

Node JS - Week-3 Assignment

Npm commands

- `npm init` - initializes a node project. creates `package.json` to track required modules/packages as well as `node_modules` folder to track imported packages.
- `npm install` - installs any requirements for the local node package based on the contents of `package.json`.
- `npm install <package-name>` - install a package from npm's own repository as well as any requirements specified in that package's `package.json` file.
- **Web Service** - A type of API that support HTTP requests, returning data such as JSON or plain text.
- **npm** - The node package manager, used to initialize `package.json` files & install Node project dependencies.
- **Express** - A module for simplifying the http server core modules in Node to implement API.
- **Module** - A standalone package which can be used to extend the functionality of a Node project.
- **Server** - A publicly accessible machine which exchanges information with one or more client at a time.
- **Client** - A private or public machine which requests information from a server.

Useful Core Modules

- **fs** - The 'file system' module with various function to process data in file system.
- **path** - Provides functions to process path string.
- **util** - Provides various "utility" functions, such as `util.promisify`.

Express Route Functions -

① Syntax - `app.get("path", middlewareFn(s));`

Defines a server endpoint which accepts a valid GET request.

⇒ `app.get("/", (req, res) => {`

`});`

⇒ `app.get("/:city", (req, res) => {`
`let city = req.params.city;`

`});`

⇒ `app.get("/citydata", (req, res) => {`
`let city = req.query.city;`

`});`

⇒ `app.get("/", validateInput, (req, res) => {`

`}, handleError);`

② Syntax - `app.post("path", middlewareFn(s));`

Define a server endpoint which accepts a valid POST request.

Request Object Properties/Function -

⇒ req.params ⇒ captures a dictionary of desired path parameters. Keys are placeholder names & values are URL itself.

⇒ req.query ⇒ Captures a dictionary of query parameters, specified in ?key1=value1 & key2=value2 & ... pattern.

⇒ req.body ⇒ Holds a dictionary of POST parameters as key/value pairs.

⇒ req.cookies ⇒ Retrieves all cookies sent in request. Requires cookie-parser module.

Response Object properties/Functions -

① Syntax - `res.set(HeaderName, value);`

→ `res.set("Content-Type", "text/plain");`

→ `res.set("Content-Type", "application/json");`

Used to set different response header. commonly the "Content-Type".

② Syntax - → `res.type("text");`

→ `res.type("json");`

Shorthand for setting the "Content-Type" header.

③ Syntax - `res.send(data);`

→ `res.send("Hello");`

→ `res.send({ "msg": "hello" });`

Sends the data back to client, signaling an end to the response (does not terminate your JS program).

④ Syntax - `res.end();`

Ends the request/response cycle without any data. (does not terminate your JS program).

⑤ ~~Syntax~~ Syntax - `res.json(data);`

Shorthand for setting the content type to json & sending JSON.

⑥ Syntax - `res.status(statusCode)`

→ `res.status(400).send("client-side error message");`

→ `res.status(500).send("server-side error message");`

Specifies the HTTP status code of response to communicate success/failure to a client.