

Node.js is a runtime environment that allows you to run JavaScript outside the browser, typically on the server side.

In Simple Terms:

Normally, JavaScript runs in browsers (like Chrome or Firefox) for things like animations, forms, and interactivity.

But Node.js lets you run JavaScript on your computer/server, so you can build backend applications like:

- Servers (e.g., APIs)
- Command-line tools
- Real-time apps (like chat apps)
- File systems or databases interaction

Node.js is a JavaScript Runtime Environment.

- Runs JavaScript code outside the browser.
- Built on Chrome's V8 Engine. (Made with C++)

Who Created Node.js and Why?

- **Created by:** Ryan Dahl
- **Released in:** 2009 (initial work started in 2007)
- **Reason:**
 - Traditional servers like **Apache** handled concurrent requests inefficiently.
 - Node.js was designed for **non-blocking**, event-driven, real-time applications.

Installing Node.js

- Download from <https://nodejs.org>
- Choose:
 - **LTS (Long Term Support):** Stable version recommended for most users.
 - **Current:** Latest features but less stable.

Running JavaScript Files with Node

- Use the terminal/command prompt:

```
node <filename> .js
```

- Node provides its own runtime environment with built-in **APIs** like:
 - **fs** (file system)
 - **http** (server creation)

- `path`, etc.

Packages in Node.js

- **Packages** are reusable libraries or tools.
- Installed using **npm (Node Package Manager)**.
- Example:

```
npm install cat-me
```

Packages vs Modules

Feature	Package	Module
Definition	Third-party tools/libraries	Built-in features provided by Node.js
Source	Installed via <code>npm</code>	Comes with Node.js
Examples	<code>express</code> , <code>cat-me</code>	<code>http</code> , <code>fs</code> , <code>path</code>

Server Create Through HTTP Module

- Make a file named `server.js`

```
const http = require('http')
```

- While installing `cat-me` we used `npm install cat-me` but we're not using any npm packages while running `http`

Reason: `http` is a module, not a package.