

We've been using the Browser to load pages

- File -> Open renders an html page
 - Does not load a page from a **server**
 - Impacts things like **absolute paths**
- You'll be writing HTML for pages on a server
 - We should use a server to validate our HTML

npx will load and run NodeJS modules

- You installed NodeJS for assignment 1
 - This also installs a program called `npx`
 - Will load and run NodeJS modules
- `serve` is a program that runs a SIMPLE webserver
 - Very basic and simple
 - "dumb"

Using npx to run serve

- At command line (terminal) run:
 - `npx serve`
- First time you do this it will ask if it should install
 - Say "y"
- Later uses will use that install

The directory you are in matters!

- Remember: All commands are run "in" a folder
- Wherever you run `npx serve`
 - THAT folder will be "**document root**"
 - The `/` of absolute paths
 - Make sure to run server at correct directory
 - "correct" based on files intended for `/`
 - Assignment has `work/02-basic-layout` as `/`

Filenames

`index.html` is a common **default file**

- If you request `/` on the server
 - Ex: <http://examplecat.com/>
 - Same as <http://example.cat/index.html>
- If you don't have any path in url
 - Browser will request `/`
 - Server may treat as `/index.html`
 - Browser may hide `/`
 - Ex: <http://examplecat.com/> shows as <http://examplecat.com>

Rules about folders in Document Root

- <http://example.com/cats/>
 - Server MAY return <http://example.com/cats/index.html>
 - Not all servers use [index.html](#) as default file
 - Most do
- It may be a file or a folder!
 - <http://example.com/cats>
 - Might be a file named [cats](#)
 - Might be a folder named [cats](#)

serve has some unusual quirks

- Removes the file extension
 - If you request `/cats.html`
 - Browser will show `/cats`
 - Most servers don't do this confusing change
 - Make sure your links include extension!
 - Except for links using default file
- If no `index.html` in requested folder
 - Will show a file listing
 - Most servers don't do this
 - Considered poor security
 - We only use `serve` to develop

Stopping the server

- As with most command line programs
 - Stop program using Ctrl-C in the terminal
 - Make sure terminal window has the focus

Some assignments use a custom webserver

- For some assignments/projects I have you run a custom webserver
 - I provide it when the time comes
- You will need to install the dependencies
 - Instructions will be in those assignments
- Otherwise, similar to `npx serve`
 - Run command as instructed
 - There will be a **document root**
 - Stop running with Ctrl-C

The package-lock.json file

- Outside scope of this course to cover in detail
- Used to track EXACTLY what is installed
 - For most jobs this is committed to the repo
 - In this course, just add to `.gitignore` file