

# We've been using the Browser to load pages

- File -> Open renders an html page
  - Does not load a page from a **server**
  - Impacts things like **absolute paths**
- You'll be writing HTML for pages on a server
  - We should use a server to validate our HTML

# **npx will load and run NodeJS modules**

- You installed NodeJS for assignment 1
  - This also installs a program called `npx`
  - Will load and run NodeJS modules
- `serve` is a program that runs a SIMPLE webserver
  - Very basic and simple
  - "dumb"

# Using npx to run serve

- At command line (terminal) run:
  - `npx serve`
- First time you do this it will ask if it should install
  - Say "y"
- Later uses will use that install

# The directory you are in matters!

- Remember: All commands are run "in" a folder
- Wherever you run `npx serve`
  - THAT folder will be "**document root**"
  - The `/` of absolute paths
  - Make sure to run server at correct directory
    - "correct" based on files intended for `/`
  - Assignment has `work/02-basic-layout` as `/`

# Filenames

`index.html` is a common **default file**

- If you request `/` on the server
  - Ex: <http://examplecat.com/>
  - Same as <http://example.cat/index.html>
- If you don't have any path in url
  - Browser will request `/`
    - Server may treat as `/index.html`
  - Browser may hide `/`
  - Ex: <http://examplecat.com/> shows as <http://examplecat.com>

# Rules about folders in Document Root

- <http://example.com/cats/>
  - Server MAY return <http://example.com/cats/index.html>
  - Not all servers use [index.html](#) as default file
    - Most do
- It may be a file or a folder!
  - <http://example.com/cats>
    - Might be a file named [cats](#)
    - Might be a folder named [cats](#)

# serve has some unusual quirks

- Removes the file extension
  - If you request `/cats.html`
    - Browser will show `/cats`
  - Most servers don't do this confusing change
    - Make sure your links include extension!
    - Except for links using default file
- If no `index.html` in requested folder
  - Will show a file listing
  - Most servers don't do this
    - Considered poor security
    - We only use `serve` to develop

# Stopping the server

- As with most command line programs
  - Stop program using Ctrl-C in the terminal
  - Make sure terminal window has the focus



# Some assignments use a custom webserver

- For some assignments/projects I have you run a custom webserver
  - I provide it when the time comes
- You will need to install the dependencies
  - Instructions will be in those assignments
- Otherwise, similar to `npx serve`
  - Run command as instructed
  - There will be a **document root**
  - Stop running with Ctrl-C

# The package-lock.json file

- Outside scope of this course to cover in detail
- Used to track EXACTLY what is installed
  - For most jobs this is committed to the repo
  - In this course, just add to `.gitignore` file