Comp 324/424 - Client-side Web Design - Slides

Spring Semester 2018

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Final Assessment

- working final app
  - ***NO*** *content management systems (CMSs) such as Drupal, Joomla, WordPress...*
  - ***NO*** *PHP, Python, Ruby, C# & .Net, Go, XML...*
  - ***NO*** *CSS frameworks, such as Bootstrap, Foundation, Materialize...*
- presentation and demo - live working app...
  - *due on Monday 23rd April 2018 @ 4.15pm*
  - *show and explain implemented differences from DEV week project*
  - *where and why did you update the app?*
  - *benefits of updates?*
- how did you respond to peer review?
- final report
  - *due on Monday 30th April 2018 @ 4.15pm*

Final report

- Final Report Outline

HTML5, CSS, & JS - example - part 19

working with Flickr API - update travel notes JS

- room for improvement, updates, abstraction, and general refactoring of the existing code
- return to this issue when we consider refactoring the code in general
  - *there are still a few simple features we need to add*
- for example,
  - *add images to the* `.contextual-output` *section, resize* `.note-output` *section*
  - *moves focus to the current images*
  - *check loading progress of the notes and images*
  - *show feedback to the user*
  - *need to output a title for the images*
  - *set using the search query*

HTML5, CSS, & JS - example - part 20

working with Flickr API - modify travel notes JS

- first modification is to resize the `.notes-output`
  - *create more space for the images*
  - *gently shift focus to the new images*
- update existing `.createImage()` function in the `contextual.js` file

```
//manage new image output
function createImage(data) {
...
    if (checkVisible($(".contextual-output img")) === true) {
      $(".note-output").removeClass("col-12");
      $(".note-output").addClass("col-4");
      $(".contextual-output").fadeIn("slow");
    }
...
}
```

- add check to ensure images are not visible in the DOM
- remove current class from `.note-output` section
  - *12 column class for the grid*
- add new grid class to resize `.note-output` to 4 columns
  - *then fade in the `.contextual-output` class*
  - *set in the app's HTML to a class of `.col-8`*

HTML5, CSS, & JS - example - part 21

working with Flickr API - modify travel notes JS

- next modification is some initial error handling
  - *checking for an empty array of images from the returned Flickr JSON*
- check `processImages()` function for an empty array of image items

```
...

if (response.items.length === 0) {
  var img = "";
  createImage(img);
} else {
  //return images from items array...
}
...
```

- checks images in the items array for the promise object
- if not, send an empty variable as a parameter to our `createImage()` function

HTML5, CSS, & JS - example - part 22

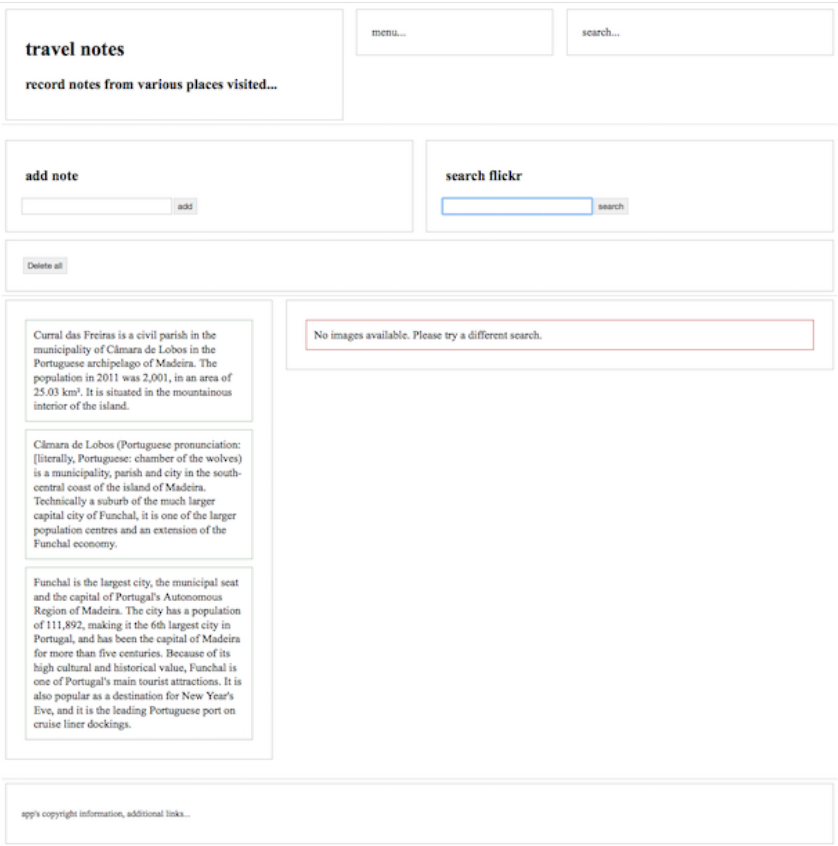
working with Flickr API - modify travel notes JS

- check for empty value in `createImage()` function
  - *handle the simple errors as follows*

```
if (data !== "") {
  //create each image element
  var $img = $('<img class="flex-img">').attr("src", data);
  //add image
  img_output = $img;
} else {
  var $img_error = $('<p class="flex-item error">').html("No images available...");
  //add error
  img_output = $img_error;
}
```

- we've abstracted the return variable for the image output
  - *can hold either the image or the error output...*
- add a check to see whether the `.contextual-output` section is visible or not
- modify the column class for the `.note-output` section
- then append our image output
- then show the `.contextual-output` section within the app
- DEMO - travel notes & Flickr

Image - HTML5, CSS, & JS - Travel Notes & Flickr



Travel Notes & Flickr - error checking

HTML5, CSS, & JS - example - part 23

working with Flickr API - modify travel notes JS

- continue to modify and build our Travel Notes app
- add some metadata for the returned images
  - *using the title and link from the search query response*
- add initial metadata output in the `contextual.js` file
  - *modify the `processImages()` function*
  - *metadata from Flickr JSON response in the deferred promise object*

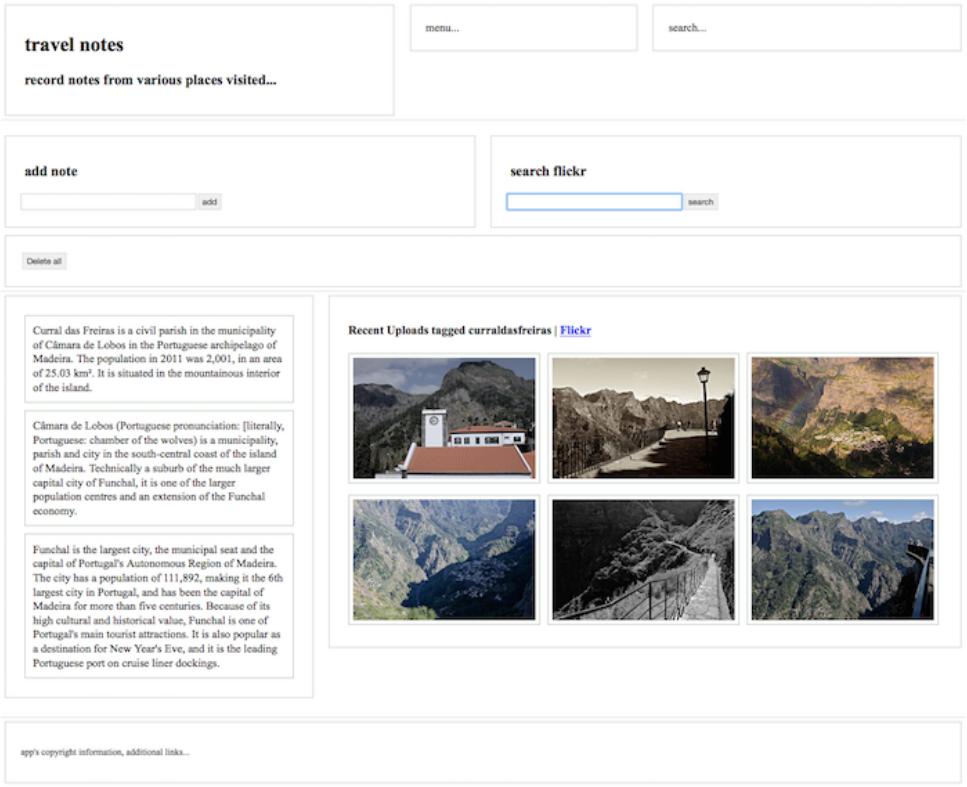
```
...
//create object for search metadata
var search_meta = {title:response.title, link:response.link};
...
```

- then pass this to a new function, called `metaOutput()`

```
//prepare and render metadata for returned search...
function metaOutput(data) {
  if (data !== "") {
  //search metadata from response
  var search_title = data.title;
  var search_link = data.link;
  //build heading output for metadata heading
  var metaHeading = '<h6>'+search_title+' | <a href="'+search_link+'">Flickr</a></h6>';
  //render metadata to contextual-output
  $(".contextual-output").prepend(metaHeading);
  }
}
```

- DEMO - travel notes & Flickr - initial metadata

Image - HTML5, CSS, & JS - Travel Notes & Flickr



Travel Notes & Flickr - initial metadata

HTML5, CSS, & JS - example - part 24

travel notes - basic refactoring of JS

- as we continue to add features and modify existing code
  - *may start to see unnecessary repetition and function calls in the code*
- eg: initial error handling for our contextual images
  - *`createImage()` function is being called in the `processImages()` function*
  - *called regardless of returned image data*
- `createImage()` is being used unnecessarily to manage the error handling
- move check to `processImages()` function
  - *then call function to render necessary error message*

```
function outputError(message) {
  var $img_error = $('<p class="flex-item error">').html(message);
  //check for visible contextual-output - if not visible
  if (checkVisible($(".contextual-output")) === true) {
    $(".note-output").removeClass("col-12");
    $(".note-output").addClass("col-4");
  }
  //append output to DOM
  $(".contextual-output").append($img_error);
  //fade in contextual-output with appended results
  $(".contextual-output").fadeIn("slow");
}
```

HTML5, CSS, & JS - example - part 25

travel notes - basic refactoring of JS

- updated `processImages()` function can call `.outputError()` function as needed

```
...
if (response.items.length !== 0) {
//logic to add metadata and each image...
}
else {
  var img_error = "No images available - please try a different search.";
  outputError(img_error);
}
...
```

- use this function to output error messages for any type of contextual data
- also remove some unnecessary replication of code
  - *by adding a simple function to change an element's class*

```
//modify element class - from, to
function changeClass(element, size1, size2) {
    $(element).removeClass(size1);
    $(element).addClass(size2);
}
```

- resize a class, for example to modify our grid output
  - *call this function - pass the selector to update, original class to remove, and new class to add*

HTML5, CSS, & JS - example - part 26

working with Flickr API - modify travel notes JS

- add a modification to check for the image loading and the notes
  - *offer status feedback to the user*

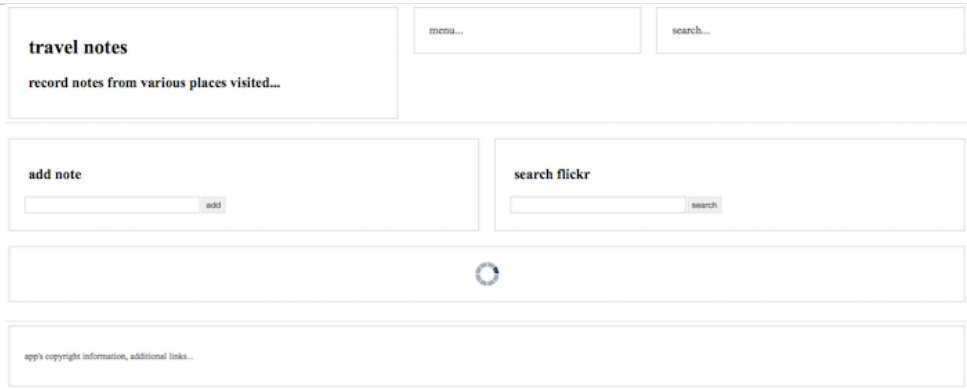
```
//add initial loader spinner for ajax...
$(".contextual-output").html('<img class="spinner" src="assets/images/ajax-loader.gif">');
```

- remove it when the deferred promise object has returned

```
//remove ajax spinner
$(".spinner").remove();
```

- DEMO - travel notes & Flickr - spinner

Image - HTML5, CSS, & JS - Travel Notes & Flickr



Travel Notes & Flickr - spinner

JS Server-side considerations - save data

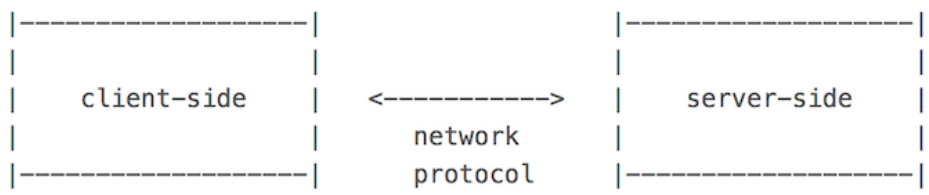
save JSON in travel notes app

- need to be able to save our simple notes
- now load from a JSON file as the app starts
  - *also we can add new notes, delete existing notes...*
- not as simple as writing to our existing JSON file direct from JS
  - *security implications if that was permitted directly from the browser*
- need to consider a few server-side options
- could use a combination of PHP on the server-side
  - *with AJAX jQuery on the client-side*
  - *traditional option with a simple ajax post to a PHP file on the server-side*
- consider JavaScript options on the client and server-side
- brief overview of working with **Node.js**

Server-side considerations - intro

- normally define computer programs as either client-side or server-side programs
- server-side programs normally abstract a resource over a network
  - *enabling many client-side programs to access at the same time*
  - *a common example is file requests and transfers*
- we can think of the client as the web browser
- a web server as the remote machine abstracting resources
- abstracts them via **hypertext transfer protocol**
  - *HTTP for short*
- designed to help with the transfer of HTML documents
  - *HTTP now used as an abstracted wrapper for many different types of resources*
  - *may include documents, media, databases...*

Image - Client-side and server-side computing



client-side & server-side

Server-side considerations - Node.js

intro - what is Node.js?

- Node.js is, in essence, a JavaScript runtime environment
  - *designed to be run outside of the browser*
- designed as a general purpose utility
- can be used for many different tasks including
  - *asset compilation*
  - *monitoring*
  - *scripting*
  - *web servers*
- with Node.js, role of JS is changing
  - *moving from client-side to a support role in back-end development*

Server-side considerations - Node.js

intro - speed of Node.js

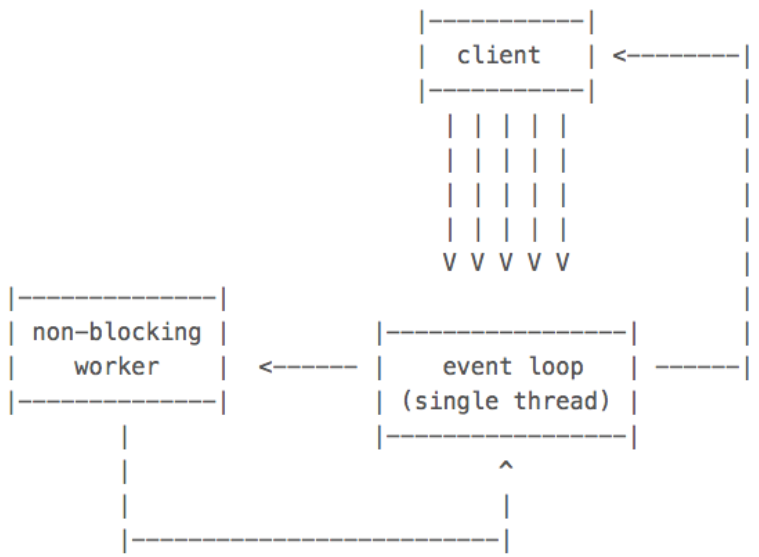
- a key advantage touted for Node.js is its speed
- many companies have noted the performance benefits of implementing Node.js
  - *including PayPal, Walmart, LinkedIn...*
- a primary reason for this speed boost is the underlying architecture of Node.js
- Node.js uses an **event-based** architecture
- instead of a threading model popular in compiled languages
- Node.js uses a single event thread by default
- all I/O is asynchronous

Server-side considerations - Node.js

intro - conceptual model for processing in Node.js

- how does Node.js, and its underlying processing model, actually work?
- client sends a hypertext transfer protocol, HTTP, request
  - *request or requests sent to Node.js server*
- event loop is then informed by the host OS
  - *passes applicable request and response objects as JavaScript closures*
  - *passed to associated worker functions with callbacks*
- long running jobs continue to run on various assigned worker threads
- responses are sent from the non-blocking workers back to the main event loop
  - *returned via a callback*
- event loop returns any results back to the client
  - *effectively when they're ready*

Image - Client-side and server-side computing



Node.js - conceptual model for processing

Server-side considerations - Node.js

intro - threaded architecture

- concurrency allows multiple things to happen at the same time
- common practice on servers due to the nature of multiple user queries
- Java, for example, will create a new thread on each connection
  - *threading is inherently resource expensive*
- size of a thread is normally around 4MB of memory
- naturally limits the number of threads that can run at the same time
- also inherently more complicated to develop platforms that are thread-safe
  - *thereby allowing for such functionality*
- due to this complexity
  - *many languages, eg: Ruby, Python, and PHP, do not have threads that allow for real concurrency*
  - *without custom binaries*
- JavaScript is similarly single-threaded
  - *able to run multiple code paths in parallel due to* ***events***

Server-side considerations - Node.js

intro - event-driven architecture

- JavaScript originally designed to work within the confines of the web browser
- had to handle restrictive nature of a single thread and single process for the whole page
- synchronous blocking in code would lock up a web page from all actions
  - *JavaScript was built with this in mind*
- due to this style of I/O handling
  - *Node.js is able to handle millions of concurrent requests on a single process*
- added, using libraries, to many other existing languages
  - *Akka for Java*
  - *EventMachine for Ruby*
  - *Twisted for Python*
  - ...
- JavaScript syntax already assumes events through its use of callbacks
- **NB:** if a query etc is CPU intensive instead of I/O intensive
  - *thread will be tied up*
  - *everything will be blocked as it waits for it to finish*

Server-side considerations - Node.js

intro - callbacks

- in most languages
  - *send an I/O query & wait until result is returned*
  - *wait before you can continue your code procedure*
- for example, submit a query to a database for a user ID
  - *server will pause that thread/process until database returns result for ID query*
- in JS, this concept is rarely implemented as standard
- in JS, more common to pass the I/O call a **callback**
- in JS, this **callback** will need to run when task is completed
  - *eg: find a user ID and then do something, such as output to a HTML element*
- biggest difference in these approaches
  - *whilst the database is fetching the user ID query*
  - *thread is free to do whatever else might be useful*
  - *eg: accept another web request, listen to a different event...*
- this is one of the reasons that Node.js returns good benchmarks and is easily scaled
- **NB:** makes Node.js well suited for I/O heavy and intensive scenarios

Server-side considerations - Node.js

install Node.js

- a number of different ways to install **Node.js**, **npm**, and the lightweight, customisable web framework **Express**
- run and test Node.js on a local Mac OS X or Windows machine
- download and install a package from the following URL
  - *Node.js - download*
- install the Node module, **Express**
- Express is a framework for web applications built upon Node.js
  - *minimal, flexible, & easily customised server*
- use *npm* to install the Express module

```
npm install -g express
```

- –g option sets a global flag for Express instead of limited local install
- installs Express command line tool
  - *allows us to start building our basic web application*
- now also necessary to install Express application generator

```
npm install -g express-generator
```

Server-side considerations - Node.js

NPM - intro

- **npm** is a package manager for Node.js
- Developers can use **npm** to share and reuse modules in Node.js applications
- **npm** can also be used to share complete Node.js applications
- example modules might include
  - *Markup, YAML etc parsers*
  - *database connectors*
  - *Express server*
  - ...
- **npm** is included with the default installers available at the Node.js website
- test whether **npm** is installed, simply issue the following command

```
npm
```

- should output some helpful information if **npm** is currently installed
- **NB:** on a Unix system, such as OS X or Linux
  - *best to avoid installing **npm** modules with `sudo` privileges*

Server-side considerations - Node.js

NPM - installing modules

- install existing **npm** modules, use the following type of command

```
npm install express
```

- this command installs module named `express` in the current directory
- it will act as a local installation within the current directory
- installing in a folder called `node_modules`
  - *this is the default behaviour for current installs*
- we can also specify a global install for modules
  - *eg: we may wish to install the **express** module with global scope*

```
npm install -g express
```

- again, the `-g` flag specifies the required global install

Server-side considerations - Node.js

NPM - importing modules

- import, or effectively add, modules in our Node.js code
  - *use the following declaration*

```
var module = require('express');
```

- when we run this application
  - *Node.js looks for the required module library and its source code*

Server-side considerations - Node.js

NPM - finding modules

- official online search tool for **npm** can be found at
  - *npmjs*
- top packages include options such as
  - *browserify*
  - *express*
  - *grunt*
  - *bower*
  - *karma*
  - ...
- also search for Node modules directly
  - *search from the command line using the following command*

```
npm search express
```

- returns results for module names and descriptions

Server-side considerations - Node.js

NPM - specifying dependencies

- ease Node.js app installation
  - *specify any required dependencies in an associated `package.json` file*
- allows us as developers to specify modules to install for our application
  - *which can then be run using the following command*

```
npm install
```

- helps reduce the need to install each module individually
- helps other users install an application as quickly as possible
- our application's dependencies are stored in one place
- example `package.json`

```
{
"name": "app",
"version": "0.0.1",
"dependencies": {
  "express": "4.2.x",
  "underscore": "-1.2.1"
}
}
```

Server-side considerations - Node.js

initial Express usage

- now use Express to start building our initial basic web application
- Express creates a basic shell for our web application
  - *cd to working directory and use the following command*

```
express /node/test-project
```

- command makes a new directory
  - *populates with required basic web application directories and files*
- cd to this directory and install any required dependencies,

```
npm install
```

- then run our new app,

```
npm start
```

- or run and monitor our app,

```
nodemon start
```

Server-side considerations - Node.js

initial Express server - setup

- we've now tested **npm**, and installed our first module with **Express**
- test **Express**, and build our first, simple server
- initial directory structure

```
|- .
   |- 424-node
      |- node_modules
```

- need to do is create a JS file to store our server code, so we'll add `server.js`

```
|- .
   |- 424-node
      |- node_modules
      |- server.js
```

- start adding our Node.js code to create a simple server

Server-side considerations - Node.js

initial Express server - server.js - part 1

- add some initial code to get our server up and running

```
/* a simple Express server for Node.js*/
var express = require("express"),
    http = require("http"),
    appTest;

// create our server - listen on port 3030
appTest = express();
http.createServer(appTest).listen(3030);

// set up routes
appTest.get("/test", function(req, res) {
  res.send("welcome to the 424 test app.");
});
```

- then start and test this server as follows at the command line

```
node server.js
```

Server-side considerations - Node.js

initial Express server - server.js - part 2

- open our web browser, and use the following URL

```
http://localhost:3030
```

- this is the route of our new server
  - *to get our newly created route use the following URL*

```
http://localhost:3030/test
```

- this will now return our specified route, and output message
- update our `server.js` file to support root directory level routes

```
appTest.get("/", function(req, res) {
  res.send("Welcome to the 424 server.")
});
```

- now load our server at the root URL

```
http://localhost:3030
```

- stop server from command line using `CTRL` and `C`

Server-side considerations - Node.js

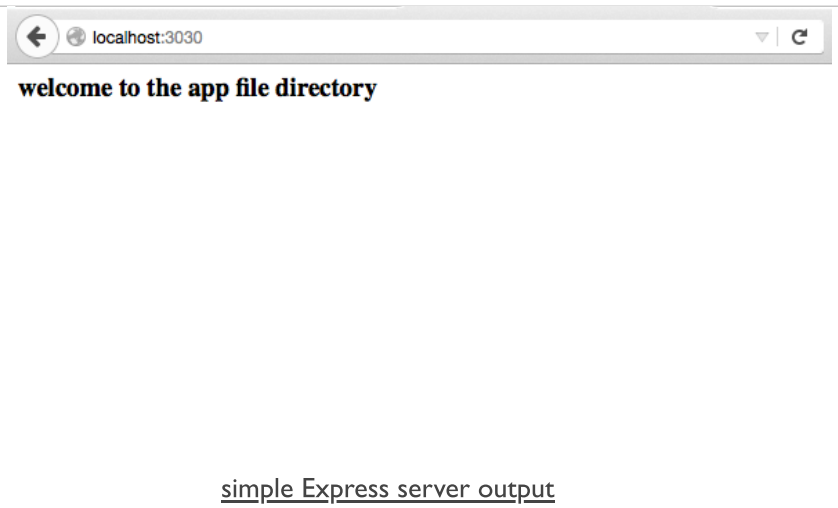
initial Express server - server.js - part 3

- currently, initial Express server is managing some static routes for loading content
  - *we simply tell the server how to react when a given route is requested*
- what if we now want to serve some HTML pages?
  - *Express allows us to set up routes for static files*

```
//set up static file directory - default route for server
appTest.use(express.static(__dirname + "/app"));
```

- now defining Express as a static file server
  - *enabling us to publish our HTML, CSS, and JS files*
  - *published from our default directory, `/app`*
- if requested file not available
  - *server will check other available routes*
  - *or report error to browser if nothing found*
- DEMO - 424-node

Image - Client-side and server-side computing



simple Express server output

Server-side considerations - Node.js

working with data - JSON

- let us now work our way through a basic Node.js app
- serve our JSON, then read and load from a standard web app
- create our initial `server.js` file

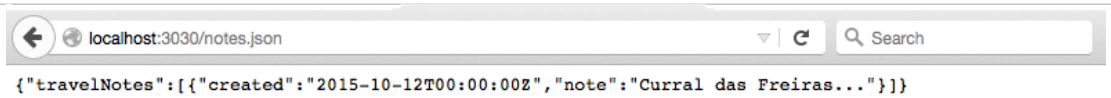
```
var express = require('express'),
    http = require("http"),
    jsonApp = express(),
    notes = {
      "travelNotes": [{
      "created": "2015-10-12T00:00:00Z",
      "note": "Curral das Freiras..."
      }]
    };

jsonApp.use(express.static(__dirname + "/app"));

http.createServer(jsonApp).listen(3030);

//json route
jsonApp.get("notes.json", function(req, res) {
  res.json(notes);
});
```

Image - Client-side and server-side computing



simple Express JSON route output

Server-side considerations - Node.js

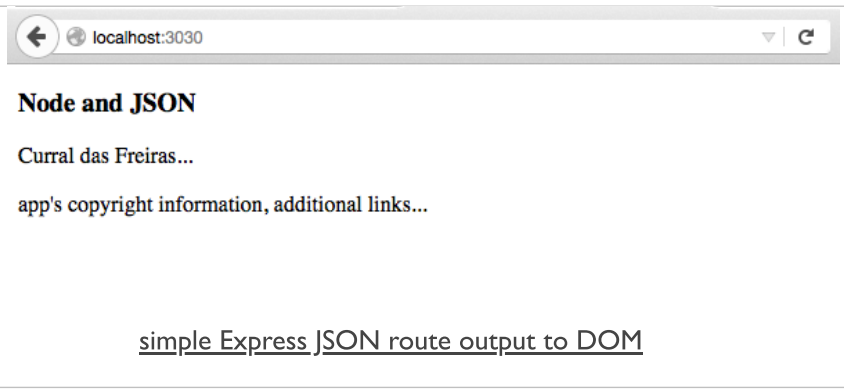
working with data - JSON

- now have our `get` routes setup for JSON
- now add some client-side logic to read that route
- render to the browser
- same basic patterns we've seen before
  - *using jQuery's `.getJSON()` function*

```
...
  $.getJSON("notes.json", function (response) {
    console.log("response = "+response.toSource());
    buildNote(response);
  })
...
```

- response object from our JSON
  - *this time from the server and not a file or API*
- use our familiar functions to create and render each note
  - *call our normal `buildNote()` function*
- DEMO - 424-node-json1

Image - Client-side and server-side computing



simple Express JSON route output to DOM

Server-side considerations - Node.js

working with data - post data

- we've seen examples that load JSON data
  - *using jQuery's `.getJSON()` function*
- now consider jQuery's `post` function
  - *allow us to easily send JSON data to the server*
  - *simply called `post`*
- begin our updates by creating a new route in our Express server
  - *one that will handle the `post` route*

```
jsonApp.post("/notes", function(req, res) {
  //return simple JSON object
  res.json({
    "message": "post complete to server"
  });
});
```

Server-side considerations - Node.js

working with data - post data

- may look similar to our earlier `get` routes
  - *difference due to browser restrictions*
  - *can't simply request direct route using our browser*
  - *as we did with `get` routes*
- need to change JS we use for the client-side
  - *allows us to post new route*
  - *then enables view of the returned message*
- update our test app to store data on the server
  - *then initialise our client with this stored data*

Server-side considerations - Node.js

working with data - post data

- start with a simple check that the post route is working correctly
  - *add a button, submit a request to the post route, and then wait for the response*
  - *add event handler for a button*

```
$("#post").on("click", function() {
  $.post("notes", {}, function (response) {
    console.log("server post response returned..." + response.toSource());
  })
});
```

- submit a `post` request
  - *specify the route for the post to the Node.js server*
  - *then specify the data to post - an empty object in this example*
  - *the specify a callback for the server's response*
- test returns the following output to the browser's console,

```
server post response returned...({message:"post complete to server"})
```

Server-side considerations - Node.js

working with data - post data

- now send some data to the server
  - *add new note to our object*
- update the server to handle this incoming object
  - *process the submitted jQuery JSON into a JavaScript object*
  - *ready for use with the server*
- use the **Express** module's `body-parser` plugin
- update `server.js` as follows

```
//add body-parser for JSON parsing etc...
var bodyParser = require("body-parser");
...
//Express will parse incoming JSON objects
jsonApp.use(bodyParser.urlencoded({ extended: false }));
...
```

- as server receives new JSON object
  - *it will now parse, or process, this object*
  - *ensures it can be stored on the server for future use*

Server-side considerations - Node.js

working with data - post data

- now update our test button's event handler
  - *send a new note as a JSON object*
- note will retrieve its new content from the input field
  - *gets the current time from the node server*

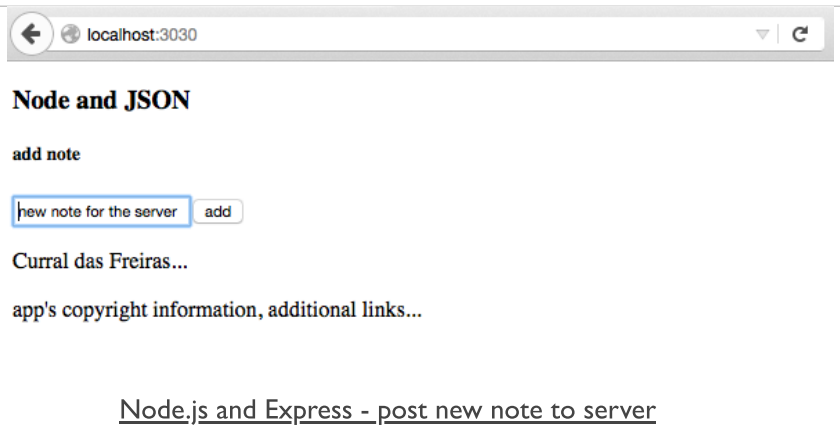
```
$(".note-input button").on("click", function() {
  //get values for new note
  var note_text = $(".note-input input").val();
  var created = new Date();
  //create new note
  var newNote = {"created":created, "note":note_text};
  //post new note to server
  $.post("notes", newNote, function (response) {
    console.log("server post response returned..." + response.toSource());
  })
});
```

- input field and button follow the same pattern as previous examples

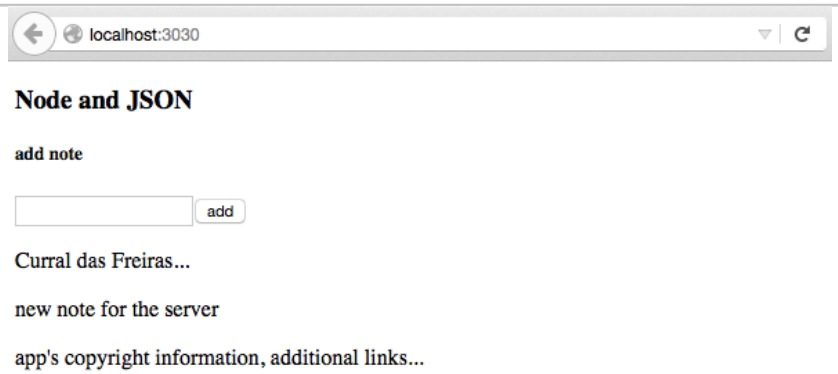
```
<!-- note input -->
<section class="note-input col-6">
    <h5>add note</h5>
    <input><button>add</button>
</section>
```

- DEMO - 424-node-json2

Image - Client-side and server-side computing



Node.js and Express - post new note to server



Node.js and Express - get new notes from server

Server-side considerations - data storage

intro

- tested Node.js, created a server for hosting our files and routes with ExpressJS
  - *read JSON from the server*
  - *updated our JSON on the server-side*
- works well as long as we do not need to restart, repair, update etc our server
- data lost with restart etc...
- need to consider a persistent data storage
  - *independent from the application*
- NoSQL options such as Redis and MongoDB
- integration with Node.js

Server-side considerations - data storage

SQL or NoSQL

- common database usage and storage
  - *often thought solely in terms of SQL, or structured query language*
- SQL used to query data in a relational format
- relational databases, for example MySQL or PostgreSQL, store their data in tables
  - *provides a semblance of structure through rows and cells*
  - *easily cross-reference, or relate, rows across tables*
- a relational structure to map authors to books, players to teams...
  - *thereby dramatically reducing redundancy, required storage space...*
- improvement in storage capacities, access...
  - *led to shift in thinking, and database design in general*
- started to see introduction of non-relational databases
  - *often referred to simply as **NoSQL***
- with NoSQL DBs
  - *redundant data may be stored*
  - *such designs often provide increased ease of use for developers*
- some NoSQL examples for specific use cases
  - *eg: fast reading of data more efficient than writing*
  - *specialised DB designs*

Server-side considerations - data storage

Redis - intro

- Redis provides an excellent example of NoSQL based data storage
- designed for fast access to frequently requested data
- improvement in performance often due to a reduction in perceived reliability
  - *due to in-memory storage instead of writing to a disk*
- able to flush data to disk
  - *performs this task at given points during uptime*
  - *for majority of cases considered an in-memory data store*
- stores this data in a **key-value** format
  - *similar in nature to standard object properties in JavaScript*
- Redis often a natural extension of conventional data structures
- Redis is a good option for quick access to data
  - *optionally caching temporary data for frequent access*

Server-side considerations - data storage

Redis - installation

- On OS X, use the Homebrew package manager to install Redis

```
brew install redis
```

- Windows port maintained by the Microsoft Open Tech Group - Redis
  - *or use Windows package manager - https://chocolatey.org/*
- for Linux - download, extract, and compile Redis

```
$ wget http://download.redis.io/releases/redis-3.0.5.tar.gz
$ tar xzf redis-3.0.5.tar.gz
$ cd redis-3.0.5
$ make
```

Server-side considerations - data storage

Redis - server and CLI

- start the Redis server with the following command,

```
redis-server
```

- interact with our new server directly using the CLI tool,

```
redis-cli
```

- store some data in Redis using the `set` command
  - *create a new key for `notes`, and then set its value to `0`*
  - *if value is set, Redis returns `OK`*

```
set notes 0
```

- retrieve a value using the `get` command
  - *returns our set value of `0`*

```
get notes
```

Image - Client-side and server-side computing

```
Drs-MacBook-Air-2:~ ancientlives$ redis-cli
127.0.0.1:6379> set notes 0
OK
127.0.0.1:6379> get notes
"0"
127.0.0.1:6379>
```


Redis CLI - set and get

Server-side considerations - data storage

Redis - server and CLI

- also manipulate existing values for a given key
  - *eg: increment and decrement a value, or simply delete a key*
- increment key `notes` value by 1

```
incr notes
```

- decrement key `notes` value by 1

```
decr notes
```

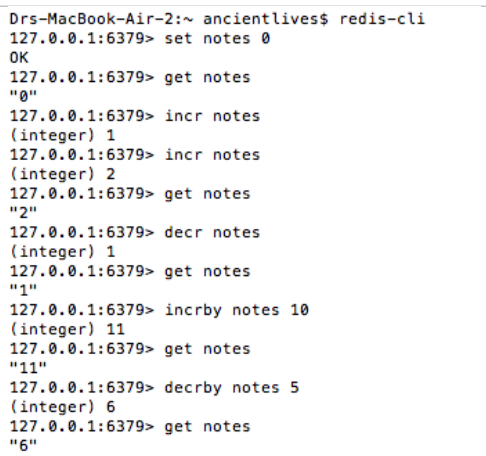
- we can then increment or decrement by a specified amount

```
// increment by 10
incrby notes 10
// decrement by 5
decrby notes 5
```

- delete our key

```
// single key deletion
del notes
// multiple keys deletion
del notes notes2 notes3
```

Image - Client-side and server-side computing



Redis CLI - increment and decrement

Server-side considerations - data storage

Redis and Node.js setup

- test Redis with our Node.js app
- new test app called `424-node-redis1`

```
|- 424-node-redis1
   |- app
      |- assets
   |- node_modules
   |- package.json
   |- server.js
```

- create new file, `package.json` to track project
  - *eg: dependencies, name, description, version...*

Server-side considerations - data storage

Redis and Node.js - package.json

```
{
  "name": "424-node-redis1",
  "version": "1.0.0",
  "description": "test app for node and redis",
  "main": "server.js",
  "dependencies": {
    "body-parser": "^1.14.1",
    "express": "^4.13.3",
    "redis": "^2.3.0"
  },
  "author": "ancientlives",
  "license": "ISC"
}
```

- we can write the `package.json` file ourselves or use the interactive option

```
npm init
```

- then add extra dependencies, eg: Redis, using

```
npm install redis --save
```

- use `package.json` to help with app management and abstraction...

Server-side considerations - data storage

Redis and Node.js - set notes value

- add Redis to our earlier test app
- import and use Redis in the `server.js` file

```
...
var express = require("express"),
    http = require("http"),
    bodyParser = require("body-parser"),
    jsonApp = express(),
    redis = require("redis");
...
```

- create client to connect to Redis from Node.js

```
//create client to connect to Redis
redisConnect = redis.createClient();
```

- then use Redis, for example, to store access total for notes on server

```
redisConnect.incr("notes");
```

- check Redis command line for change in `notes` value

```
get notes
```

Server-side considerations - data storage

Redis and Node.js - get notes value

- now set the counter value for our notes
  - *add our counter to the application to record access count for notes*
- use the `get` command with Redis to retrieve the incremented values for the `notes` key

```
redisConnect.get("notes", function(error, notesCounter) {
  //set counter to int of value in Redis or start at 0
  notesTotal.notes = parseInt(notesCounter,10) || 0;
});
```

- `get` accepts two parameters - `error` and return value
- Redis stores values and strings
  - *convert string to integer using `parseInt()`*
  - *two parameters - return value and `base-10` value of the specified number*
- value is now being stored in a global variable `notesTotal`
  - *declared in `server.js`*

```
var express = require("express"),
    http = require("http"),
    bodyParser = require("body-parser"),
    jsonApp = express(),
    redis = require("redis"),
    notesTotal = {};
```

Server-side considerations - data storage

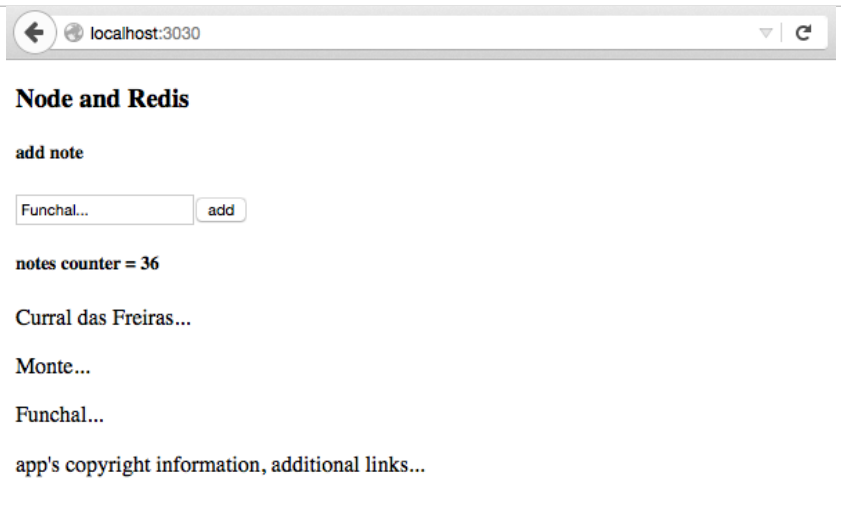
Redis and Node.js - get notes value

- store notes counter value in Redis
- create new route in `server.js`
  - *monitor the returned JSON for the counter*

```
//json get route
jsonApp.get("/notesTotal.json", function(req, res) {
  res.json(notesTotal);
});
```

- start using it with our application
  - *load by default, within event handler...*
- render to DOM
- store as a internal log record
- link to create note event handler...
- DEMO - 424-node-redis I

Image - Client-side and server-side computing



Node and Redis - 424-node-redis I

Server-side considerations - data storage

MongoDB - intro

- MongoDB is another example of a NoSQL based data store
  - *a database that enables us to store our data on disk*
- unlike MySQL, for example, it is not in a relational format
- MongoDB is best characterised as a **document-oriented** database
- conceptually may be considered as storing objects in collections
- stores its data using the BSON format
  - *consider similar to JSON*
  - *use JavaScript for working with MongoDB*

Server-side considerations - data storage

MongoDB - document oriented

- SQL database, data is stored in tables and rows
- MongoDB, by contrast, uses **collections** and **documents**
- comparison often made between a collection and a table
- **NB:** a document is quite different from a table
- a document can contain a lot more data than a table
- a noted concern with this document approach is duplication of data
- one of the trade-offs between NoSQL (MongoDB) and SQL
- SQL - goal of data structuring is to normalise as much as possible
- thereby avoiding duplicated information
- NoSQL (MongoDB) - provision a data store, as easy as possible for the application to use

Server-side considerations - data storage

MongoDB - BSON

- BSON is the format used by MongoDB to store its data
- effectively, JSON stored as binary with a few notable differences
  - *eg: `ObjectId` values - data type used in MongoDB to uniquely identify documents*
  - *created automatically on each document in the database*
  - *often considered as analogous to a primary key in a SQL database*
- `ObjectId` is a large pseudo-random number
- for nearly all practical occurrences, assume number will be unique
- might cease to be unique if server can't keep pace with number generation...
- other interesting aspect of `ObjectId`
  - *they are partially based on a timestamp*
  - *helps us determine when they were created*

Server-side considerations - data storage

MongoDB - general hierarchy of data

- in general, MongoDB has a three tiered data hierarchy

1. database
   - *normally one database per app*
   - *possible to have multiple per server*
   - *same basic role as DB in SQL*
2. collection
   - *a grouping of similar pieces of data*
   - *documents in a collection*
   - *name is usually a noun*
   - *resembles in concept a table in SQL*
   - *documents do not require the same schema*
3. document
   - *a single item in the database*
   - *data structure of field and value pairs*
   - *similar to objects in JSON*
   - *eg: an individual user record*

Demos

Travel notes app - series 4

- DEMO 4 - Travel Notes & Flickr - initial metadata
- DEMO 5 - Travel Notes & Flickr - spinner

Node.js

- 424-node
- 424-node-json1
- 424-node-json2

Redis

- 424-node-redis1

References

- Chocolatey for Windows
  - *Chocolatey package manager for Windows*
- Homebrew for OS X
  - *Homebrew - the missing package manager for OS X*
- MongoDB
  - *MongoDB - For Giant Ideas*
- Node.js
  - *Node.js home*
  - *Node.js - download*
  - *ExpressJS*
  - *ExpressJS body-parser*
- Redis
  - *redis.io*
  - *redis commands*
  - *redis - npm*
  - *try redis*
  - *Windows support*
- Various
  - *Create your own AJAX loader*