🚀 FastAPI Project Refactoring with Routers

> 🌿 Modular Structure · 🗂 Folder Setup · 📦 Multiple Routers · 🔁 Clean Architecture

🌟 Why Refactor with Routers?

FastAPI lets you split large applications into **independent, reusable router modules**.

✅ Benefits:

- 🧼 Clean and readable `main.py`
- 🧪 Easy to test & scale
- ♻️ Promotes code reuse
- 📚 Organized by features (e.g., users, products, auth)

🗂 Suggested Folder Structure (Scalable)

```
fastapi_backend/
│
├── app/
│   ├── main.py              # 🚀 Entry point
│   ├── routers/             # 📦 All route files
│   │   ├── __init__.py
│   │   ├── users.py         # 👤 /users routes
│   │   └── products.py      # 📦 /products routes
│   ├── models/              # 📄 Pydantic schemas
│   │   └── user.py
│   ├── database/            # 🗄 DB connection/config
│   │   └── db.py
│   └── utils/               # 🛠 Helpers / validators
│       └── helpers.py
│
├── requirements.txt
└── venv/
```

🔧 Step 1: Refactor `main.py` to Include Routers

```python
# app/main.py

from fastapi import FastAPI
from app.routers import users, products

app = FastAPI(title="Modular FastAPI App")
```

```
# 👇 Include routers
app.include_router(users.router, prefix="/users", tags=["Users"])
app.include_router(products.router, prefix="/products", tags=["Products"])
```

📦 Step 2: Create First Router – `users.py`

```python
# app/routers/users.py

from fastapi import APIRouter

router = APIRouter()

@router.get("/")
def get_all_users():
    return [{"id": 1, "name": "Alice"}, {"id": 2, "name": "Bob"}]

@router.post("/")
def create_user(name: str):
    return {"msg": f"User '{name}' created"}
```

📌 This exposes:

- `GET /users/`
- `POST /users/`

📦 Step 3: Add Second Router – `products.py`

```python
# app/routers/products.py

from fastapi import APIRouter

router = APIRouter()

@router.get("/")
def list_products():
    return ["Laptop", "Tablet", "Phone"]

@router.post("/")
def add_product(name: str):
    return {"msg": f"Product '{name}' added"}
```

📌 This exposes:

- `GET /products/`
- `POST /products/`

Summary: `include_router` Parameters

Argument	Example Value	Purpose
`router`	`users.router`	Router object
`prefix`	`"/users"`	URL path prefix
`tags`	`["Users"]`	Swagger tag grouping

Swagger UI Structure

When you visit `http://127.0.0.1:8000/docs`, you'll see:

```
Users
  - GET /users/
  - POST /users/

Products
  - GET /products/
  - POST /products/
```

Pro Tip: Reusability

- Each `router` file is like its own **mini app**
- You can **import it into other projects** or mount it under different prefixes
- You can even use **sub-routers** for nested routes

Bonus: Modularizing Further

Add Pydantic validation, services, and database logic to separate files:

- `/models/user.py`: for request & response schemas
- `/services/user_service.py`: for business logic
- `/database/db.py`: DB connection

Example: Using a Pydantic Model in `users.py`

```python
# app/models/user.py

from pydantic import BaseModel

class UserCreate(BaseModel):
    name: str
    email: str
```

```python
# app/routers/users.py

from fastapi import APIRouter
from app.models.user import UserCreate

router = APIRouter()

@router.post("/")
def create_user(user: UserCreate):
    return {"msg": f"User '{user.name}' created with email '{user.email}'"}
```

☑ Automatically shows fields in Swagger ☑ Auto-validates input and returns `422` on error

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📝 Final Recap: What You've Learned

Concept	Summary
`APIRouter()`	Used to define routes in separate files
`include_router()`	Used in `main.py` to mount routers with prefixes
`prefix`	Base path for all routes in that router
`tags`	Group routes visually in Swagger UI
Refactoring	Makes code scalable, testable, clean
Second Router	Works exactly like the first – just plug & play

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FastAPI folder structure

☑ Your MERN Stack Folder Recap (`YouTweet/backend/src`):

```
🗀 src/
│
├── components/       → Reusable frontend components
├── config/           → Config files (env, DB, etc.)
├── controllers/      → Route logic (Express handlers)
├── db/               → MongoDB connection
├── middlewares/      → Express middleware (auth, error, etc.)
├── models/           → Mongoose schemas
├── pages/            → (Next.js / frontend routing - N/A in backend)
├── routes/           → Express routes
├── store/            → Redux store (frontend concern)
├── utils/            → Utility functions
```

```
├── app.js            → Express app
├── index.js          → Entry point
```

⚙️ Equivalent **FastAPI Backend Structure**

```
🗀 app/
│
├── main.py                  # Entry point (like `index.js`)
├── config/                  # Env vars, DB URLs
│   └── settings.py
│
├── core/                    # App configuration, startup logic
│   └── init_db.py
│   └── security.py
│
├── api/                     # Routers (like Express `routes/`)
│   ├── deps.py              # Dependencies for routes
│   ├── v1/                  # Versioned routes
│   │   ├── endpoints/
│   │   │   ├── user.py
│   │   │   └── auth.py
│   │   └── api.py           # Include all v1 routers
│
├── models/                  # SQLAlchemy / Pydantic models
│   ├── user.py
│   └── tweet.py
│
├── schemas/                 # Pydantic schemas (like Mongoose shape + Joi
validation)
│   ├── user.py
│   └── tweet.py
│
├── services/                # Business logic (like controllers)
│   └── tweet_service.py
│
├── db/                      # DB session, connection, migrations
│   ├── base.py
│   └── session.py
│
├── middlewares/            # Custom middlewares
│   └── error_handler.py
│
├── utils/                   # Helper functions
│   └── hashing.py
│
├── static/                  # Static files (like `public/`)
│
└── .env
```

🧠 Key Mappings Between MERN and FastAPI

MERN (Express.js)	FastAPI Equivalent	Notes
`routes/`	`api/v1/endpoints/`	Use routers and include them
`controllers/`	`services/`	Handles logic for routes
`models/` (Mongoose)	`models/` + `schemas/`	Use SQLAlchemy + Pydantic
`middlewares/`	`middlewares/`	Custom middleware via `add_middleware`
`config/`	`config/` + `.env`	`pydantic.BaseSettings` or `dynaconf`
`utils/`	`utils/`	Same utility concept
`app.js` or `index.js`	`main.py`	Entry file, loads FastAPI app
`db/`	`db/session.py`, `init_db`	For SQLAlchemy sessions

🧰 Tech Stack Used in FastAPI Equivalent

Concern	Tool Used
Routing	FastAPI Routers
Models (DB)	SQLAlchemy
Data Validation	Pydantic
Environment Handling	Python-dotenv or Pydantic Settings
Middleware	FastAPI's `add_middleware`
Static Files	`app.mount("/static", ...)`
ORM Migrations	Alembic (optional)

💡 Tips for Scaling Like MERN

- Use **versioned APIs** in `api/v1/endpoints/`
- Separate **schemas** (validation) from **models** (DB)
- Use `services/` layer to keep logic separate from route files
- Autoload routers using a single `api.py` file in `v1/`

🧩 1. Folder Structure (Express-like in FastAPI)

Here's a folder structure mimicking a typical MERN backend:

```
you_tweet_fastapi_backend/
│
├── app/
```

```
│   ├── main.py                 # Entry point
│   ├── models/                 # Pydantic models / SQLAlchemy models
│   │   └── user.py
│   ├── routes/                 # Routers (like Express routes)
│   │   ├── __init__.py
│   │   ├── user.py             # All user-related routes
│   │   └── tweet.py
│   ├── services/               # Business logic
│   └── database/               # DB config/connection
│       └── db.py
│
└── requirements.txt
```

🚀 2. How to Create Modular Routers with Prefix and Tags

🗀 routes/user.py

```python
from fastapi import APIRouter

router = APIRouter(
    prefix="/users",
    tags=["Users"]
)

@router.get("/")
def get_users():
    return {"message": "Get all users"}

@router.post("/register")
def register_user():
    return {"message": "Register a user"}
```

🗀 routes/tweet.py

```python
from fastapi import APIRouter

router = APIRouter(
    prefix="/tweets",
    tags=["Tweets"]
)

@router.get("/")
def get_tweets():
    return {"message": "Get all tweets"}

@router.post("/")
```

```
def post_tweet():
    return {"message": "Post a tweet"}
```

---

main.py (Entry Point)

```
from fastapi import FastAPI
from app.routes import user, tweet

app = FastAPI()

# Include routers with shared prefix and tags
app.include_router(user.router)
app.include_router(tweet.router)

@app.get("/")
def root():
    return {"message": "Welcome to YouTweet API"}
```

---

3. Output in Swagger UI

Once you run:

```
uvicorn app.main:app --reload
```

Open your browser at http://127.0.0.1:8000/docs — you'll see the API docs grouped under:

- **Users**
- **Tweets**

Each containing the relevant endpoints (`/users/`, `/tweets/`), just like you'd expect in Postman or Swagger in a Node.js project.

Optional: Add Dependencies or Tags per Operation

```
@router.get("/{user_id}", tags=["Users", "Get User by ID"])
def get_user(user_id: int):
    ...
```
