

# **Common confusion on basic-express**

The assignments practice with common problems

- Let's review some

# The public/ directory

I deliberately made you link to the CSS

- Add link to generated HTML
- Get the path in the href correct

Key lesson:

- Server-side vs Client-side paths
  - DIFFERENT

# Server-side paths are easy

Server side paths "know" more

- Like in `require()`
- All relative to the server-side code

Client-side is all relative to document root

- Document root folder NEVER in client-side paths

# Client-side paths aren't loaded by server!

If `chat-web.js` generates HTML to load CSS

- This load does not happen IN `chat-web.js`
  - The HTML is just a string of text
- HTML is sent in response to browser
- Browser decides to request the CSS
- Browser can't access server code
- `server.js` says it will look in `public/`
  - Or match a dynamic route

# **public/ will never appear in your urls**

- Not in `href`
- Not in `src`
- Only in server code
  - only when dynamically using static files

# Route Matching

Server is always responding to a request for a path

- express looks for a matching route
  - In order
  - Stopping once a matching route doesn't send it on to the next route

# When we request /

- Server looks in `public/` for `public/index.html`
- Because `express.static()` route is first

Test it:

- Create a `public/index.html`
- See it instead of dynamic `/` route
- Move `app.use(express.static(...))`
  - to just before `app.listen(...)`
  - after `app.get('/', ...`
- Restart server
- Dynamic `/` route now shows

# HTML not "read" on server

- Load `/` in browser
  - Look in `DevTools->Network`
- You see `GET /`
- You see `GET /chat.css` (or whatever)

Server sent HTML response

- No CSS file
- Just a reference to the CSS file
- BROWSER decides to request the CSS file
- Server doesn't know CSS file request is related



# Common Best Practices errors

- Indentation communicates
  - It must be done/not done for a reason!
- Names are important
  - They communicate
    - But only if you use them well
- Separation of Concerns matters
  - Code Quality
  - Makes changes easier!

# Comments explaining code are usually bad

```
// Map over the users in the chat object and create a list item for each user
getUserList: function(chat) {
  return `


```

# Why are these comments bad?

- Good for you while learning JS
- NOT helpful for someone later looking at this code
  - Repeats what code itself says
  - Changes require updating comment
    - Worse, you DON'T change the comment
    - Then it lies to the next dev
- Good comments explain what the code CAN'T say
  - Such as WHY you are doing something
- If code doesn't say what it does
  - Look into renaming/restructuring