# **How the Web Works**

In this lab, you'll be working with a partner to explore a little more about the internet, the web, requests, responses and more. You'll be reading and writing about concepts as well as practicing some of the commands that we saw during the lecture earlier.

# **Topic 1: The Internet and the World Wide Web**

- 1) What is the internet? (hint: <a href="here">here</a>) The internet is a worldwide network of networks that uses the internet protocol suite.
- 2) What is the world wide web? (hint: <a href="here">here</a>) interconnected system of webpages accessible through the internet. It is one of many applications on the internet.
- 3) Partner One: read this page on how the internet works, Partner Two: read this page on how the world wide web works. When you're done reading, come back together and and answer the following questions
  - a) What are networks? A group of connections between different computers
  - b) What are servers? Computers that store webpages or data
  - c) What are routers? A router controls signals from computers, where they come from and where they are going
  - d) What are packets? Little chunks of data and information
- 4) Come up with a metaphor for the internet and the web, you can do a single one if you think of one that puts them together or two separate ones (feel free to use one you've heard today or read about if you can't think of a new one, but spend at least 10 minutes trying to think of something different before you resort to that) it's like ordering food from food service.
- 5) Draw out a diagram of the infrastructure of the internet and how a request and response travel using your metaphor (like the map and letters we saw during the lecture). Insert the drawing into this document (can be a picture of a physical drawing, a Google Drawing, a Figma drawing, etc)

# Orders food App Receives and sends order Restaurant

# **Topic 2: IP Addresses and Domains**

- 1) What is the difference between an IP address and a domain name? IP address is actual address represented by numbers, while domain name is words so we can remember them.
- 2) What's devmountain.com's IP address? (Hint: use 'ping' in the terminal) 172.66.43.107
- 3) Try to access devmountain.com by its IP address. It shouldn't work because we have our sites protected by a service called CloudFlare. Why might it be important to not let users access your site directly at the IP address? To protect your applications, teams and devices
- 4) How do our browsers know the IP address of a website when we type in its domain name? (If you need a refresher, go read this comic linked in the handout from this lecture) The DNS pairs the domain name to the IP address and after a location has been found it is saved in a cash to be accessed later

# Topic 3: How a web page loads into a browser

The steps of how a web page is requested and sent are in the table below. However, **they are out of order**. Unscramble them and explain your thinking/reasoning in the second two columns of the table.

Steps Scrambled	Steps in Correct Order	Why did you put this step in this position?
Example: Here is an example step	Here is an example step	- I put this step first because
		- I put this step before/after because

Request reaches app server	2	Request makes it to application
HTML processing finishes	5	This is before a page can be rendered
App code finishes execution	3	After request reaches server because it is in the app's hands
Initial request (link clicked, URL visited)	1	Step showing the start to visiting a site
Page rendered in browser	6	This is the outcome we look for when we visit a site, so last
Browser receives HTML, begins processing	4	This is before HTML processing finishes

# **Topic 4: Requests and Responses**

### Setup

- Download the folder for this exercise from Frodo.
- Make sure you unzip it.
- Open it in VS Code
- Run `npm i` in the terminal (make sure you're in the web-works folder you just downloaded).
  - You'll know it was successful if you see a node modules folder in the web-works folder.
- Run `node server.js` in the terminal (also in the web-works folder) and you should see a log to the terminal saying 'serving up port 4500'
- You'll be using this file to figure out what will happen when you make requests to this server, so read it over to see what's going on. We'll be getting into the two GET functions and the POST function.

### Part A: GET /

- You'll start by looking at the function that runs when we make a get request to /, which looks like this: http://localhost:4500 or http://localhost:4500/
- You'll use the curl command to make a request and read the response in your terminal
- 1) Predict what you'll see as the body of the response: App title and "journaling your journeys"
- 2) Predict what the content-type of the response will be: **HTML?**
- 3) Open a terminal window and run 'curl -i http:localhost:4500'
- 3) Were you correct about the body? If yes, how/why did you make your prediction? If not, what was it and why? Yes because that is what was listed where it showed the send response
- 4) Were you correct about the content-type of the response? If yes, how/why did you make your prediction? If not, what was it and why? Yes I was right about the content type. I just assumed, not sure why it was HTML. Except maybe the syntax in the text

### Part B: GET /entries

- Now look at the next function, the one that runs on get requests to /entries.
- You'll use the curl command again. This time, you'll need to figure out how to modify it to get the response that you need.
- 1) Predict what you'll see as the body of the response: A few listed objects will show
- 2) Predict what the content-type of the response will be:
- In your terminal, run a curl command to get request this server for /entries
- 3) Were you correct about the body? If yes, how/why did you make your prediction? If not, what was it and why? Yes, because in the response it says it will send the entries listed above.
- 4) Were you correct about the content-type of the response? If yes, how/why did you make your prediction? If not, what was it and why? No, not sure why or how to decide that. Content type was json

### Part C: POST /entry

- Last, read over the function that runs a post request.
- 1) At a base level, what is this function doing? (There are four parts to this) receiving two inputs, creating object, pushing object to an array, sending the new array
- 2) To get this function to work, we need to send a body object with our request. Looking at the function in server.js, what properties do you know you'll need to include on that body object? And what data types will they be (hint: look at the objects in the entries array)? **Date and Content**
- 3) Plan the object that you'll send with your request. Remember that it needs to be written as a JSON object inside strings. JSON objects properties/keys and values need to be in **double quotes** and separated by commas. '{"date": "September 27", "content": "New content HAHA"}'
- 4) What URL will you be making this request to? http://localhost:4500/entry
- 5) Predict what you'll see as the body of the response: It will be a list including whatever I add to the list
- 6) Predict what the content-type of the response will be: **json**
- In your terminal, enter the curl command to make this request. It should look something like the example below, with the information you decided on in steps 3 and 4 instead of the ALL CAPS WORDS.
  - curl -i -X POST -H 'Content-type: application/json' -d JSONOBJECT URL
- 7) Were you correct about the body? If yes, how/why did you make your prediction? If not, what was it and why? Yes because I was just adding to an object that is being expressed
- 8) Were you correct about the content-type of the response? If yes, how/why did you make your prediction? If not, what was it and why? Yes because that is the contact type output from the document. You can see it at the top of the file

## **Submission**

- 1. Save this document as a PDF
- 2. Go to Github and create a new repository. (Click the little + in the upper right hand corner.)
- 3. Name your repository "web-works" (or something like that).
- 4. Click "uploading an existing file" under the "Quick setup heading".
- 5. Choose your web works PDF document to upload.
- 6. Add "commit message" under the heading "Commit changes". A good commit message would be something like "Adding web works problems."
- 7. Click commit changes.

# **Further Study: More curl**

Visit this link and do the exercises using the website provided. Keep track of the commands you used in this document. (Don't forget to resubmit to GitHub when you complete this section)