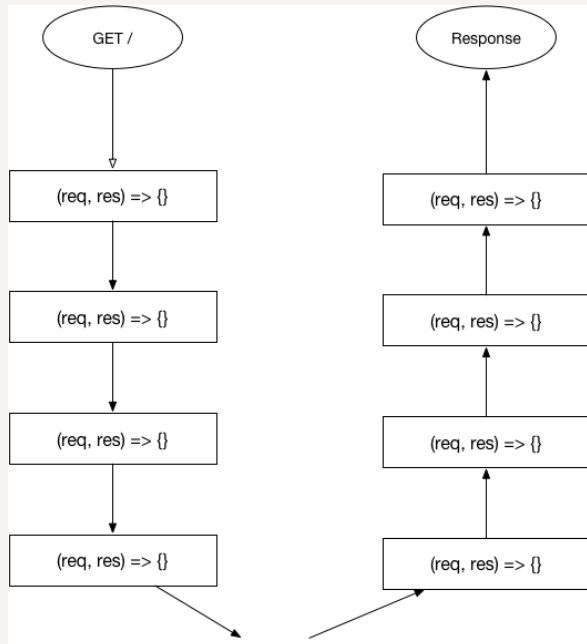# Express Middleware

Middleware

Middleware is similar to route handlers

Route handler

```javascript
app.get('/', (req, res, next) => {
  console.log('first!');
  req.message = 'hello';
  next();
});
```

Middleware

```javascript
app.use((req, res, next) => {
  console.log('first!');
  req.message = 'hello';
  next();
});
```

Specifying a path

```javascript
app.use('/jimjam', (req, res, next) => {
  console.log('first!');
  req.message = 'hello';
  next();
});
```

Order matters!

Why doesn't the middleware execute for GET requests?

```javascript
app.get('/', function(req, res) { res.send('hello'); });

app.use(function(req, res, next) {
  next();
});

app.post('/', function(req, res) { res.send('bye'); });
```

Order matters!

Why doesn't the middleware execute for GET requests?

```
app.get('/', function(req, res) { res.send('hello'); });

app.use(function(req, res, next) {
  next();
});

app.post('/', function(req, res) { res.send('bye'); });
```

Because any middleware or handler can alter the request (or send the response), be mindful of *when* you call `app.use`

Serving static HTML

Using serve-static with Express

```javascript
const express = require('express');
var app = express();

app.use(express.static('public'));
app.listen(3000);
```

Can be used in combination with routes

```javascript
const express = require('express');
const app = express();
app.use(express.static('public'));
const cats = require('./cats');

app.use(staticMiddleware);
app.use(cats);
app.listen(3000);
```