

## node.js Extracting POST data

How to extract form data ( `form[method="post"]` ) and file uploads sent from HTTP POST method in node.js? I've read the doc and Googled and I found nothing.

```
function (request, response) {  
    //request.post????  
}
```

Is there a library or a hack?

[node.js](#)

asked Nov 28 '10 at 7:16



SHINKIROU

4,488 1 9 25

100% accept rate

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## 6 Answers

I recommend you to use [Express](#) (High performance, high class web development for Node.js).

**HTML:**

```
<form method="post" action="/">  
  <input type="text" name="user[name]">  
  <input type="text" name="user[email]">  
  <input type="submit" value="Submit">  
</form>
```

**Javascript:**

```
app.post('/', function(request, response){  
  
    console.log(request.body.user.name);  
    console.log(request.body.user.email);  
  
});
```

**See also**

- [Accessing the HTTP message body \(e.g. POST data\) in node.js](#)
- [Node.js for noobs: Grabbing POST content](#)
- [Beyond Static: NodeJS and POST method](#)

edited Sep 12 at 13:47



luiscubal

5,694 4 19 43

answered Nov 28 '10 at 10:45



Baggz

2,754 14 20

6 The functionality is actually in the `BodyParser` module in `connect`, if you want to use a lower level entry point.  
– [Julian Birch](#) Jun 20 '11 at 6:59

Related: [How to parse POST data in Node.js](#), [How to parse POST data in Node.js](#), [How to parse POST data in Node.js](#), [How to parse POST data in Node.js](#), [How to parse POST data in Node.js](#)

12/2/12

node.js Extracting POST data - Stack Overflow

1 I'm confused. How does name="user[email]" correspond to request.body.email ? – [SHOUBHIK BOSE](#) Apr 16 at 14:19

3 req.body.user == {name: 'some value', email: 'some value'}. It looks like there is a typo above – [Stephen](#) May 12 at 19:30

God!! am getting mad having to read 3 documentations at the same time for the same framework :/  
[nodejs.org/api/http.html](#) , [senchalabs.org/connect](#) & [expressjs.com/guide.html](#) – [SalmanPK](#) Jul 19 at 10:58

@SHOUBHIKBOSE Fixed. – [luiscubal](#) Sep 12 at 13:49

Was this post useful to you?

```
var qs = require('querystring');

function (request, response) {
  if (request.method == 'POST') {
    var body = '';
    request.on('data', function (data) {
      body += data;
    });
    request.on('end', function () {

      var POST = qs.parse(body);
      // use POST

    });
  }
}
```

answered Nov 30 '10 at 2:44



[Casey Chu](#)

3,856 3 6 22

+1 a compact summary of the links in Baggz's answer – [Paul Beusterien](#) Aug 22 '11 at 0:14

2 bad idea. add some stuff for nuking requests when body becomes too big, or someone can kill node by uploading an endless file. – [thejh](#) Dec 27 '11 at 1:03

3 @thejh Hm, that's a good point. It shouldn't be difficult to add that, though, so I'll leave it out of the example to keep things simple. – [Casey Chu](#) Dec 27 '11 at 6:48

7 +1 for answering the question without referring to another lib – [Trevor](#) Jul 26 at 1:49

1 +1 for the same reason, finally someone that won't link to a third-party library. – [Alec](#) Oct 26 at 15:02

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Make sure to kill the connection if someone tries to flood your RAM!

```
var qs = require('querystring');

function (request, response) {
  if (request.method == 'POST') {
    var body = '';
    request.on('data', function (data) {
      body += data;
      if (body.length > 1e6) {
        // FLOOD ATTACK OR FAULTY CLIENT, NUKE REQUEST
        request.connection.destroy();
      }
    });
    request.on('end', function () {

      var POST = qs.parse(body);
      // use POST

    });
  }
}
```

answered Dec 27 '11 at 1:06



thejh

12k 1 16 48

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5 You may also return HTTP 413 Error Code (Request Entity Too Large) – [neoascetic](#) Jul 23 at 2:03

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Here's a very simple no-framework wrapper based on the other answers and articles posted in here:

```

var http = require('http');
var querystring = require('querystring');

function postRequest(request, response, callback) {
  var queryData = "";
  if(typeof callback !== 'function') return null;

  if(request.method == 'POST') {
    request.on('data', function(data) {
      queryData += data;
      if(queryData.length > 1e6) {
        queryData = "";
        response.writeHead(413, {'Content-Type': 'text/plain'});
        request.connection.destroy();
      }
    });

    request.on('end', function() {
      response.post = querystring.parse(queryData);
      callback();
    });
  } else {
    response.writeHead(405, {'Content-Type': 'text/plain'});
    response.end();
  }
}

```

Usage example:

```

http.createServer(function(request, response) {
  postRequest(request, response, function() {
    console.log(response.post);

    response.writeHead(200, "OK", {'Content-Type': 'text/plain'});
    response.end();
  });
}).listen(8000);

```

edited Nov 29 at 1:17

answered Aug 18 at 22:37



Mahn  
2,974 1 5 16

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Shouldn't be `response.writeHead(413, {'Content-Type': 'text/plain'})`; ? – Mark Oct 3 at 1:25

@Mark true, well spotted, fixed. – Mahn Oct 3 at 2:38

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1 @Mahn Not super important, but it seems util isn't being used – Kevin Reilly Nov 7 at 22:43

@KevinReilly yep, removed, thanks. – Mahn Nov 29 at 1:17

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Like Baggz said I would recommend [express](#). You can easily install it using [npm](#).

## install node.js & npm the correct way

```

echo 'export PATH=$HOME/local/bin:$PATH' >> ~/.bashrc
. ~/.bashrc
mkdir ~/local
mkdir ~/node-latest-install
cd ~/node-latest-install
curl http://nodejs.org/dist/node-latest.tar.gz | tar xz --strip-components=1
./configure --prefix=~/local
make install
curl http://npmjs.org/install.sh | sh

```

## Install express

```
npm install express
```

## Learn express

Finally to learn express I would advice you to watch Pedro's [nodetuts](#) screencast explaining express.

edited **Mar 3 at 14:37**

answered **Nov 30 '10 at 1:03**



[Alfred](#)

**21.9k** 4 39 72

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**1** You can also automate the installation of node.js and npm by using nvm  
[stackoverflow.com/questions/8108609/...](#) – [fdierre](#) Jan 18 at 16:38

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I know this is how I do this now :P. – [Alfred](#) Jan 19 at 6:03

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And if you don't want to use the entire framework like Express, but you also need different kinds of forms, including uploads, then [formaline](#) may be a good choice.

It is listed in [Node.js modules](#)

answered **Sep 15 '11 at 16:36**



[Pavel Koryagin](#)

**591** 1 10

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