

Why do you need server-side validation?

The need for server-side validation

This course is focused on client-side validation.

But before I move on, I want to reiterate that front-side validation is not enough. You also need to validate form data on the server (for example, with Node.js or PHP).

But why is client-side validation not enough?

3 reasons.

Reason 1: sometimes, you can only do checks on the server.

Suppose you are breeding warthogs. A user enters the number of warthogs he/she wants to purchase.

How many Warthogs do you want to purchase?

However, let's say you only have 2 warthogs left. In this case, you would want to display an error message to the user, like this:

How many Warthogs do you want to purchase?

X Sorry, I don't have 3 warthogs. I only have 2 left.

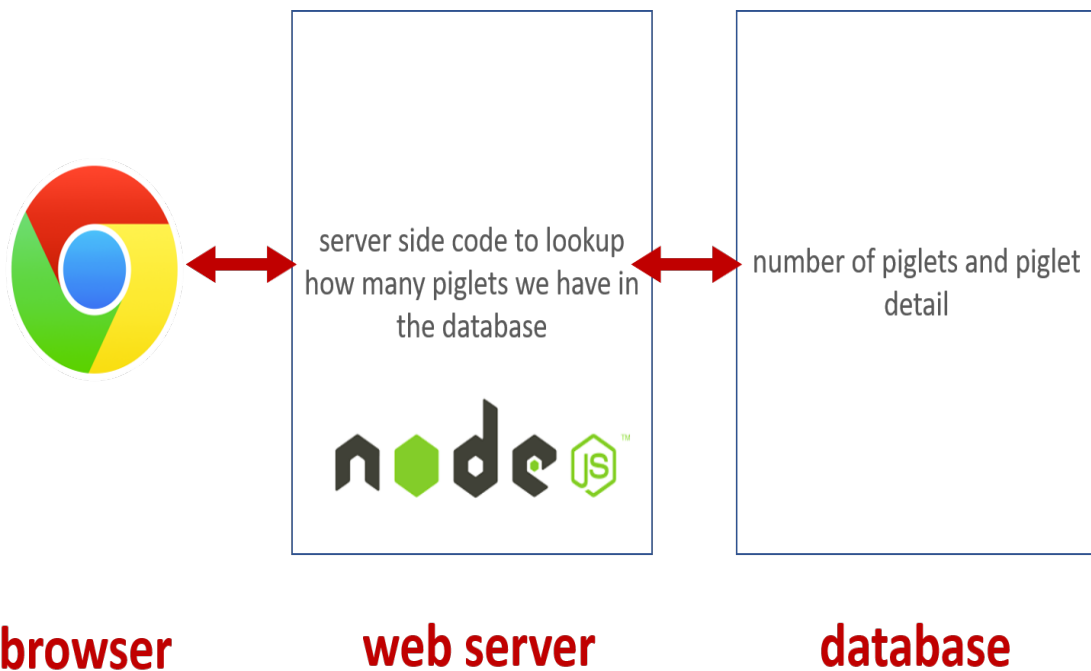
The code for this will be something like:

```
if number_ordered > current_pigllets then ...
```

As you know, we get the `number_ordered` from the form the user filled out (on the client-side).

But where does `current_piglets` come from?

Well, that comes from a look-up in a database. This is typical:



The server has access to the database. The browser does not.

Reason 2: security

Remember, every page a user sees in his or her browser is downloaded to his or her computer.

This includes the JavaScript that has the front-end validation code.

A clever hacker might be able to create a new version of your page, without the JavaScript checking. H/she could then fool your server into accepting invalid data.

Reason 3: Coding mistakes.

You might make a mistake coding the JavaScript. For example, you might write:

```
1. if ( username = "" ) { //WRONG!  
2.     tell the user he needs to write a username  
3. }  
4. else {
```

```
5.         accept the data  
6. }
```

The first line is wrong. It should be:

```
i f (username == "") { ... }
```

An easy thing to miss, but it could mean that you get bad data in your databases. This can mess up sales, event registration, or whatever business your app supports.

Having a server-side check doubles up as a safety net, to catch any front-side coding errors you may have written.

CONCLUSION

Even though you can do client-side validation by writing JavaScript that runs on a browser, you also need to ensure checks are done on a server, because:

1. there are some checks you can only do on the server
2. it improves security
3. it helps you fix and identify front-end coding mistakes

ANYWAYS, let's get back into the topic at hand, and that is talking about the different types of client-side validation.

Keep motivated, and see you now :)

