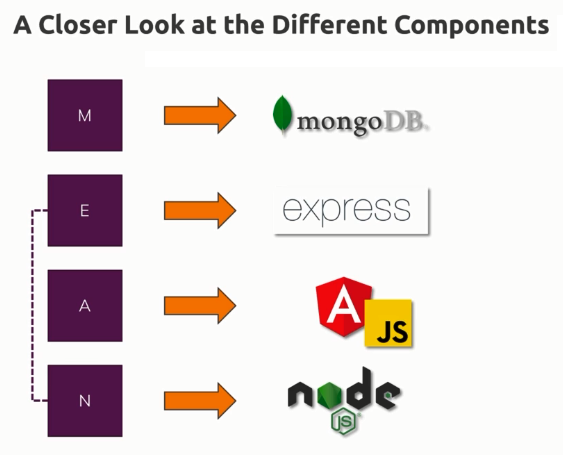
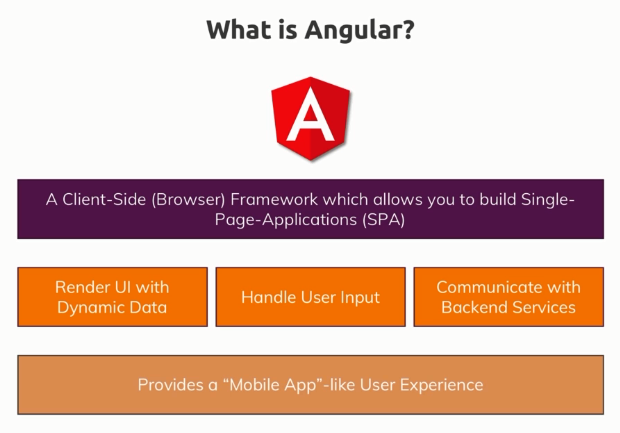
MEAN Stack

# Getting Started

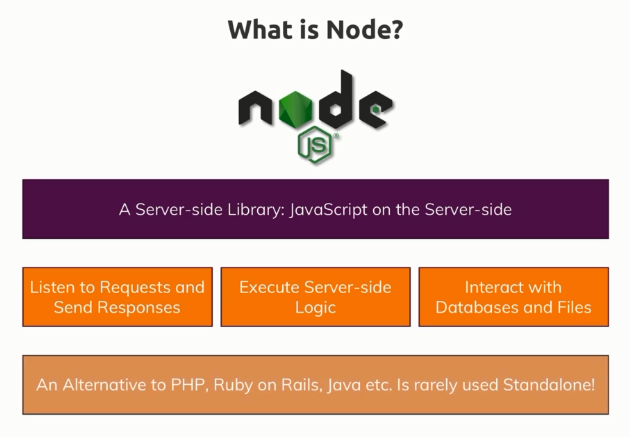
## What is MEAN



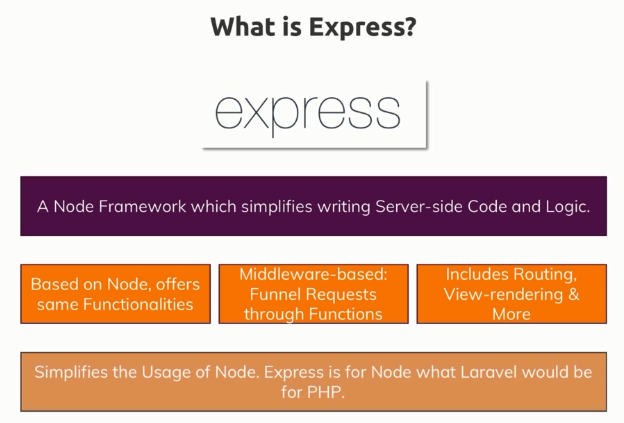
### Angular



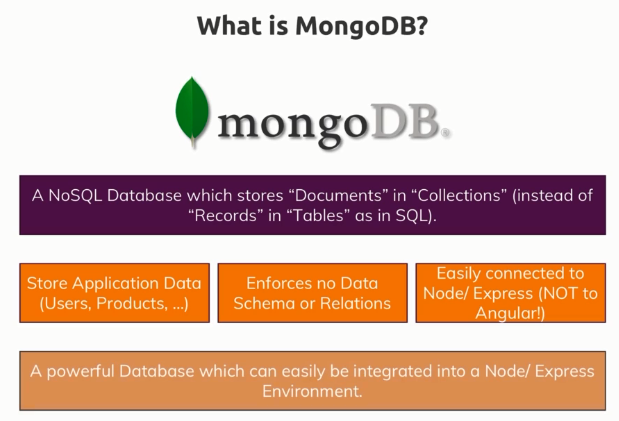
### Node.js



### Express

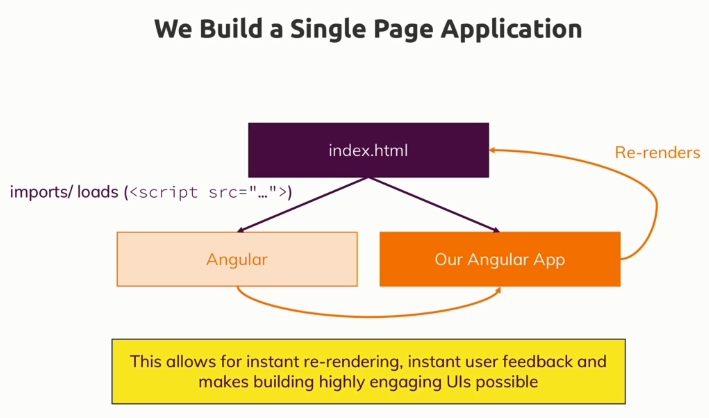


### MongoDB



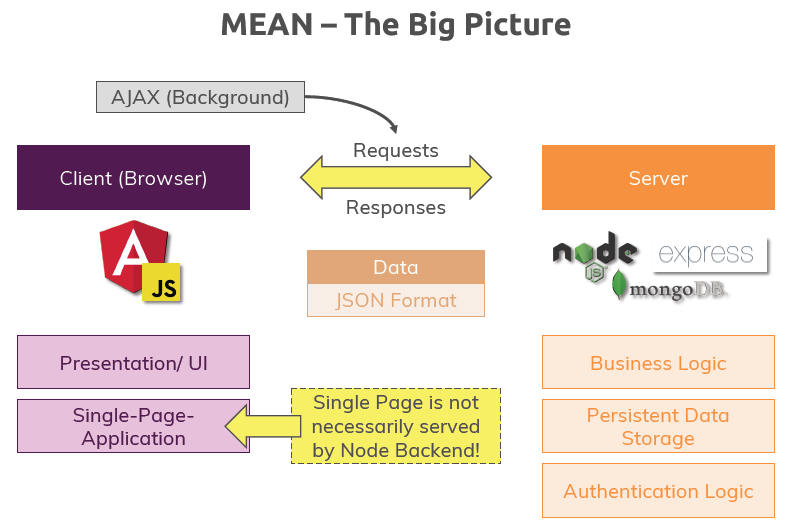
* You could theoretically replace MongoDB with a different database.
* You could use a SQL database in a Node/Express/Angular application too.
* D on the application and the type of data you are storing, if it's a data with a lot of relations, maybe a SQL database might be better.

## Single Page Application (SPA)



* In an Angular app, we'll have one root HTML file, a so-called index.html file and we will serve that from our Node server or from a different server. And this HTML page basically includes some script imports that houses our Angular app, so the Angular framework and our own code and we use this application to dynamically re-render what the user sees, without ever requesting a second page to be rendered by the server.
* Because by having this pattern, we never need to reload the page.
* This provides a highly-interactive, mobile-app-like feeling, a very responsive and fast web page where we never have to wait, where things always happen and that of course is a great user experience.

## MEAN – The Big Picture



* We exchange requests and responses and these requests and responses are sent behind the scenes, so-called AJAX requests. We use exactly the same pattern in Angular.
* These are requests which can be sent without us needing to reload the page which is of course exactly what we want.
* The type of data we exchange is not HTML because we never want HTML code, we do all that presentation and re-rendering logic with Angular. Instead what we get is so-called JSON data, that's a data format that's really efficient for encoding data like a list of posts.

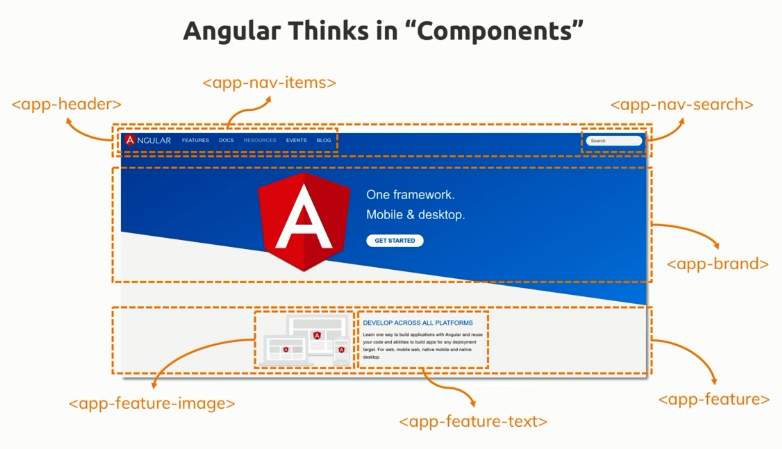
# The Angular Frontend – Understanding the Basics

* Typically we start with frontend part so that we can see something and we can always work with some dummy data until we have the real backend added but we get a beautiful UI right from the start.

## Understanding the Folder Structure

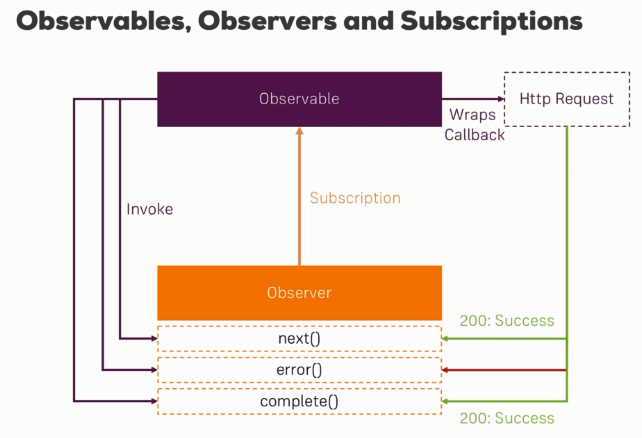
* Angular thinks in components.
* The Angular cli in the build process (ng server, etc.) takes our code, bundles it up, adds all the angular logic from the angular framework to it and therefore creates a bunch of script files which we don't see (in case of ng serve) because it's loaded in memory for development and injects these script file imports into the index.html file. And in the end is this actually then detects this <app-root> element and swaps it with the content of our component and content is not just the visual part (html part), it would also be any logic we have in corresponding component .ts file.
* We only have one root component in a typical angular application and all other components would be somehow nested in that root component.
* platformBrowserDynamic() is a function, we execute that, it essentially starts the angular application in the browser.

## Understanding Angular Components



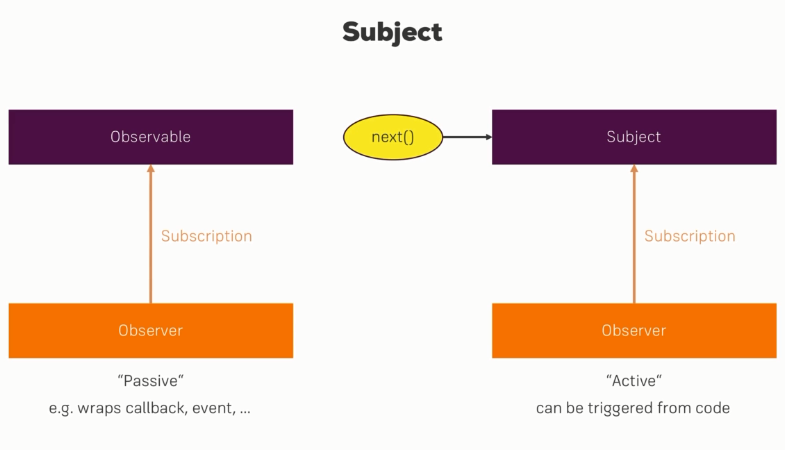
* Angular thinks in components.
* Essentially you compose an entire page of these components, you build it with these components because the advantage of this is that you have small, easily to maintain and manage building blocks for your UI which you can even reuse because some components appear more than once on a page.
* If you got a certain part of your UI that really is decoupled from other elements on the UI and that probably also contains some logic, like the search here, it definitely has some logic like type ahead or filtering or showing some preview, so if you get that, then you want to put it into its own component so that you can easily manage the code and possibly reuse it, that search could be used in other parts of the application too.

## Observable, Observer and Subscription



## Subject

* A subject is really just a special kind of observable.
* A **normal observable** is kind of **passive**, you wrap a callback or an event source like a click listener with it. So you don't actively trigger when a new data package is emitted, that happens when your http requests gets a response or when the user clicks something, instead you just set up this listener and then you can subscribe to it.
* A **subject** is more **active**. We also subscribe to a subject but there we can manually call next() and that makes it a perfect event emitter because we cannot just subscribe and wait for something but we can directly influence when a new data package is emitted.



## Stream

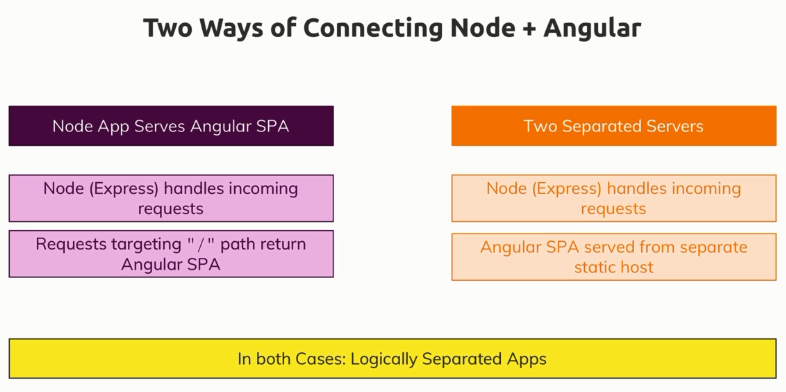
* In general, you can think of observables and therefore also subjects as streams of data or of values, so we've got one value and we can have more values which are emitted over time depending on the observable and the data source it covers.

# Adding Node.js to the project

## Connecting Node and Angular

* ng serve behind the scenes actually uses a Node.js server, really just because it's very simple to set up such a node server but ng serve only gives us a development server.
* A development server simply means it's a server aimed at angular development, it's not a production ready server and it certainly doesn't contain any of the logic we want to add to our server side. It also doesn't give us an entry point to add such logic. It's really just a server that returns the angular app and that also has useful features like auto-restart whenever we have a new angular app version.
* So ng serve is nice for developing our angular application, it's not the server we will use as a backend.

### Two ways of connecting Node + Angular



#### One Single Server

* The first approach we can take is that we have a node application, a node express application that serves the angular single page application as part of it. It contains our other server side logic but it also has a certain path so a url endpoint to which we can send a request where it will return that angular single page application.
* So in the first approach here, we have our node express back which handles incoming requests and that's not just the request for the angular app but also requests sent by the angular app because angular sends background http requests to store data, to fetch data and these requests need to be handled by the node express backend.

#### Two Separate Servers

* The alternative is that we have two separate servers. So we have our node express server for our business logic, for the authentication, for the data storage and then we have a separate static host which only returns our angular single page application.
* For the separate server solution, we still have our node express app handling incoming requests because we have these background requests sent by angular but additionally, we also serve our angular single page application from a totally separate static host.
* A **static host** is really just a simple server, could be a node server but could be any server, an apache, an nginx server, so any server that doesn't run any server side logic or any server side code but simply returns html, javascript and css files and that's all our angular app consists of.

## Understanding CORS (Cross Origin Resource Sharing)

* If client and server want to talk to each other and they're on the same host (IP + Port), we could communicate without any issues.
* If client and server want to talk to each other and they're NOT on the same host (IP + Port), then communicating with such background requests will fail and that's a security mechanism.
* You should not be able to access the data on a server or its resources in general if you're not running on the same server. So if the request is coming from a different address, this will give us a so-called CORS error.
* The problem just is for our setup and for many modern web apps, we want to allow this. It's not a security issue here it's a wanted behavior.
* We want to expose our server API to all possible clients and naturally, they will not run on our server. So we need to disable this default mechanism. And this is done by setting the right headers on the server side response.
* To allow the Cross-Origin requests, we need to set few headers.
  + ‘Access-Control-Allow-Origin’ to \* which means no matter which domain the app which is sending the request is running on, it's allowed to access our resources.
  + ‘Access-Control-Allow-Headers’ – restrict this resource to domains sending requests with a certain set of headers besides the default headers. So we want to allow the Origin, X-Requested-With, Content-Type, Accept headers.
    - You can add more, you can also remove some of them.
    - This essentially means the incoming request may have these extra headers, it doesn't have to have them but it may have them and it will still be allowed.
    - If it has another non-default header which is not defined here, access would be blocked even though we do generally allow it for all domains.
  + ‘Access-Control-Allow-Methods – here we control which http verbs may be used to send requests. Here we can set comma separated list of allowed HTTP methods.
    - Allow OPTIONS because This is an implicit request sent by the browser by default prior to post requests for example to check whether the post request is valid.
* E.g. In express, we can set it as

app.use((req, res, next) => {

  res.setHeader("Access-Control-Allow-Origin", "\*");

  res.setHeader(

    "Access-Control-Allow-Headers",

    "Origin, X-Requested-With, Content-Type, Accept"

  );

  res.setHeader(

    "Access-Control-Allow-Methods",

    "GET, POST, OPTIONS, DELETE, PUT, PATCH"

  );

  next();

});

# Tips and Tricks

* In Angular project, double-clicking on the index.html file won't work because that will use the file protocol and not the HTTP protocol and therefore many features we need are not enabled.
* ng serve behind the scenes actually uses a nodejs server, really just because it's very simple to set up such a node server but ng serve only gives us a development server.