

Introduction to Express

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What is Express

- Express: Fast, unopinionated, minimalist web framework for Node.js (from expressjs.com)
- Web application framework that provides a robust set of features
- Many third-party *middleware* to extend functionality
- Installing Express:
 - In your project folder do: `npm install express --save`

Express Hello World Example

```
var express = require('express'),
    http = require('http');

var hostname = 'localhost';
var port = 3000;

var app = express();

app.use(function (req, res, next) {
  res.writeHead(200, { 'Content-Type': 'text/html' });
  res.end('<html><body><h1>Hello World</h1></body></html>');
});

var server = http.createServer(app);

server.listen(port, hostname, function(){
  console.log(`Server running at http://${hostname}:${port}/`);
});
```

Express Middleware

- Middleware provide a lot of plug-in functionality that can be used within your Express application
- Example: *morgan* for logging

```
var morgan = require('morgan');  
app.use(morgan('dev'));
```
- Serving static web resources:

```
app.use(express.static(__dirname + '/public'));
```

 - Note: `__filename` and `__dirname` give you the full path to the file and directory for the current module

Serving Static Content

```
var express = require('express');  
var morgan = require('morgan');  
  
var hostname = 'localhost';  
var port = 3000;  
  
var app = express();  
  
app.use(morgan('dev'));  
  
app.use(express.static(__dirname + '/public'));  
  
app.listen(port, hostname, function(){  
  console.log(`Server running at http://${hostname}:${port}/`);  
});
```

Exercise: Introduction to Express

- Implement a simple web server
- Implement a web server that serves static content