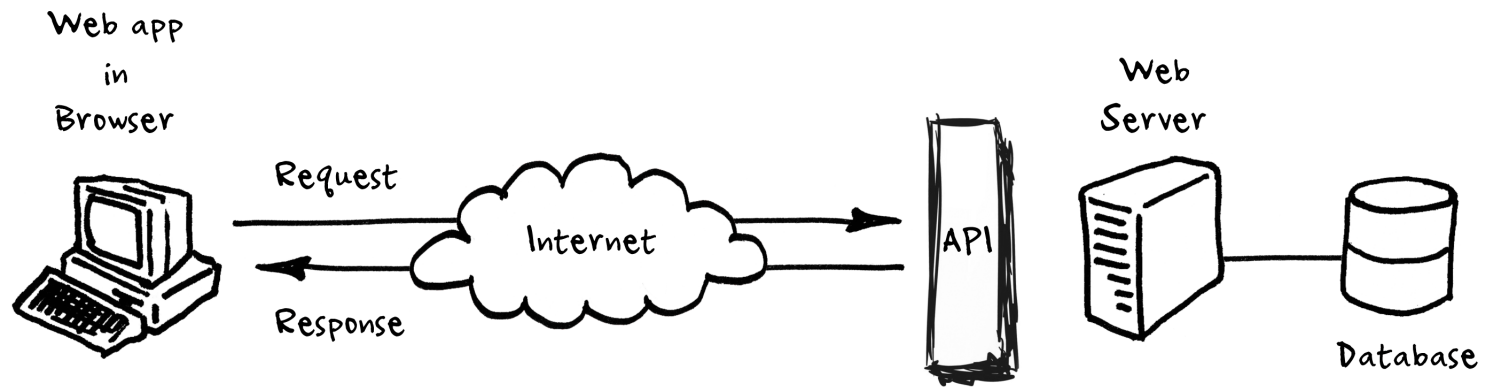


Web API using JavaScript



Outline

1. Web and HTTP
2. Web API
3. Web API using Node.js Express
4. Implementing CRUD Operations

Course Roadmap



Web Client

Request

Response



Web Server

Frontend development

HTML for page structure



CSS for styling



JavaScript for interaction



UI Components



Backend development

Web API



Data Management



What is a Web API

- Web API: A set of methods exposed over the web via HTTP to allow **programmatic access to applications**
- Web API are designed for **broad reach**:
 - Can be accessed by a broad range of clients including browsers and mobile devices
 - Can be implemented or consumed in any language
- Uses HTTP as an **application protocol**



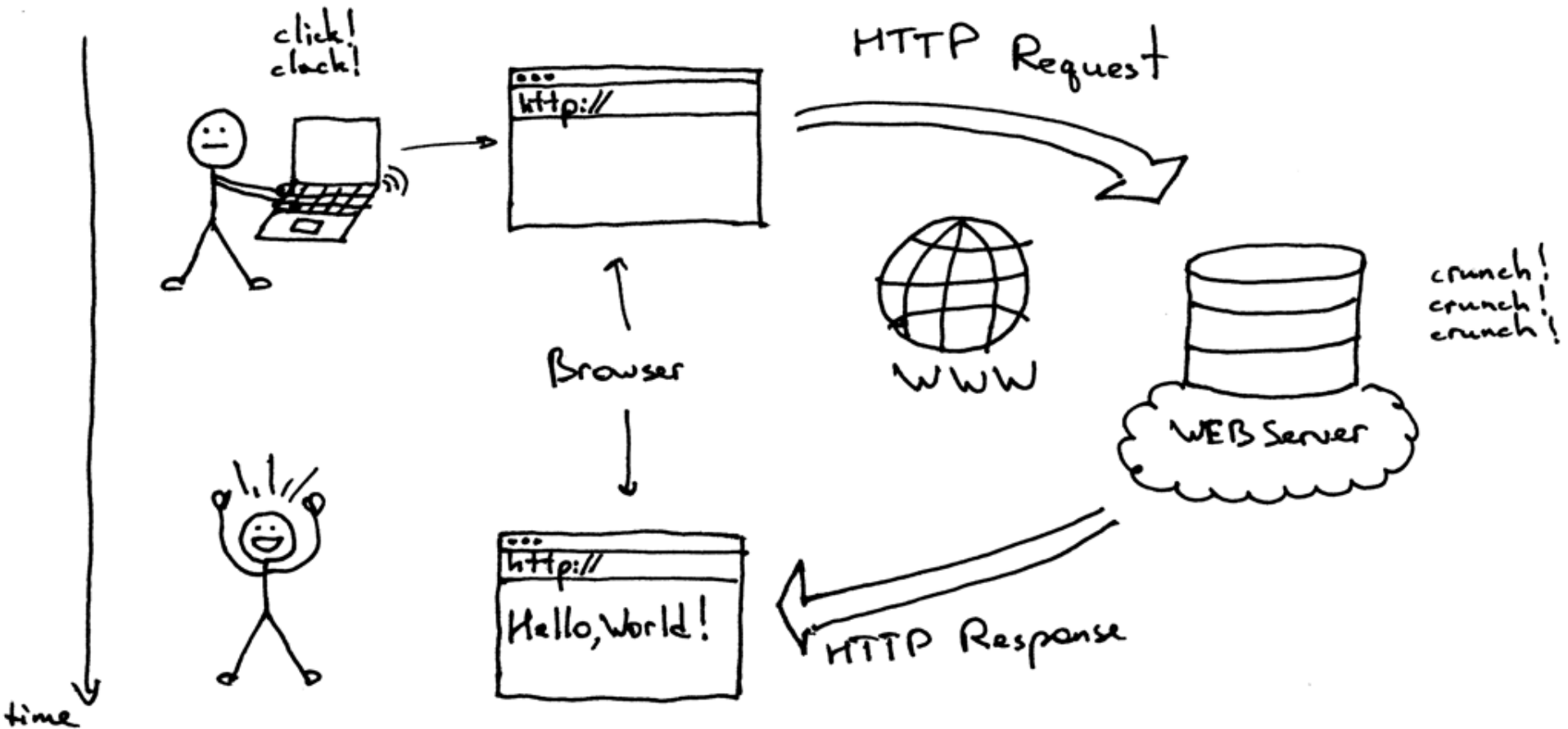
Web and HTTP



What is Web?

- Web = **global distributed system of interlinked hypertext documents accessed over the Internet using the HTTP protocol to serve billions of users worldwide**
 - Consists of set of **resources** located on different servers:
 - HTML pages, images, videos and other resources
 - Resources have unique **URL** (Uniform Resource Locator) address
 - Accessed through standard protocols such as HTTP
- **The Web has a Client/Server architecture:**
 - **Web server** sends resources in response to requests (using HTTP protocol)
 - **Web browser** (client) requests, receives (using HTTP protocol) and displays Web resources

How the Web Works?



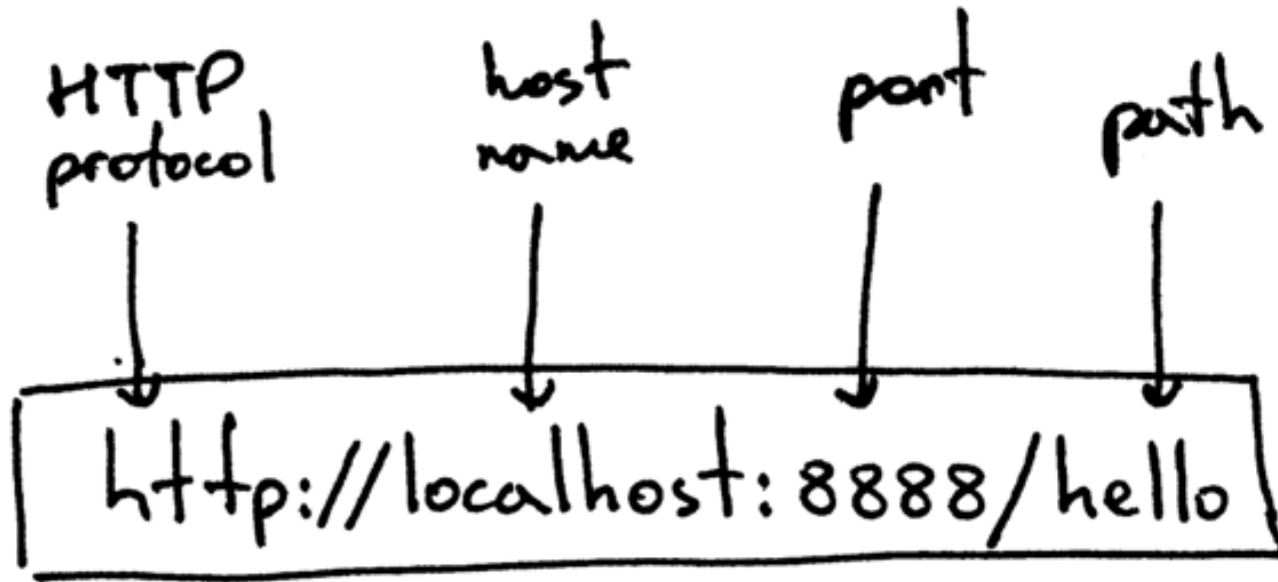
Uniform Resource Locator (URL)

http://www.qu.edu.qa:80/cse/logo.gif
protocol host name Port Url Path

- URL is a formatted string, consisting of:
 - **Protocol** for communicating with the server (e.g., http, ftp, https, ...)
 - **Name of the server or IP** address plus port (e.g. [qu.edu.qa:80](#), [localhost:8080](#))
 - **Path of a resource** (e.g. [/directory/index.php](#))
 - **Parameters aka Query String** (optional), e.g.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=qatar%20university>

URL Example



URL Encoding

- According [RFC 1738](#), the characters allowed in URL are alphanumeric [0-9a-zA-Z] and the special characters \$-_.+!*'()
- Unsafe characters should be encoded, e.g.,

<http://google.com/search?q=qatar%20university>

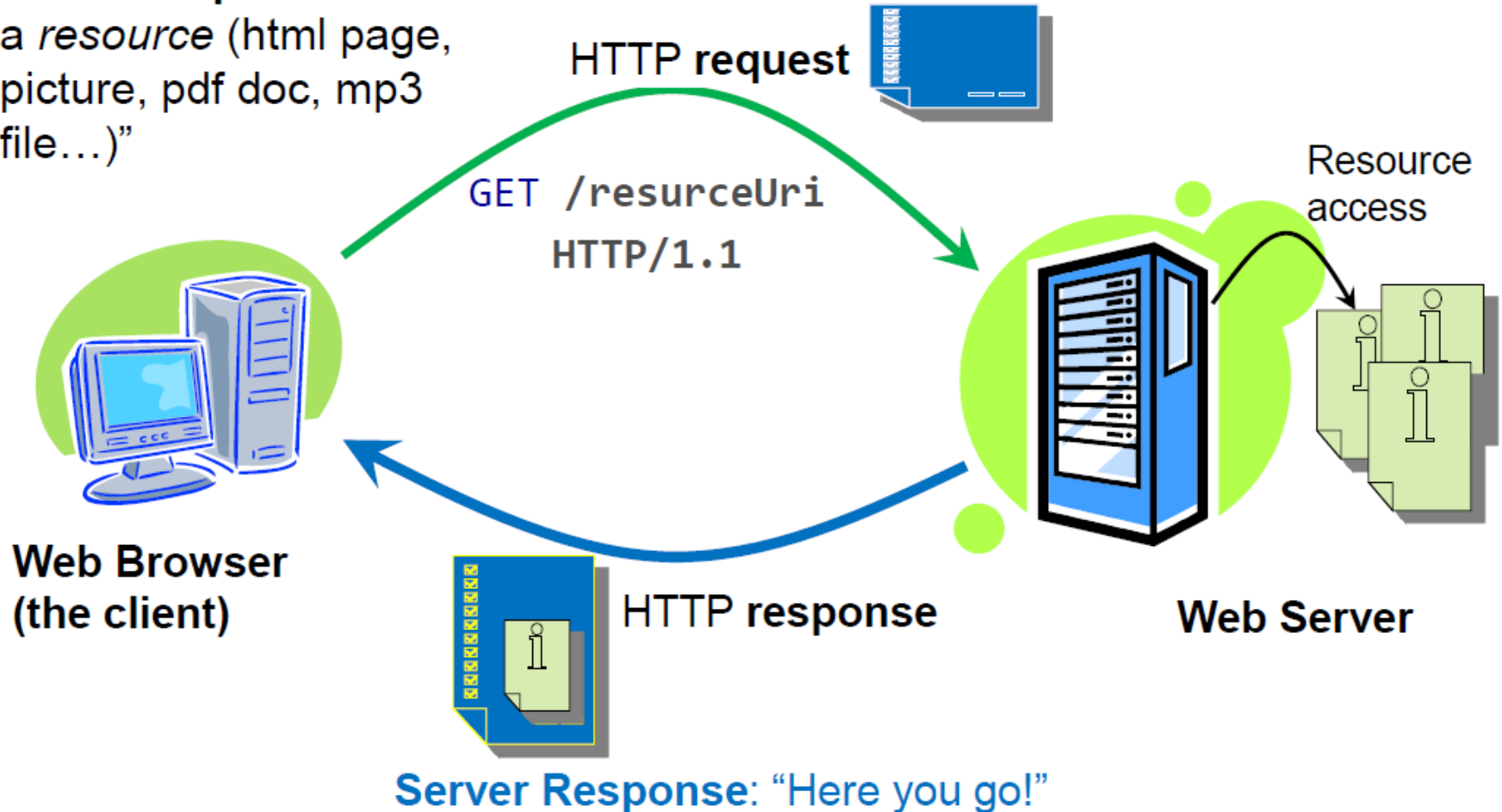
Commonly encoded values:

ASCII Character	URL-encoding
space	%20
!	%21
"	%22
#	%23
\$	%24
%	%25
&	%26

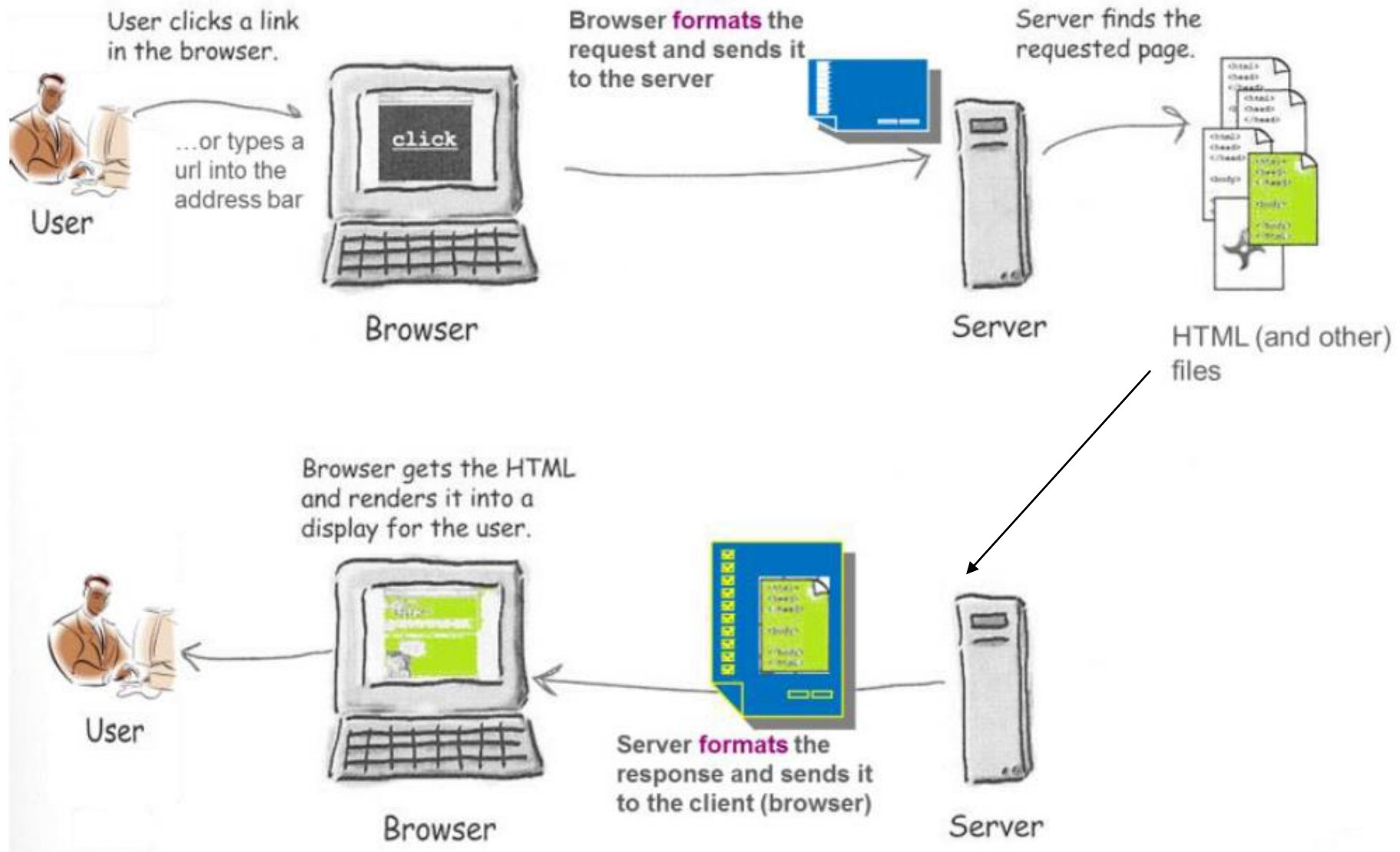
Web uses **Request/Response** interaction model

HTTP is the *message protocol* of the Web

Client Request: “I need a *resource* (html page, picture, pdf doc, mp3 file...)”



The sequence for retrieving a resource



Request and Response Examples

◆ HTTP request:

request line
(GET, POST,
HEAD commands)

```
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1  
Host: localhost:8000  
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0  
<CRLF>
```

header
lines

The empty line denotes the
end of the request header

◆ HTTP response:

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK  
Content-Length: 54  
<CRLF>  
<html><title>Hello</title>  
Welcome to our site</html>
```

The empty line
denotes the end of
the response header

HTTP Request Message

- Request message sent by a client consists of
 - **Request line** – request method (GET, POST, HEAD, ...), resource URI, and protocol version
 - **Request headers** – additional parameters
 - **Body** – optional data
 - e.g. posted form data, files, etc.

```
<request method> <URI> <HTTP version>  
<headers>  
<empty line>  
<body>
```

HTTP Request Methods

- **GET**

- **Retrieve a resource** (could be static resource such as an image or a dynamically generated resource)
- Input is appended to the request URL E.g.,
http://google.com/?q=Qatar

- **POST**

- **Create or Update a resource**
- Web pages often include form input. Input is submitted to server in the **message body**. E.g.,

<input type="text" value="20"/>	<input type="text" value="*/"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="button" value="Submit"/>
---------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------------

POST /calc HTTP/1.1

Host: localhost

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

Content-Length: 27

num1=20&operation=*&num2=10

HTTP Response Message

- Response message sent by the server
 - **Status line** – protocol version, status code, status phrase
 - **Response headers** – provide metadata such as the Content-Type
 - **Body** – the contents of the response (i.e., the requested resource)

```
<HTTP version> <status code> <status text>  
<headers>  
<empty line>  
<response body>
```


HTTP Response – Example

status line
(protocol
status code
status text)

Try it out and see HTTP
in action using **HttpFox**

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Content-Type: text/html

Server: QU Web Server

Content-Length: 131

<CRLF>

<html>

<head><title>Calculator</title></head>

<body>20 * 10 = 200

**

**

Calculator

</body>

</html>

HTTP response
headers

The empty line denotes the
end of the response header

Response
body. e.g.,
requested
HTML file

Common Internet Media Types

- The **Content-Type** header describes the media type contained in the body of HTTP message
- **Full list @**
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MIME_type
- Commonly used media types (**type**/subtype):

Type/Subtype	Description
application/json	JSON data
image/gif	GIF image
image/png	PNG image
video/mp4	MP4 video
text/xml	XML
text/html	HTML
text/plain	Just text

HTTP Response Codes

- Status code appears in 1st line in response message
- HTTP response code classes
 - 2xx: success (e.g., “200 OK”)
 - 3xx: redirection (e.g., “302 Found”)
“302 Found” is used for redirecting the Web browser to another URL
 - 4xx: client error (e.g., “404 Not Found”)
 - 5xx: server error (e.g., “503 Service Unavailable”)

Popular Status Codes

Code	Reason	Description
200	OK	Success!
301	Moved Permanently	Resource moved, don't check here again
302	Moved Temporarily	Resource moved, but check here again
304	Not Modified	Resource hasn't changed since last retrieval
400	Bad Request	Bad syntax?
401	Unauthorized	Client might need to authenticate
403	Forbidden	Refused access
404	Not found	Resource doesn't exist
500	Internal Server Error	Something went wrong during processing
503	Service Unavailable	Server will not service the request

Browser Redirection

- HTTP browser redirection example
 - HTTP GET requesting a moved URL:

(Request-Line)	GET /qu HTTP/1.1
Host	localhost:800
User-Agent	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.3; WOW64; rv:27.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/27.0
Accept	text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8

- The HTTP response says that the browser should request another URL:

(Status-Line)	HTTP/1.1 301 Moved Permanently
Location	http://qu.edu.qa

Web API (aka REST Services)

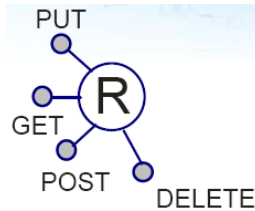


What is a REST Service?

- Web API = Web accessible Application Programming Interface. Also known as REST Services.
- Web API is a web service that accepts requests and returns **structured data** (JSON in most cases)
 - Programmatically accessible at a particular URL
 - You can think of it as a Web page returning JSON instead of HTML
- Major goal = **interoperability between heterogeneous systems**



REST Principles

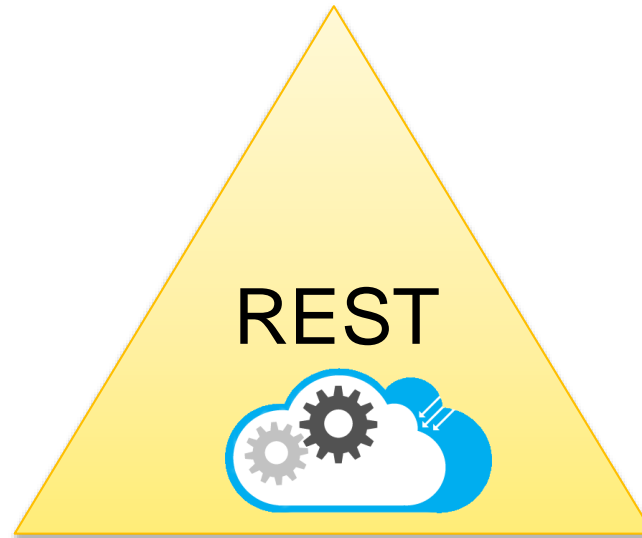


- **Addressable Resources** (nouns): Identified by a URI
(e.g., `http://example.com/customers/123`)
- **Uniform Interface** (verbs): GET, POST, PUT, and DELETE
 - Use verbs to **exchange** application state and **representation**
 - Embracing HTTP as an Application Protocol
- **Representation-oriented**
 - Representation of the resource state** transferred between client and server in a variety of data formats: **XML, JSON, (X)HTML, RSS..**
- **Hyperlinks** define relationships between resources and valid state transitions of the service interaction

REST Services Main Concepts

Nouns (Resources)

e.g., <http://example.com/employees/12345>



Verbs

e.g., GET, POST

Representations

e.g., XML, JSON

Resources

- The key abstraction in REST is a **resource**
- A resource is a conceptual mapping to a set of entities
 - Any **information that can be named can be a resource**: a document or image, a temporal service (e.g. "today's weather in Doha"), a collection of books and their authors, and so on
- Represented with a global identifier (URI in HTTP)
 - <http://www.boeing.com/aircraft/747>

Naming Resources

- REST uses URI to identify resources

Dedicated **api** path is recommended for better organization

- <http://localhost/api/books/>
 - <http://localhost/api/books/ISBN-0011>
 - <http://localhost/api/books/ISBN-0011/authors>

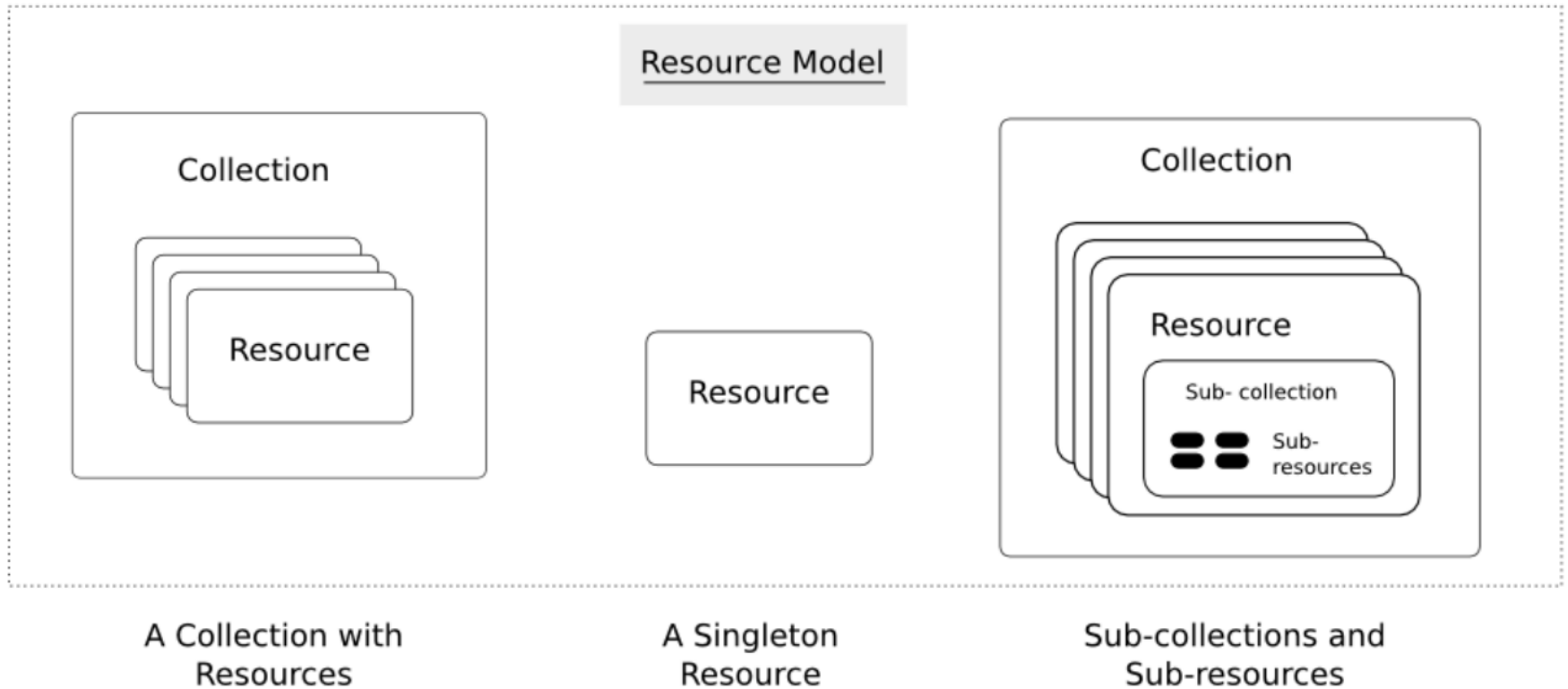
 - <http://localhost/api/classes>
 - <http://localhost/api/classes/cmpps356>
 - <http://localhost/api/classes/cs356/students>
- As you traverse the **path** from more generic to more specific, you are navigating the data

Example CRUD (Create, Read, Update and Delete)

API that manages books

- Create a new book
 - **POST** /books
- Retrieve all books
 - **GET** /books
- Retrieve a particular book
 - **GET** /books/:id
- Replace a book
 - **PUT** /books/:id
- Update a book
 - **PATCH** /books/:id
- Delete a book
 - **DELETE** /books/:id

A Collection with Resources



Representations

Two main formats:

- **JSON**

```
{  
  code: 'cmp123',  
  name: 'Web Development'  
}
```

- **XML**

```
<course>  
  <code>cmp123</code>  
  <name>Web Development</name>  
</course>
```

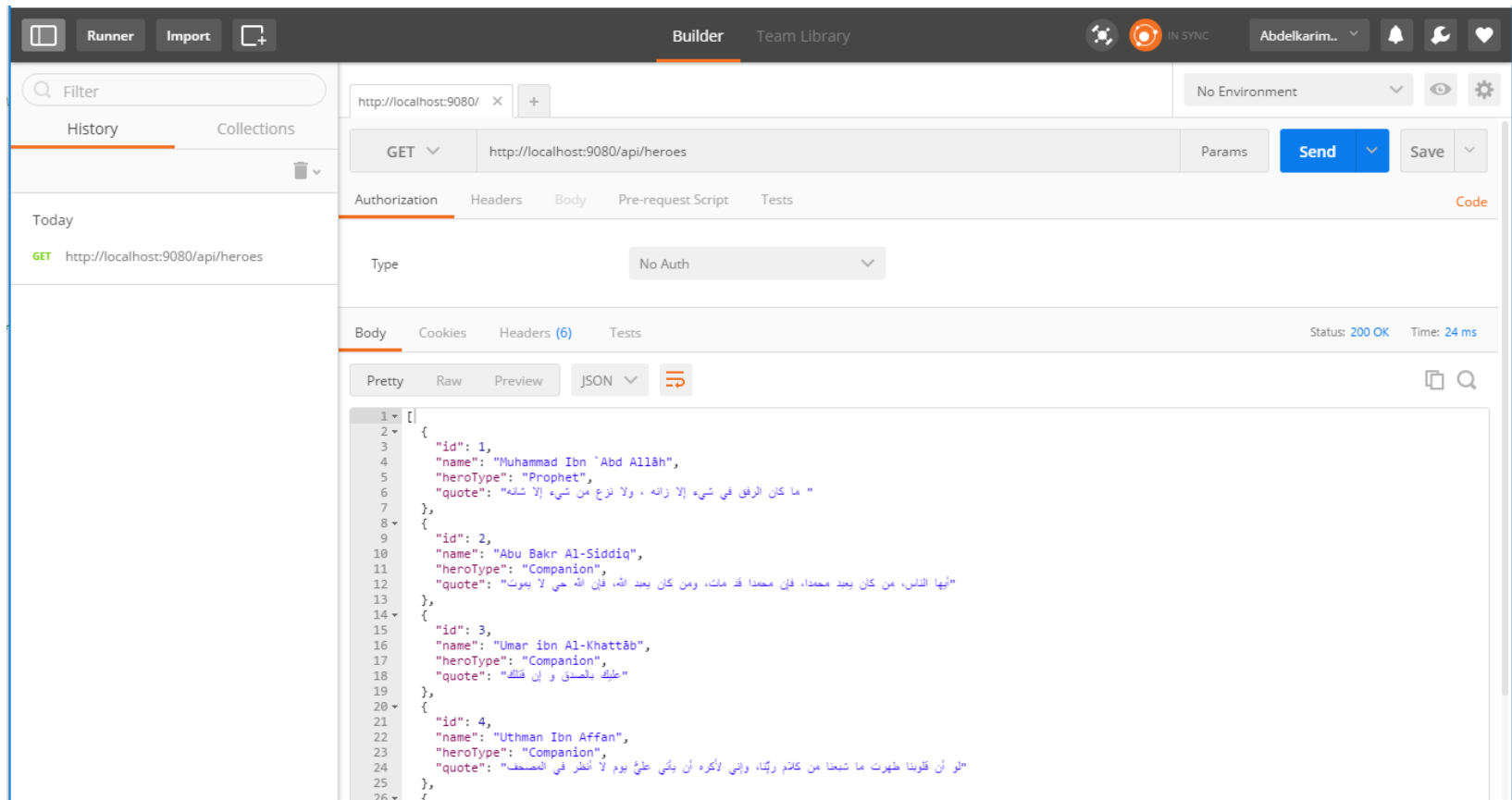
HTTP Verbs

- Represent the actions to be performed on resources
- Retrieve a representation of a resource: **GET**
- Create a new resource:
 - Use **POST** when the server decides the new resource URI
 - Post is not repeatable
 - Use **PUT** when the client decides the new resource URI
 - Put is repeatable
- **PUT** is typically used for update
- Delete an existing resource: **DELETE**
- Get metadata about an existing resource: **HEAD**
- Get which of the verbs the resource understands: **OPTIONS**

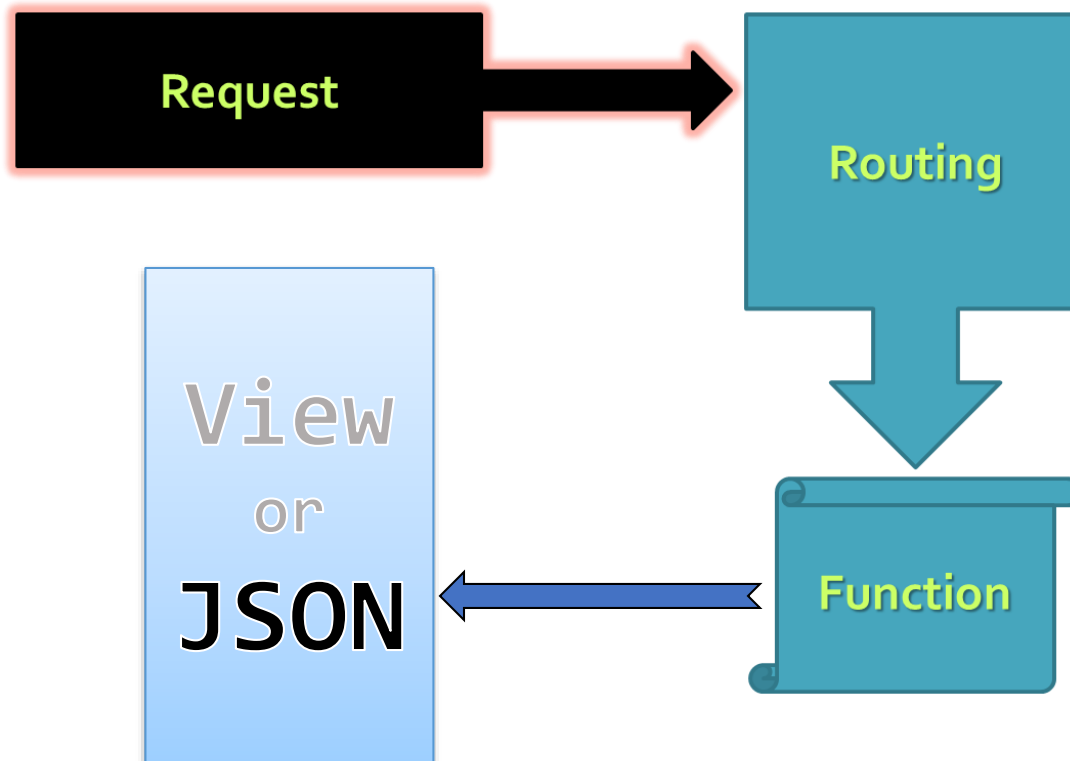
Testing REST Services

- Using Postman to test Web API

<https://www.getpostman.com/postman>



Web API using Node.js Express



Create and Start an Express App

```
let express = require('express');  
let app = express();
```

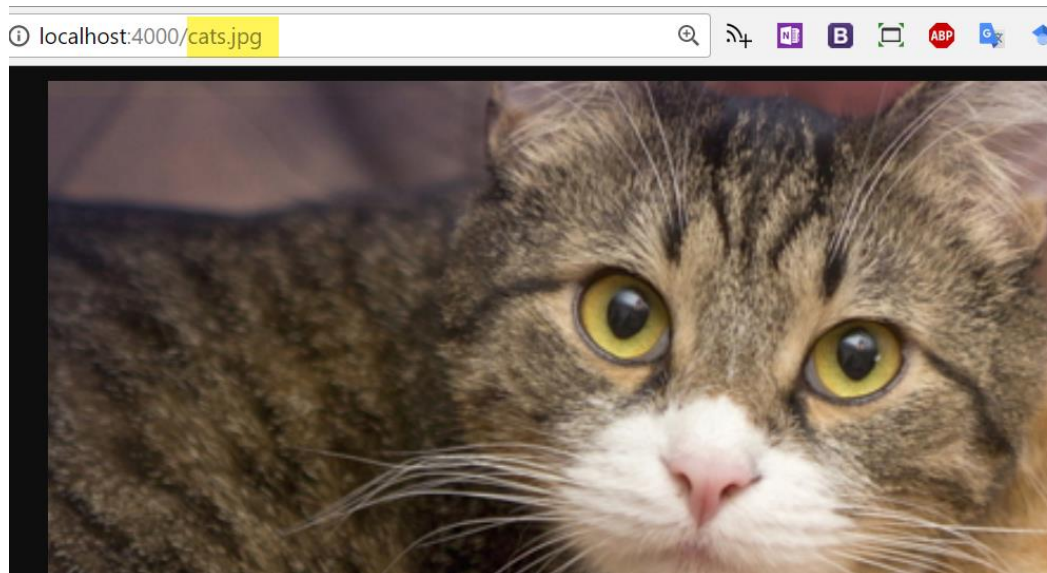
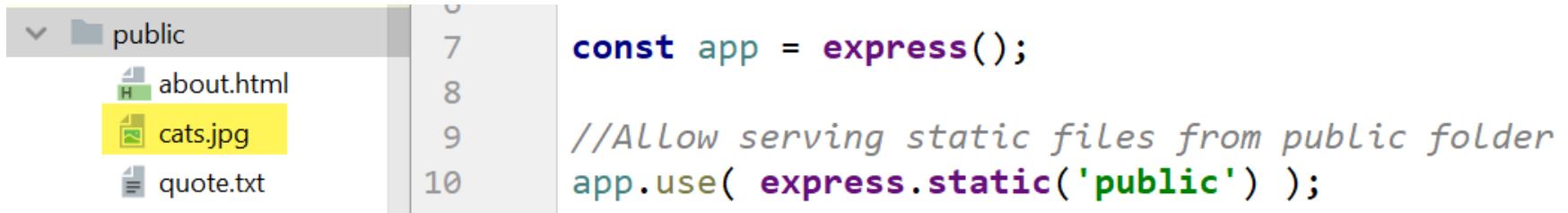
```
app.get('/', (req, res) => {  
  res.send('السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته')  
});
```

```
let port = 3000;  
app.listen(port, () => {  
  console.log(`App is available @ http://localhost:${port}`)  
});
```

- A function **registered** to listen to the URL <http://localhost:3000/>
- When someone visits this Url the function associated with get `'/'` will run and `'السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته'` will be returned to the requester

Express Features

- Provides support for serving static files:
 - To serve up static files, the **express.static** function is invoked with the folder path of the files to be served



Routing

- Requests can be routed based on:
 - HTTP Method – GET, POST, PUT, DELETE
 - URL Path – Path of the request URL can be matched against patterns
- Routing is a way to **map** an HTTP **verb** (e.g., GET or POST) and a **URI** (like /users/123) to a **handler function**
 - The handler function is passed a **request** and a **response** object allowing the handler to access information from the request and to send the generated response



app.get

HTTP GET



app.put

HTTP PUT



app.delete

HTTP
DELETE



app.post

HTTP POST

Route Parameters

- To receive a **query string**, a **parameter** can be added to the route uri with a colon in front of it. To grab the value, you'll use the **params** property of the request
 - Route parameters are **named** URL segments that are used to capture the values specified at their position in the URL.

```
app.get('/api/students/:id', (req, res) => {  
  let studentId = req.params.id  
  console.log('req.params.id', studentId)  
})
```

```
app.get('/authors/:authorId/books/:bookId', (req, res) => {  
  // If the Request URL was http://localhost:3000/authors/34/books/8989  
  // Then req.params: { authorId: "34", bookId: "8989" }  
  res.send(req.params);  
})
```

Working with a Request Body

- To access the request body a middleware can be used to process the request body
 - **Body Parser** is used to process JSON content in the request body
 - Body Parser makes the data available through the **body** property on the request object

```
const express = require('express');
const bodyParser = require('body-parser');
const app = express();
app.use(bodyParser);
app.post('/heroes', async (req, res) => {
  let hero = req.body;
  await heroRepository.addHero(hero);
  res.sendStatus(201);
});
```

Express Router

- For simple app routes can be defined in `app.js`
- For large application, Express Router allows defining the routes in a separate file(s) then attaching routes to the app to:
 - Keep *app.js* clean, simple and organized
 - Easily find and maintain routes

// routes.js file

```
let router = express.Router()  
router.get('/api/students', studentController.getStudents )  
module.exports = router
```

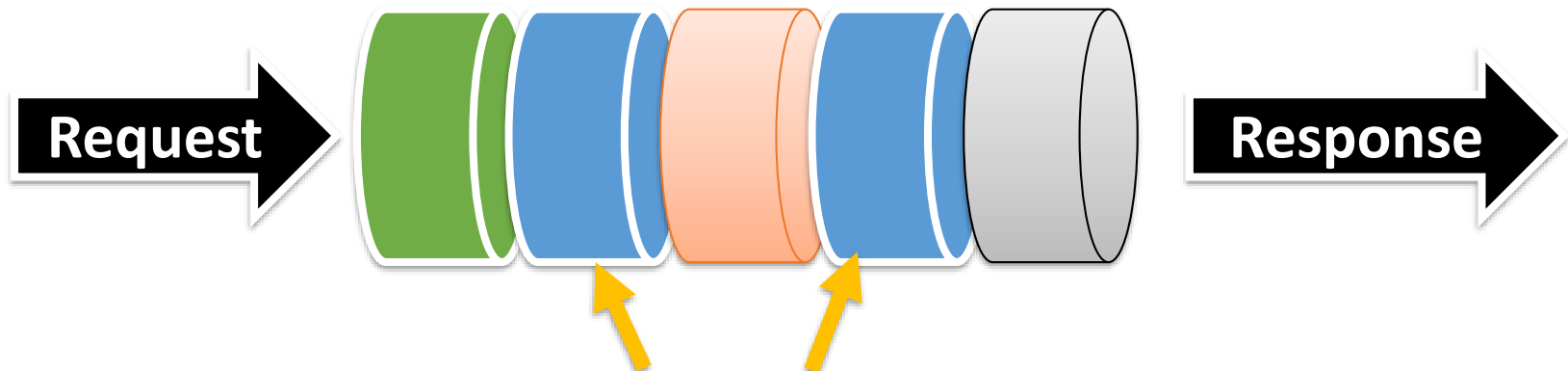
//app.js file - mount the routes to the app

```
let routes = require('./routes')  
app.use('/', routes)
```

Express Middleware

- Express middleware allows you to **pipeline** a single request through a series of functions.
 - Each middleware function may **modify the request or the response**
- Request Processing Pipeline: the request passes through an *array* of functions before it reaches your route handler

```
/* body-parser extracts the body portion of an incoming request and assigns  
it to req.body.  
*/  
app.use( bodyParser.json() );
```



Middleware (bodyParser, logging, authentication, router etc.)

Custom Middleware Example

```
let express = require('express');
let app = express();

//Define a middleware function
function logger (req, res, next) {
  req.requestTime = new Date();
  console.log(`Request received at ${req.requestTime}`);
  next();
}

// Attach it to the app
app.use(logger);

app.get('/', function (req, res) {
  let responseText = `Hello World!<br>
    Requested at: ${req.requestTime}`;
  res.send(responseText);
})

let port = 3000;
app.listen(port, () => {
  let host = "localhost";
  console.log(`App is running and available @ http://${host}:${port}`);
});
```



Implementing CRUD Operations

CRUD Operations

- See the posted Hero and Student Examples

```
const heroService = require('./services/HeroService');
```

```
//Heroes Web API
```

```
router.route('/heroes')  
  .get( heroService.getHeroes )  
  .post( heroService.addHero );  
  
router.route('/heroes/:id')  
  .get( heroService.getHero )  
  .put( heroService.updateHero )  
  .delete( heroService.deleteHero );
```

Summary

- Express is a Node.js web framework
- It makes building an Http Server a lot easier
- Provides routing and static file delivery out of the box
- Makes it easier to build Web API
- Uses **body-parser** middleware to process the request body
- Popular, easy to use, and very flexible

Resources

- Web API Design

- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/architecture/best-practices/api-design>
- <https://pages.apigee.com/rs/apigee/images/api-design-ebook-2012-03.pdf>

- Mozilla Developer Network

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Server-side/Express_Nodejs