

Serve Static Files

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Notes

Exercise: Read an HTML Form File

In the `prepared-files` directory of the code bundle, you'll find the file `form.html` with the following contents:

```
<form action="/bears" method="POST">
  <p>
    Name:<br/>
    <input type="text" name="name">
  </p>
  <p>
    Type:<br/>
    <input type="text" name="type">
  </p>
  <p>
    <input type="submit" value="Create Bear">
  </p>
</form>
```

Copy this `form.html` file into your `servy/pages` directory.

We'll use this basic HTML form a bit later to create a new bear. For now, just define a route that handles requests for `/bears/new` and responds by serving the `form.html` file.

Here's the full request:

```
request = ""
GET /bears/new HTTP/1.1
Host: example.com
User-Agent: ExampleBrowser/1.0
Accept: */*

""
```

You'll end up with a small bit of duplication when it comes to getting the absolute path to the file. Don't worry about it—we'll tidy that up in the next section.

Make sure to handle both the success and failure cases. Try both approaches: using a `case` expression and using multi-clause functions. Which do you prefer? Can you explain why?

[Show Answer](#)

Exercise: Serve Arbitrary Page Files

Suppose you had other static pages in the `pages` directory such as `contact.html`,

`faq.html`, and so on. You already know how to define separate `route` functions that serve each of those files. Instead, how would you define one generic `route` function that handles the following requests:

```
/pages/contact  
/pages/faq  
/pages/any-other-page
```

[Show Answer](#)

Exercise: Explore the Docs

The `File` and `Path` modules define familiar functions for working with (wait for it) files and paths. Open an `iex` session and use the `h` helper function to pull up the documentation for these modules. Spend a few minutes looking through the functions to get a sense of what's possible.

Code So Far

The code for this video is in the `serve-files` directory found within the `video-code` directory of the [code bundle](#).

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