

# ROUTES

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Defining your URL routes is important

It tells the server what the user wants, so it can respond correctly

You can define routes using *methods* of the Express *app* object that correspond to the usual HTTP methods we know

For example, you can use *app.get()* to handle *GET* requests

And you guessed it, you can use *app.post()* to handle *POST* requests

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When you do this, you are also required to specify a *callback function*

The callback function you create will be executed (or “called”) when the server receives a request to the specified URL and HTTP method you defined

In other words, your server will “listen” for requests that match a defined URL and methods, and when it finds a match, it calls the specified callback function

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We can write all of our routes in our main `express.js` file

But the problem is that if your application becomes complex, maintaining your code will become a nightmare

**Solution:** divide your routes. In this project, we only have dogs so we'll define a separate routing file for all requests relating to our dogs

In other words, we will have our own API route file so maintenance will be a breeze

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To define routes, we can use `Router` middleware given to us by `Express`

We don't have to use it. But the `Router` middleware makes it easy to define routes in a modular way

To use it, all we have to do is call the `express.Router()` function

The `express.Router()` function creates a new `router object`

We can then use this `router object` to define our various API (or URL) endpoints

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*Let me be clear: we don't have to use the Router() method in our mini project*

*But, I want to show you how easy it is to use*

*Enjoy*