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Go full-stack with Node.js, Express, and MongoDB

20 hours  Medium

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It used to be the case that JavaScript was a language for the front end and only for the front end, but that world is no more! With **MongoDB**, **Express**, and **Node**, you can take your JavaScript ninja skills to the backend!

Starting with Node and Express, you will discover how **web apps** work on the backend. You will create different **routes** for the different functions you want to make available in your API. Then, you will add MongoDB, the **NoSQL database**, to make your API fully dynamic and your data fully persistent.

Many courses of this kind push you into some kind of front-end framework like *Angular*, *React*, or *Vue*. In this course, however, the front-end app is *already built*! This means that you can fully concentrate on building your API and watch it come to life, honing your back-end skills and leaving you free to choose your own path.

The app you will be working on is a very simple online store. You will build an API to **CRUD** (**C**reate, **R**ead, **U**ppdate, and **D**ele) items for sale. You will add **authentication** to your API to protect it, and you will also incorporate **userfile handling** to allow users to upload images.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- create a basic Express web server
- use Mongoose to access a MongoDB database in an Express app
- create a RESTful web API using Node, Express, and MongoDB
- protect selected routes with token-based authentication in an Express app
- handle user files in an Express app

Course prerequisites

In order to succeed in this course, you will need to already have a good understanding of the Web's **client-server relationship**, as well as a working knowledge of **JavaScript**, **HTTP/AJAX**, and **Git**. If you haven't developed those skills yet, we recommend starting with the following courses:

- [Understanding the Web](#)
- [Learn to code with JavaScript](#)
- [Write JavaScript for the Web](#)
- [Build your first web pages with HTML and CSS](#)
- [Manage your code with Git and GitHub](#)

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Part #1 - Build a simple Express server




- ✓ 1. Set up your coding environment

- ✓ 2. Start a Node server
- ✓ 3. Create an Express app
- ✓ 4. Create a GET route
- ✓ 5. Create a POST route
- ✓  Quiz: Are you ready to create a basic Express web server?



Part #2 - Build a RESTful API




- ✓ 1. Set up your database
- ✓ 2. Create a data schema
- ✓ 3. Save and retrieve data
- ✓ 4. Complete the CRUD with update and delete
-  Activity: Create a RESTful API



Part #3 - Make your API secure




- ✓ 1. Optimize the back end's structure
- ✓ 2. Prepare the database for authentication info
- ✓ 3. Create new users
- ✓ 4. Check a user's credentials
- ✓ 5. Create authentication tokens
- ✓ 6. Set up authentication middleware
- ✓  Quiz: Are you ready to secure your API?



Part #4 - Add image upload to your API



- ✓ 1. Accept incoming files with multer
- ✓ 2. Modify routes to take files into account
- ✓ 3. Expand the back end's delete function
- ✓  Quiz: Are you ready to handle user files?



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Teacher

Will Alexander

Scottish developer, teacher and musician based in Paris.

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