

# Adding routes to your web server

## Welcome to this lab activity

In this lab activity, you will explore how to add new routes to your Express web application. So far, all the web servers that you have created using either the **http** module or the **Express** framework only had one route – the root route `/`. Although nothing will stop you from having single route applications, the majority of web applications utilise multiple routes to organise their content.

If you take a website as an example, there are indeed single route websites on the web that organise their content with a single web page but there are also websites that organise their content using multiple routes, for example: `'https://website'`, `'https://website/about'` and `'https://website/search'`. Let's dive into this lab activity and add some routes to your web server application!

## Task 1: Add new routes to your express server

You will start with the application you created in the previous lab, which should be in a folder called `04_express` on your computer. Make a copy of this folder and call it `05_routes`.

1. Open the folder `05_routes` in Visual Studio Code.
2. Add the following code after the existing `app.get` call in `index.js` and remember to save it:

```
app.get("/about", (req, res) => res.send("<h1>This is the about  
page</h1>"));
```

The above line of code will add the `/about` route to your web server application.

If you have correctly followed all the steps above, your environment should be similar to the one below:



## Task 2: Run the code

3. Run the `index.js` file with the following Terminal command:

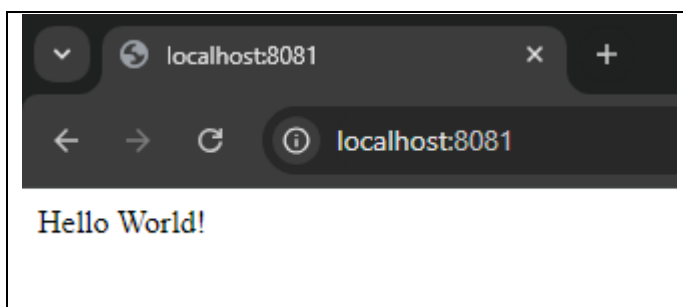
```
node index.js
```

The above command will start a web server running on port 8081.

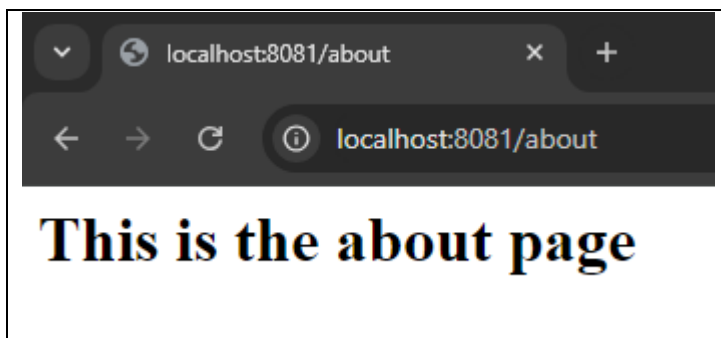
## Task 3: Access your server via HTTP

You now have two routes in your application. Let's access them both.

4. Start up a browser and navigate to `http://localhost:8081`. If you have correctly followed all the steps, your web browser should show the 'Hello World!' message.



5. Change the URL to `http://localhost:8081/about`. This will show the about page:



## Task 4: Explore further

When tackling these lab activities, it's always good to stretch yourself by doing some research and attempting some changes on your own.

If you followed the lab correctly, you should have two routes "/" and "/about".

- Can you add another route to your app, with a suitable message, on that page? Perhaps the route "/search"?

## End of lab

Congratulations on completing this lab.

What you have written so far are all static pages.

In the next lab activities, you will learn how to make dynamic applications.