

[Open in app](#)[Get started](#)**JS**

Published in JavaScript in Plain English



Matthew Brice

[Follow](#)Jun 10, 2020 · 4 min read · [Listen](#)

Save



# Deploying A Localhost Server With Node.js and Express.js



Dennis (pictured above) mentally preparing to launch his first localhost server. Can you feel his excitement?

## Objective

The objective is simple. Deploy a localhost server using Node.js and Express.js.



[Open in app](#)[Get started](#)

Node has become a “go-to” option for developing web applications.

**Express.js** (Express) is a popular module framework that runs on Node. It empowers developers to quickly build static and dynamic web applications and APIs with ease.

In more simplistic terms, Node allows you to run JavaScript outside of your browser, and Express enables you to respond to individual client requests and build APIs quickly.

Enough talk. Let's get started!

## Step 1: Download Node

**Download Node.js** and follow the guided prompts until the installation is complete.

### Downloads

Latest LTS Version: **12.18.0** (includes npm 6.14.4)

Download the Node.js source code or a pre-built installer for your platform, and start developing today.



If you are working from a Mac, simply select “macOS Installer” highlighted in green.

You can validate Node was successfully installed by navigating to the command line and entering the following command.

```
node --version
```

If installed correctly, you will see the version of Node returned. For example, I am currently running on V12.18.0.



[Open in app](#)[Get started](#)

Before installing Express, you will want to create a new working directory.

```
mkdir Example-1
```

Next, add the two files below.

- index.html
- app.js

```
touch index.html app.js
```

### Step 3: Install Express

Once the two files are added to your project, you are set to install Express. First, make sure you are in the working directory you just created. For my example, I would be in “Example-1”. You can check to see what directory you are currently in by entering “pwd” on your command line. Once confirming you are in the correct directory, install Express by running the command below.

```
npm install express
```

*Wait... What is npm?*

Great question! Npm (node package manager) is the default package manager for Node that hosts thousands of packages for free. Don't worry; npm was automatically installed when you downloaded Node in Step 1!



[Open in app](#)[Get started](#)

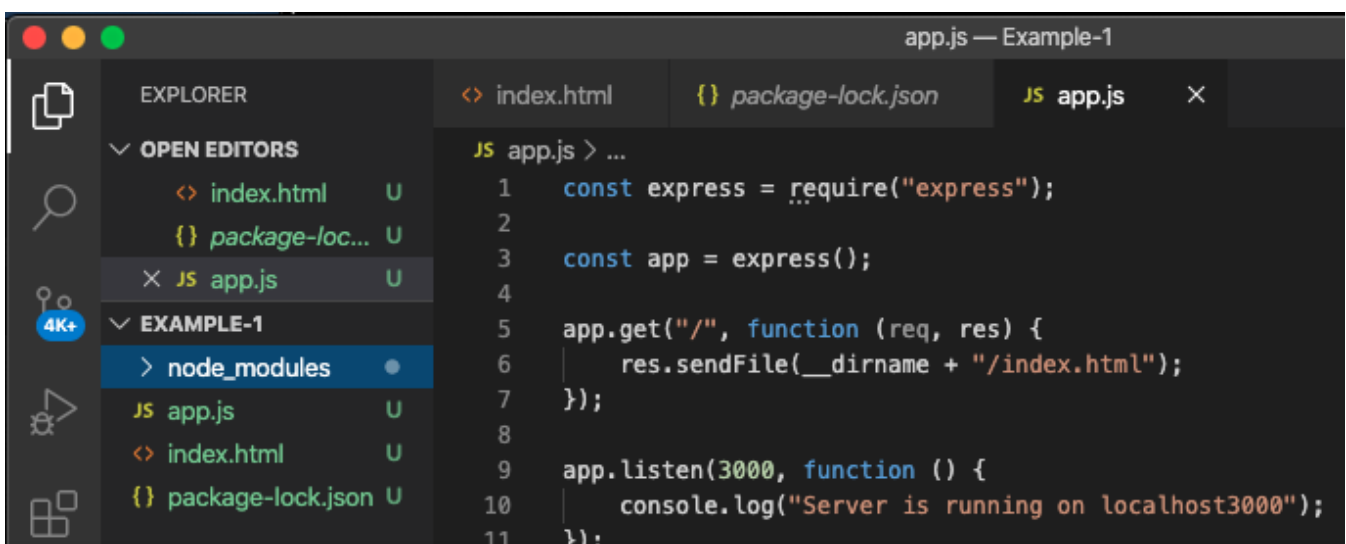
you! For this example, insert a `<h1>` header in the body to show how the browser interacts with your server.

Type the code below into your “index.html” file.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en" dir="ltr">
  <head>
    <meta charset="UTF-8" />
    <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0" />
    <title>Example-1</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>You did it!</h1>
  </body>
</html>
```

You may have noticed that your project now holds two new files. These files were added to your project when you installed Express and provide access to the pre-built modules and packages. Remember when I mentioned Express is a framework that allows developers to build web applications easily and quickly?

- **node\_modules:** Pre-built packages that can be used in your project
- **package-lock.json:** Stored dependency tree



[Open in app](#)[Get started](#)

## Step 5: Set Up Your Localhost Server

You are now ready to launch your localhost server!

Enter the following code into your “app.js” file.

```
const express = require("express");

const app = express();

app.get("/", function (req, res) {
  res.sendFile(__dirname + "/index.html");
});

app.listen(3000, function () {
  console.log("Server is running on localhost3000");
});
```

## Step 6: Launch Your Server

You are almost there! Go to the command line and enter the following in order to launch your server:

```
node app.js
```

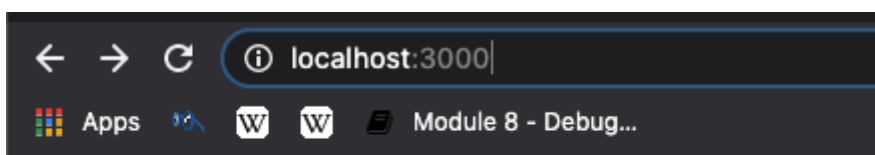
You will know your server is running correctly if your terminal returns the “Server is running on localhost3000” message written the “app.js” file.

```
console.log("Server is running on localhost3000");
```



[Open in app](#)[Get started](#)

If you received an error message, please go back and review steps 1–7 for discrepancies. It's easy to miss a bracket or semicolon!



## You did it!

### Recap

Congratulations! You now have a solid understanding of how to build and test your web applications on a localhost server using Node and Express.

I hope you found this article to be helpful!



404



1

