

Serving static files

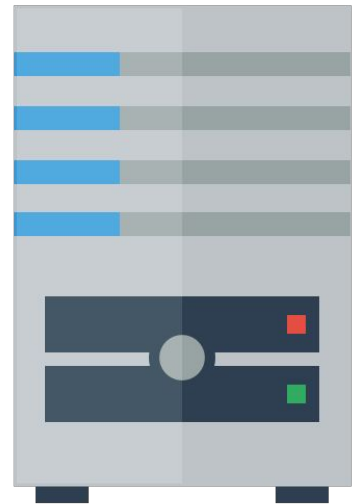
Dynamic content: Web services

Sometimes when you type a URL into your browser, the URL represents **an API endpoint**.

That is, the URL represents **a parameterized request**, and the web server dynamically generates a response to that request.

That's how our NodeJS server treats routes defined like this:

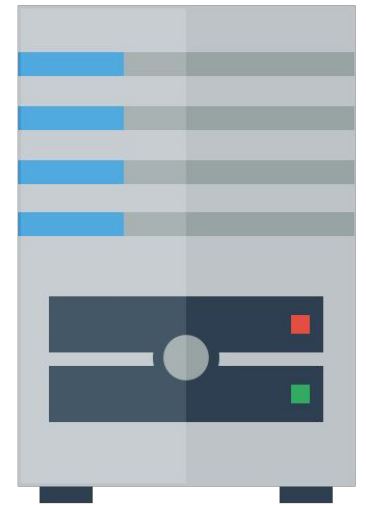
```
app.get('/hello', function (req, res) {  
  res.send('GET hello!');  
});
```



Static content: File servers

Other times when you type a URL in your browser, the URL is a **path to a file** on the hard drive of the server (html, css , js, jpeg, mp3) :

- The web server software grabs that file from the server's local file system, and sends back its contents to you



We can make our NodeJS server also sometimes serve files "statically," meaning instead of treating **all** URLs as API endpoints, some URLs will be treated as file paths.

Statically served files

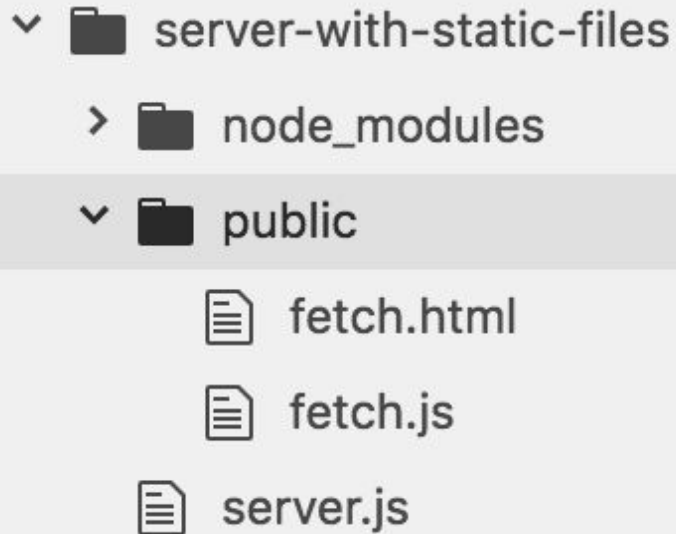
```
const express = require('express');  
const app = express();
```

```
app.use(express.static('public'));
```

```
app.get('/', function (req, res) {  
  res.send('Main page!');  
});
```

This line of code makes our server now start serving the files in the 'public' directory directly.

Server static data



```
app.use(express.static('public'))
```

Now Express will serve:

<http://localhost:3000/fetch.html>

<http://localhost:3000/fetch.js>

Express looks up the files relative to the static directory, so the name of the static directory ("public" in this case) is not part of the URL ([GitHub](#))

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