Introduction

- Mini-IRC webapp
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- https://github.com/adamburich/DIY-IRC

My final project is intended to be a very simple but responsive live chat. Originally I had planned to implement additional channels, which I came close to finishing but never actualized. As it stands, once the server is running a user can connect to localhost:7777 and see all messages pulled from the mongoose database as well as write new messages that will be appended to the db. Messages have a name, date, time and message attached and all of that information is presented back to the client in the messages div.

Architecture

- Tech:
    - Mongoose
        - Mongoose was new to me, post setup my database was super easy to interact with. Setting it up and actually binding my server to it was a little bit difficult but after I figured it out everything was smooth.
    - Socket.io
        - Socket was also new to me, the documentation for socket made it really easy to figure out how to connect client and server so that messages could freely flow back and forth.
    - Node
    - Express

- Overview:
    - Client and server are fairly simple, index.html is where all the clientside code is and server.js is where the server communicates with the database and handles the post/get requests sent by the client.
    - When a user loads the chat page, they are prompted for a nickname that lasts the duration of the session on the page.
    - Each message has attached to it that nickname as well as the date and time it was sent.

Reflection

- Planned features:
    - Live chat
    - Multiple channels
    - Message history
- Successfully implemented:
    - Live chat
    - Date/Time signature on messages
    - Message history
- Where'd multiple channels go?
    - I tried for a while to implement this but the way I had things structured I wasn't really sure what the best approach was. I tried adding another database to the aws shard I'm using for the project but switching between them on button click was difficult/failed
    - I also tried adding a channel tag but I couldn't quite figure out the javascript I would have had to write to only show messages with a given channel tag when a button gets hit
- What would I do differently?
    - Invest more time in the beginning phase, conception of the project, etc. I think I was just so overwhelmed in general at the beginning of the project that I sort of just floated where ever I ended up, I lost a lot of time because of that and I think had I invested more time in an idea I cared about with people who also cared about it I could have gotten a lot more done.