

Getting started to use node.js

- You should have installed nodejs on your computer, minimum version should be v8.x
- To verify if you have nodejs installed, open a terminal and type this below command

```
node --version
```

which should show some thing like `v8.9.1` or similar v8.x version

- Open a new file lets say `hello.js` and save it with below code in it

```
function foo(greeting) {  
    console.log('Hello ', greeting)  
}  
  
foo('world');
```

Once this code is saved in the `hello.js` file, you are set to run it, using below command

```
node hello.js
```

This should run and print below result

```
Hello world
```

This is how to run your javascript code using node.js

- Why to use nodejs, when you can run them in the browser?

You can but browser will not be able to execute some of the server side functional library methods, like reading from a file, accessing network, accessing database, accessing environment variables and the list goes on

To learn javascript better we will exercise some programs with the server side library methods, hence we will use node.js

- How to read a file in javascript

You can read a file by including `fs` module (reusable functional parts in javascript), example is below, save this code to a file, lets say `readCSV.js`

```
const fs = require('fs');  
  
let filePath = './sample.csv';  
let csvData = fs.readFileSync(filePath, 'utf8'); //the encoding is needed to interpret the data  
console.log(csvData);
```

You can read more about reading file from here https://nodejs.org/dist/latest-v8.x/docs/api/fs.html#fs_fs_readfilesync_path_options

Now you can execute the code using below command

```
node readCSV.js
```

Which would read the data from the file and will simply log it to console (your current terminal)

Similar way you can also write the data to a file and execute the program