headers save the content of Cookie, which would be something of the form:

```
jwt=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.
eyJfaWQiOiI1ZmEyOTUyZWE4MjFkZDNmNDg2NjAxOTciLCJyZWZyZXNoIjoiMTMzLDE0OSwxMCw3NSwyMDk
.RYUOUl4alrwvAMnBvHmnVSap3DlWKm9_cllfCr-RT4E
```

Navigate to http://localhost:3000/logout and click to logout we should be redirected to the welcome page http://localhost:3000/ and in the console we should see:

```
Checking Authorization
user authorized
Logging out... verifying access token
Access token verified, removing refresh token from DB
Refresh Token removed successfully
Removing associated cookie
Redirecting to welcome page
```

If we now try to navigate to http://localhost:3000/home we should see in the console:

```
Checking AuthorizationThere is a problem in the Authentication
```

and the response in the front-end:

```
{"message":"Not Authorized User"}
```

Let's try to make a GET request of http://localhost:3000/home from postman by making use of the saved token. Open up postman and set a header with key: Cookie and value the string copied before (the ACCESS\_TOKEN). Submit the request and we should see the following lines in the console:

```
Checking Authorization
There is a problem in the Authentication
Access token has expired
Checking if Refresh token associated to the user is in database
No refresh token found
```

and we should see in postman that we have been redirecting to the /login page.

This is the behaviour that we had also before, namely if there is no REFRESH\_TOKEN in the database, the server will not generate any ACCESS\_TOKEN.

Let's try now to login again, namely generating another REFRESH\_TOKEN, which would be different from the one in the payload of our saved ACCESS\_TOKEN. Go to http://localhost:3000/login and login again with the same credentials.

Switch again to postman and send again the same GET request. Now in the console we should see:

```
Checking Authorization
There is a problem in the Authentication
Access token has expired
Checking if Refresh token associated to the user is in database
Refresh Token Found
Checking if it coincide with the one in the access token
Refresh tokens do not coincide, login again
```

namely the ACCESS\_TOKEN the server created before is not valid anymore and the user is redirected to the login page.

### 8.11 Front-end improvements

Let's enhance the user experience visiting our website by styling a little bit the newly created pages.

### 8.11.1 Login page

First, for the login page I'll make use of this wonderful design https://mdbootstrap.com/snippets/j query/maja\_maj/1208894 (with some minor changes). In views/pages/login.ejs let's substitute its content with the following:

```
<div class="LoginContainer mt-5" id="LoginContainer">
    <div class="form-container sign-up-container mt-2">
        <form action="/register" method="POST">
            <h1 class="font-weight-bold">Create Account</h1>
            <input type="email" placeholder="Email" name="email" />
            <input type="password" placeholder="Password" name="password"</pre>
            <input class="but" type="submit" value="Register" />
       </form>
    </div>
   <div class="form-container sign-in-container">
        <form action="/login" method="POST">
            <h1 class="font-weight-bold">Sign in</h1>
            <input type="email" placeholder="Email" name="email" />
            <input type="password" placeholder="Password" name="password"</pre>
            <input class="but" type="submit" value="Login" />
       </form>
   </div>
   <div class="overlay-container">
        <div class="overlay">
            <div class="overlay-panel overlay-left">
                <h1 class="font-weight-bold">Good to see you!</h1>
                <div class="container textContainer">
                    You already have an account? <br />Sign in!
                    </div>
                <button class="but" id="signIn">Login</button>
            <div class="overlay-panel overlay-right">
                <h1 class="font-weight-bold">Hello, Friend!</h1>
                <div class="container textContainer">
```

### Create a login.css in public/styles/css and put in there the following:

```
body {
    background-color: #333;
.loginP {
    font-size: 14px;
    font-weight: 100;
    line-height: 20px;
    letter-spacing: 0.5px;
    margin: 0.5em;
}
.textContainer {
    background-color: rgba(51, 51, 51, 0.788);
    border-radius: 3em;
    margin-top: 3em;
    margin-bottom: 3em;
}
a {
    color: #333;
    font-size: 14px;
    text-decoration: none;
    margin: 15px 0;
}
.but {
    border-radius: 20px;
    border: 1px solid #ffffff;
    background-color: #33b5e5;
    color: #ffffff;
    font-size: 12px;
    font-weight: bold;
    padding: 14px 35px;
    letter-spacing: 1px;
    text-transform: uppercase;
}
form {
    background-color: #ffffff;
    display: flex;
    align-items: center;
    justify-content: center;
    flex-direction: column;
    padding: 0 50px;
    height: 100%;
    text-align: center;
```

```
input {
    background-color: #eee;
    border: none;
    padding: 12px 15px;
    margin: 8px 0;
    width: 100%;
}
.LoginContainer {
    background-color: #ffffff;
    border-radius: 10px;
    box-shadow: 0 14px 28px rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.25), 0 10px 10px rgba(0, 0, 0,
        0.22);
    position: relative;
    overflow: hidden;
    width: 768px;
    max-width: 100%;
    min-height: 480px;
    margin: auto;
}
.form-container {
    position: absolute;
    top: 0;
    height: 100%;
    transition: all 0.6s ease-in-out;
}
.sign-in-container {
    left: 0;
    width: 50%;
    z-index: 2;
}
.sign-up-container {
    left: 0;
    width: 50%;
    opacity: 0;
    z-index: 1;
}
.LoginContainer.right-panel-active .sign-in-container {
    transform: translateX(100%);
}
.LoginContainer.right-panel-active .sign-up-container {
    transform: translateX(100%);
    opacity: 1;
    z-index: 5;
    animation: show 0.6s;
}
@keyframes show {
    0%,
    49.99% {
        opacity: 0;
        z-index: 1;
    }
    50%,
```

```
100% {
        opacity: 1;
        z-index: 5;
}
.overlay-container {
    position: absolute;
    top: 0;
   left: 50%;
    width: 50%;
    height: 100%;
    overflow: hidden:
    transition: transform 0.6s ease-in-out;
    z-index: 100;
}
.LoginContainer.right-panel-active .overlay-container {
    transform: translateX(-100%);
}
.overlay {
    background: url("/img/login.jpg");
    background-repeat: no-repeat;
    background-size: cover;
    background-position: 0 0;
    color: rgb(255, 255, 255);
    position: relative;
    left: -100%;
    height: 100%;
    width: 200%;
    transform: translateX(0);
    transition: transform 0.6s ease-in-out;
}
.LoginContainer.right-panel-active .overlay {
    transform: translateX(50%);
}
.overlay-panel {
    position: absolute;
    display: flex;
    align-items: center;
    justify-content: center;
    flex-direction: column;
    padding: 0 40px;
    text-align: center;
    top: 0;
    height: 100%;
    width: 50%;
    transform: translateX(0);
    transition: transform 0.6s ease-in-out;
}
.overlay-left {
   transform: translateX(-20%);
}
.LoginContainer.right-panel-active .overlay-left {
    transform: translateX(0);
}
```

```
.overlay-right {
    right: 0;
    transform: translateX(0);
}

.LoginContainer.right-panel-active .overlay-right {
    transform: translateX(20%);
}
```

Now, in the .overlay we see that we use the image login.jpg stored in /img (namely in **public**/img). We can download an image from from for example https://unsplash.com/, rename it login.jpg and put in the **public**/img folder. In order for the login and register page to work correctly, we also need to add a script. In **public**/js let's create a login.js with the following code inside:

```
const signUpButton = document.getElementById("signUp");
const signInButton = document.getElementById("signIn");
const container = document.getElementById("LoginContainer");

signUpButton.addEventListener("click", () => {
    container.classList.add("right-panel-active");
});

signInButton.addEventListener("click", () => {
    container.classList.remove("right-panel-active");
});
```

We need now to be able to load these CSS and Javascript file into our login.ejs page. In order to do that, we will pass two variables to the page from the login route, telling the view to load the right CSS and script file.

Open up routes/login/index.js and in res.render after template:login two more fields:

```
style: "login",
script: "login"
```

Now, in views/layout/index.ejs we will insert two if-statements checking for the existence of the above fields, and in case of positive result, the given script and css will be loaded.

Before the following line:

```
<title><%= siteName %> | <%= pageTitle %></title>
```

let's put:

```
<% if(typeof style !== 'undefined'){%>
<link rel="stylesheet" href="/styles/css/<%= style %>.css" />
<% } %>
```

and also before the closing tag </body> put:

```
<% if(typeof script !== 'undefined') { %>
<script language="javascript" src="/js/<%= script %>.js"></script>
<% } %>
```

By browsing to http://localhost:3000/login we should see a nice looking login page, with the possibility to also register. This means that we can **delete** the views/pages/register.ejs and also in routes/register/index.js we can **delete** the router.get route.

#### 8.11.2 Logout page

Open up views/pages/logout.ejs and substitute its content with the following:

```
<div class="LogoutContainer mt-5" id="LogoutContainer">
   <div class="overlay-container">
       <div class="overlay">
            <div class="overlay-panel overlay-right">
               <h1 class="font-weight-bold">Logging out</h1>
               <div class="container textContainer">
                   Are you sure you would like to logout?
                   </div>
               <form method="POST" action="/logout">
                   <input class="but" type="submit" value="Yes, I'm sure"</pre>
               </form>
            </div>
       </div>
   </div>
</div>
```

and let's create a logout.css file in public/styles/css with the following content:

```
body {
    background-color: #333;
}
.logoutP {
    font-size: 20px;
    font-weight: 10;
    line-height: 20px;
    letter-spacing: 0.5px;
    margin: 0.5em;
}
.textContainer {
    border-radius: 3em;
    margin-top: 3em;
    margin-bottom: 3em;
}
a {
    color: #333;
    font-size: 14px;
    text-decoration: none;
    margin: 15px 0;
}
.but {
    border-radius: 20px;
    border: 1px solid #ffffff;
    background-color: #39cf40;
    color: #ffffff;
    font-size: 12px;
    font-weight: bold;
    padding: 14px 35px;
    letter-spacing: 1px;
    text-transform: uppercase;
}
```

```
.LogoutContainer {
    background-color: #ffffff;
    border-radius: 10px;
    box-shadow: 0 14px 28px rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.25), 0 10px 10px rgba(0, 0, 0,
        0.22);
    position: relative;
    overflow: hidden;
    width: 768px;
    max-width: 100%;
    min-height: 480px;
    margin: auto;
}
.overlay-container {
    position: absolute;
    top: 0;
    width: 100%;
    height: 100%;
    overflow: hidden;
    z-index: 100;
}
.overlay {
    background: url("/img/logout.jpg");
    background-repeat: no-repeat;
    background-size: cover;
    background-position: 0 0;
    color: rgb(255, 255, 255);
    position: relative;
    height: 100%;
    width: 100%;
}
.overlay-panel {
    position: absolute;
    display: flex;
    align-items: center;
    justify-content: center;
    flex-direction: column;
    padding: 0 40px;
    text-align: center;
    top: 0;
    height: 100%;
    width: 50%;
}
.overlay-right {
    right: 0;
    transform: translateX(0);
}
```

In order for this to work, download and image, rename it logout.jpg and put in public/img/.

We need now to tell the page to load the correct CSS. Open up routes/logout/index.js and in the router.render method add another field below the template: "logout":

```
style: "logout"
```

Now, after login, if we navigate to http://localhost:3000/logout we should see a nice centered card with the background image and a text with a button telling us if we are sure to logout.

#### 8.11.3 Home Page

Finally, let's open up views/pages/home.ejs and substitute its content with the following:

```
<img src="/img/home.jpg" class="bg" style="z-index: -1" />
<div class="cover-container d-flex h-100 p-3 mx-auto flex-column">
   <header class="masthead mb-8">
       <div style="color: #333" class="inner">
           <h3 class="masthead-brand">Home</h3>
           <nav class="nav nav-masthead justify-content-center">
               <a class="nav-link active" href="#">Home</a>
               <a class="nav-link" href="\training">Training</a>
               <a class="nav-link" href="\logout">Logout</a>
           </nav>
       </div>
   </header>
   <main role="main" class="inner cover">
       <h1 class="cover-heading">Hello Username!</h1>
       <div
           style="
               background-color: rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.301);
               border-radius: 3em;
               text-align: center;
       >
           Navigate to your training sessions to start keeping track
                  of
               your progresses
           </div>
   </main>
</div>
```

Again, download an image, call it home.jpg and put it in public/img/.

Also, create a home.css file in public/styles/css with the following content:

```
a,
a:focus,
a:hover {
    color: #fff;
.btn-secondary,
.btn-secondary:hover,
.btn-secondary:focus {
    color: black;
    text-shadow: none;
    background-color: rgba(255, 255, 255, 0.274);
    border: 0.05rem solid #fff;
}
html,
body {
    height: 100%;
}
body {
    display: -ms-flexbox;
```

```
display: -webkit-box;
    display: flex;
    -ms-flex-pack: center;
    -webkit-box-pack: center;
    justify-content: center;
    color: #333;
    text-shadow: 0 0.05rem 0.1rem rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.5);
    box-shadow: inset 0 0 5rem rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.5);
}
.cover-container {
    max-width: 1000px;
.masthead {
    margin-bottom: 2rem;
.masthead-brand {
    margin-bottom: 0;
.nav-masthead .nav-link {
    padding: 0.25rem 0;
    font-weight: 700;
    color: #333;
    background-color: transparent;
    border-bottom: 0.25rem solid transparent;
}
.nav-masthead .nav-link:hover,
.nav-masthead .nav-link:focus {
    border-bottom-color: rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.5);
}
.nav-masthead .nav-link + .nav-link {
    margin-left: 1rem;
.nav-masthead .active {
    color: black;
    border-bottom-color: black;
}
@media (min-width: 48em) {
    .masthead-brand {
        float: left;
    }
    .nav-masthead {
       float: right;
    }
}
.cover {
    padding: 0 1.5rem;
.cover .btn-lg {
    padding: 0.75rem 1.25rem;
    font-weight: 700;
}
```

In routes/home/index.js in router.render above the field template: "home" let's add the following:

```
style: "home"
```

Navigating to http://localhost:3000/home (after logging in) we should now see a cool home page, greeting our user and with a top navbar.

At this point the new folder structure should look like the following:

```
_controllers L
  userController.js
  refreshTokenModel.js
  userModel.js
_node_modules L
_public
     front-image.jpg
     home.jpg
     login.jpg
     logout.jpg
  _styles | | l
         login.css
         style.css
   _js|L
routes
     index.js
  _logout||L
  index.js
_views
  _layout
     _components
        footer.ejs | | L
```

```
scripts.ejs —
index.js —
_pages —
home.ejs —
index.ejs —
login.ejs —
logout.ejs —
.env —

package-lock.json —
package.json —
server.js
```