Lappeenrannan teknillinen yliopisto

School of Business and Management

Software Development Skills

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LEARNING DIARY, FULL-STACK MODULE

**LEARNING DIARY**

**22.6.2021 – NodeJS Module**

I chose the full-stack course as when searching for a summer job, seemed like experience in full-stack development could have been beneficial. I started the course by reading through the course Moodle page, so that I could get a general overview on how to complete the course. At first the module task list seemed a bit confusing, as there were no clear tasks other than those links to different learning materials. From what I understood the coding tasks are inside the videos or other material – I guess I will find that out later.

**23.6.2021 – NodeJS Module**

Today I set up my GitHub repository for the course, there was nothing special as I was already familiar with version control and especially GitHub. I also downloaded VS Code as I did not have that installed on my laptop. I did not add any extensions, as they seemed unnecessary for now.

After that I started getting familiar with the NodeJS-module by watching the start of the introduction video (2019 version). I learned some basic information about Node.js such as that it is a back-end environment used to execute JavaScript on the server, and what it can be used for etc.

At the end I also installed the current version of node (v.14.17.1) even though as stated it might cause some errors later, but I am ready to find alternative ways to solve the errors later.

**6.7.2021 – NodeJS Module**

I continued the first video I had started earlier and started getting more familiar with Node. The first task was to create a json package file, which can be done using “npm init” terminal command. That json package file lists used to describe the project module versions, name, used dependencies and main file among other information. It can be used to install modules (as the needed dependencies are listed in the json) if they are lost are used on a different machine by typing “npm install”.

I also learned about different dependencies, such as uuid and nodemon, which is so called dev dependency. Nodemon is used to save persistence so that the developer does not have to restart the server every time a change of code occurs.

During the video, the instructor introduced some basic modules, such as path, fs, os, url, events and logger provided with some coding examples of how to use them. While following through the coding examples, I tried my best to learn any new syntax used. At first the use of gravis (`) and function arrow (=>) felt weird, but I did some googling and found out when to use them.

When the instructor was about to move to the HTTP module demo, I decided to call it a day and made my first actual code commit to GitHub but before that I decided to install my first VS Code extension called “Prettier” which is used for code formatting.

**7.7.2021 – NodeJS Module**

Today I learned some basic skills on how to deploy a simple http server using Node.js which could be accessed with localhost followed by the port.

I learned how to load different kinds of files to the server, such as html, css or json. However, on my node.js version it did not quite work as expected – the html file contents were on the site as they are in the file. To display the file correctly, I had to use an alternative way to change the “Content-Type” in the header.

I also learned that the “script” part of the package.json file could be altered for example to run it in “dev” mode using nodemon to keep the server running while doing changes to the source code.

In the end of the node.js introduction video when Heroku was introduced I faced some difficulties. As I already had a GitHub repository, I did not want to create a new one for Heroku, so I tried to pair my existing repository with Heroku app. However, as my node.js module files were not in the root of the repository I could not deploy the app as there was some other files such as this diary which caused errors. Finally, after some time googling, I found a way to run apps from subdirectories using custom Heroku buildpacks.

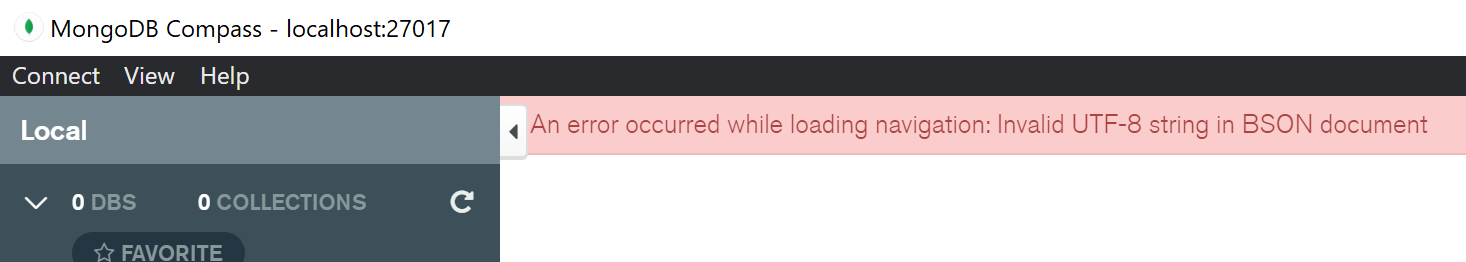
For that I used this guide: <https://stackoverflow.com/a/53221996>

After that I had finished the NodeJS Module.

**8.7.2021 – MongoDb**

I started the mongoDb module. I learned that mongoDb is a NoSQL database, which means that there is no need to map out any data structures before setting up the database, i.e., they store data differently than relational databases.

In the beginning of the video after installing mongoDb community server I came across some problems related to mongoDb compass, which I could not solve even after reinstallations and googling. However, the mongoDb itself was working as intended, so I continued with the introduction video as compass is just a more user-friendly alternative to the command line version.



The error in the upper right corner, I still could create dbs, but they were not displayed in the compass. On the other hand, show dbs command displayed all of them.

**9.7.2021 – MongoDb**

The main thing I learned during the end of this module was the basic usage of mongoDb:

**Insertions:** I learned that one could insert datatypes such as arrays, embedded objects, or even embedded documents. Also, there can be rows that do not have all the same attributes.

**Queries:** I found out that the queries work similar to SQL. However, the video did not cover how to use “find” command to find rows with arrays or embedded objects.



I found out that the following commands can be used for that (“value” is replaced with actual value):

“db.posts.find({tags: “value”})”

and

“db.posts.find({user: {name: “value”, status: “value”}})

For finding from embedded documents $elemMatch could be used:

db.posts.find({comments: {$elemMatch: { user: ‘Mary Williams’ }}})

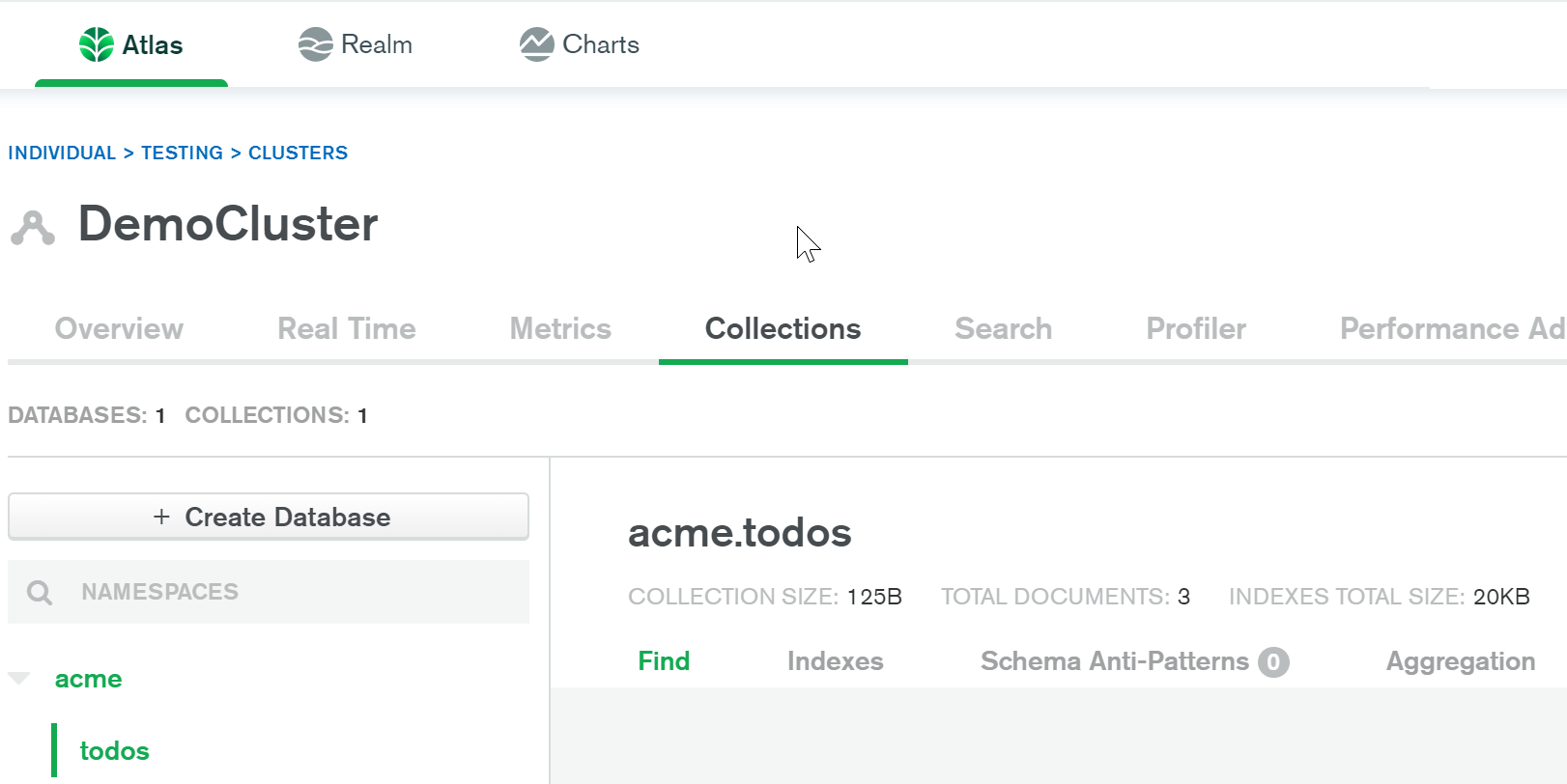
For searching rows (after indexing, finds posts starting with “Post O…” – Similar to SQL command …like “Post O%”):

db.posts.find({ $text: { $search: “\”Post O\””} })

Other query commands were pretty similar to SQL ones (sort, count, findOne) except the “forEach()” function, which could be used for example to concatenate the results with strings.

**Updates:** I learned that generally the update function alters the row so that it only has those values that are updated. To update only certain attributes “$set” must be used, so that the other attributes are not removed.

At the end of this introduction video, I also created a mongoDb atlas cluster database and collection and populated it with some rows.



End of MongoDb Module.

**12.7.2021 – ExpressJS**

In the beginning of the video, I learned that ExpressJS is a back-end web framework for Node. It can be used with various front-end frameworks to create full-stack applications. Also, the video introduced postman, which was later used during the module. For example, Postman can be used for creating http requests and to examine the results.

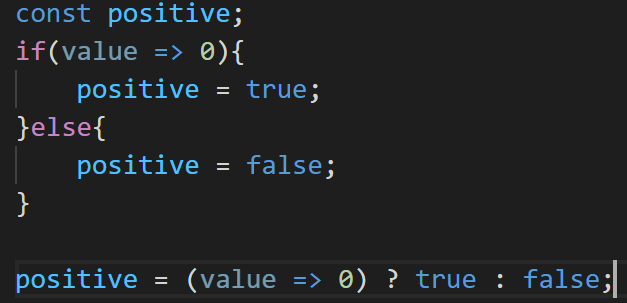
The coding part started the same way as in NodeJS module, first the project was initialized using “npm init” and later express and nodemon modules were installed using “npm install” command. In the beginning the coding examples were just basically redoing the tasks done in nodeJS module, but with expressJS which made the tasks much easier. For example, with expressJS there is no need to mess with the http header manually (at least not yet), also the file loading can be done easily with static folders so that for example when “<http://url/site.html>” is entered, the “site.html” file is loaded automatically.

I also learned to create middleware and routers. Middleware can be used to execute tasks automatically for example, when a request is made. Router can be used to execute different middleware or routes, when a particular condition is met (request type, url, etc.).

**13.7.2021 – ExpressJS**

Today I learned more about expressJS framework. During the introduction video I learned to do different http requests, such as GET, POST and DELETE. Postman application was a handy tool for creating appropriate requests to test the newly written code for handling those requests. I used those requests to create, update and delete members, however the changes obviously did not affect the members json that was hardcoded.

I also learned to use the ternary operator (? :), which can be used to shorten conditional statements. Example usage, if-else replaced with ternary operator:



In the end of this video I learned to use a template engine to load static html files to the website, which are populated with values. That is when it got a bit confusing, as I don’t really have experiences of html. I followed through the video and tried to learn some more. At least now I know how to iterate using <ul>, <li> and #each tags and do some basic html.

End of ExpressJS Module.