**Summary**

1. **How does the Node/Express part communicate with react?**

Node/Express is used to build a REST API to which React.js sends requests.

Node/Express priovde an API to which React.js can send Http requests.

1. **How do we connect MongoDB to React?**

We send Http request from React.js to the Node/Express backend which then in turn talks to MongoDB.

1. **Why do we not establish a direct connection between React.js and MongoDB?**

React.js code is frontend JavaScript code and hence accessible by every user of your website. So, due to security concerns – we would expose database credentials in code that is readable by everyone.

1. **How many servers (i.e. different machines serving and executing some code) are typically involved in a MERN stack app?**

3 servers: One for the React.js app, one fro the Node/Express API and one for the MongoDB database.

Though you can definitely also host everything on just one or two machines. Splitting it across three independent machines, offers the best performance and durability.

1. **What's the main difference between a REST API and a GraphQL API?**

Rest APIs offer multiple endpoints (URL + Https Method), GraphQL offers one but expects a query string in the request body.