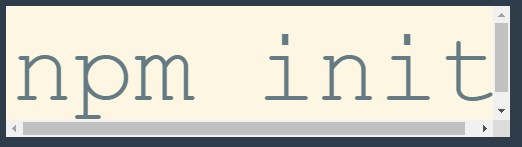
* Section slides: http://webdev.slides.com/coltsteele/mysql-105#/43
* In this section, we’ll move on to building our web application

# Introducing Express

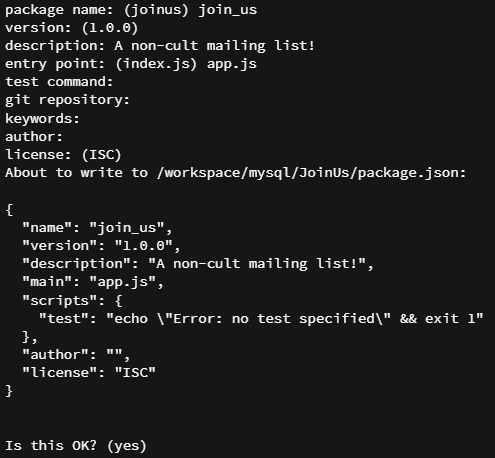
* **Express** is a web development framework for NodeJS that helps us make web applications faster
  + It essentially dictates how we write our code, but in return we can build web applications much faster than if we did it from scratch
  + It removes the “gunk” and lets us focus on the content that matters
  + Once we install it and include it in a file, it very quickly allows us to make a webpage
* Documentation: <https://expressjs.com/>
* Express is just one of many Node frameworks available

# NPM Init and package.json Files

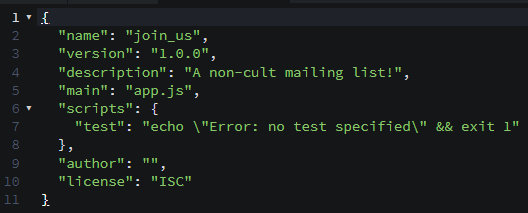
* Now we’ll get started on our barebones web application
* To install express, we run **npm install express**
* But another way is to use the following command



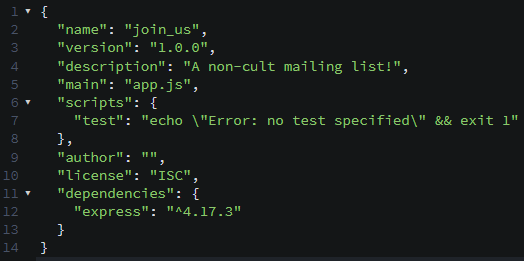
* + This creates a package.json file. Basically, the file acts as a log of all packages that we’ve installed. Then if you post your code on github, all someone has to do is run *npm install*, which will find the package.json file and then install all required package
* When we install Express using *npm init*, the package.json file accompanying Express will install all of the required packages. Very cool!
* Let’s create a new folder where we’ll build our web app, so that we don’t get things mixed up with our previous files that we’ve been using. We’ll call this folder **JoinUs**



* Running *npm init* and filling out the information generates a package.json file within our JoinUs folder. It’s now ready for us to install things



* Next, we install Express by running *npm install express --save*. The --save is important because it will save a record of the installation of Express into package.json



* We’ll need two more packages for our app: Faker and MySQL
  + *npm install faker mysql --save*
* Now that we have all of our packages installed, we just need to send the package.json file and our app code, and then they can install all the package on their own
  + All they need to run is *npm install* without any identifiers, and it will automatically install the packages in the nearest package.json file