

Emily Foglia

Professor Jeffrey Seaman

CMPS 361

26 September 2021

Express: Jade vs. Handlebars

Jade and Handlebars are both Express template engines. Jade utilizes whitespace and indentation as part of the syntax. Files created using jade end in the extension “.jade.” These files are contained in a views folder within the root folder of the Express application. It is installed using “npm install jade.” Handlebars operates using a template file, often called “main.handlebars,” and various views. The main file contains repetitive HTML code, such as the stylesheet, page header, page footer, or scripts, that will be utilized in every hosted page in the Express application. It is installed using “npm install express-handlebars –save.”

I would not prefer to use Jade because of the syntax. Small changes or errors in the whitespace can modify the HTML code produced, and I imagine that it would be much more difficult to spot a spacing error than any other syntax error. While it does resemble HTML without closing tags or less-than and greater-than symbols, it is far enough away from HTML that I feel Handlebars is the better option for me. I am very familiar with HTML, and I am comfortable utilizing it.

Handlebars is my personal preference between the two template engines. As previously mentioned, I am very familiar with HTML syntax. I am quick and efficient with creating and modifying HTML files. The Handlebars method of creating one file for the lines of HTML that I constantly repeat typing will save me lots of time in the future. The only special syntax for

Handlebars is the “handlebars” themselves, the curly brackets. With a little practice, utilizing Handlebars will be much faster than creating several HTML files without it.

References

Jade Language. (n.d.). Jade Language. Retrieved September 26, 2021, from <https://jade-lang.com/>

Jade template engine. (n.d.). Tutorials Teacher. Retrieved September 26, 2021, from <https://www.tutorialsteacher.com/nodejs/jade-template-engine>

Yasmina, W. (2019, June 4). *A step by step guide to using Handlebars with your Node.js app*. Medium. Retrieved September 26, 2021, from <https://waelyasmina.medium.com/a-guide-into-using-handlebars-with-your-express-js-application-22b944443b65>