Support the Equal Justice Initiative.

Express

Express application generator

Use the application generator tool, express-generator, to quickly create an application skeleton.

You can run the application generator with the npx command (available in Node.js 8.2.0).

```
$ npx express-generator
```

For earlier Node versions, install the application generator as a global npm package and then launch it.

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

Display the command options with the -h option:

```
$ express -h
 Usage: express [options] [dir]
 Options:
    -h, --help
                       output usage information
       --version
                       output the version number
    -e, --ejs
                       add ejs engine support
       --hbs
                       add handlebars engine support
       --pug
                       add pug engine support
                       add hogan.js engine support
    -H, --hogan
        --no-view
                        generate without view engine
    -v, --view <engine> add view <engine> support (ejs|hbs|hjs|jade|pug|twig|vash)
(defaults to jade)
    -c, --css <engine> add stylesheet <engine> support (less|stylus|compass|sass)
(defaults to plain css)
       --git
                        add .gitignore
    -f, --force
                       force on non-empty directory
```

For example, the following creates an Express app named *myapp*. The app will be created in a folder named *myapp* in the current working directory and the view engine will be set to Pug:

```
$ express --view=pug myapp
  create : myapp
  create : myapp/package.json
  create : myapp/app.js
  create : myapp/public
  create : myapp/public/javascripts
  create : myapp/public/images
  create : myapp/routes
  create : myapp/routes/index.js
  create : myapp/routes/users.js
  create : myapp/public/stylesheets
  create : myapp/public/stylesheets/style.css
  create : myapp/views
  create : myapp/views/index.pug
  create : myapp/views/layout.pug
  create : myapp/views/error.pug
  create : myapp/bin
  create : myapp/bin/www
```

Then install dependencies:

```
$ cd myapp
$ npm install
```

On MacOS or Linux, run the app with this command:

```
$ DEBUG=myapp:* npm start
```

On Windows Command Prompt, use this command:

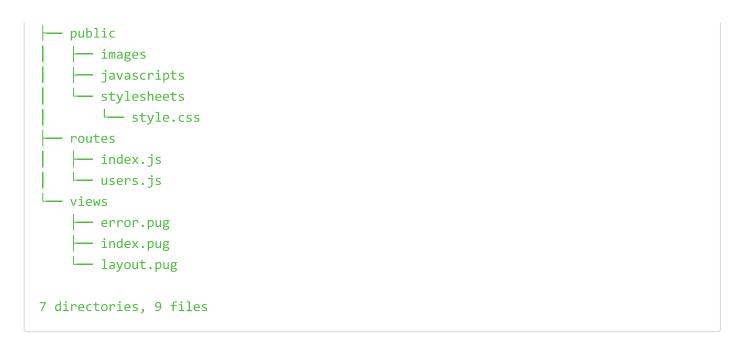
```
> set DEBUG=myapp:* & npm start
```

On Windows PowerShell, use this command:

```
PS> $env:DEBUG='myapp:*'; npm start
```

Then load http://localhost:3000/ in your browser to access the app.

The generated app has the following directory structure:



The app structure created by the generator is just one of many ways to structure Express apps. Feel free to use this structure or modify it to best suit your needs.

Previous: Hello World Next: Basic routing

Documentation translations provided by StrongLoop/IBM: French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Korean, Portuguese.

Community translation available for: Slovak, Ukrainian, Uzbek, Turkish and Thai.

☆ Star Express is a project of the OpenJS Foundation. Edit this page on GitHub.

Copyright © 2017 StrongLoop, IBM, and other expressjs.com contributors.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 United States License.