

ChatCAT – Before you Begin | Important

Ever since this course was launched in December, 2014, I've received tons of good advice, feedback and remarks about various aspects of this program and I thank you for it. One of the issues that I've heard in the feedback has to do with module versions. Let's try and break it down first:

The Problem

Technologies evolve rapidly these days and Node.js is no exception. Infact, more modules and upgrades were pushed to NPM last year than ever. What this means is that a module undergoes revisions and upgrades and more often than not, features are removed, rewritten or their syntax changes. This means code written 3 months ago might break today if you try to upgrade the version of modules that you're going to use. Something like this happened with Socket.io reaching version 1.x whereas when I created these videos, version 0.9.17 was in use.

Socket.io 1.x removes a few features, while the syntax for some methods have changed from the 0.9.x releases. And this breaks the ChatCAT app that you're going to build. My plan thus is to re-record some of these videos, however, it is a process that will take time. So, here's a plan suggested by one of the learners in this course and I thank him whole heartedly for this recommendation.

The Plan | Important

So the plan is that I'll write down version numbers for all the modules that I've used in this chapter. The same is also being done for the next chapter (PhotoGrid) as well. Since NPM maintains older versions of modules, we can easily fetch them for use in our projects without causing the app to break.

When the video shows something like this:

```
npm install socket.io --save
```

Instead, do the following:

```
npm install socket.io@0.9.17 --save
```

Notice the extra portion marked in red. This will fetch the version of the module that I had used when creating these screencasts and it'll ensure your app doesn't break. Do note that the videos do not specify the version of modules used in them, so here's a list for modules and version numbers as used in this chapter. Use it as a ready reckoner whenever I install a module in the screencasts. Having said that, towards the end of the chapter, I will include a document that contains details about newer versions and their changes so you don't miss out on the newer features.

Modules & Versions for Project ChatCAT (As used in the videos)

Module	Version	Installation Instructions
Express	4.2.0	<code>npm install express@4.2.0 --save</code>
Hogan-Express	0.5.2	<code>npm install hogan-express@0.5.2 --save</code>
Cookie-Parser	1.1.0	<code>npm install cookie-parser@1.1.0 --save</code>
Express-Session	1.2.0	<code>npm install express-session@1.2.0 --save</code>
Connect-Mongo	0.4.1	<code>npm install connect-mongo@0.4.1 --save</code>
Mongoose	3.8.10	<code>npm install mongoose@3.8.10 --save</code>
Passport	0.2.0	<code>npm install passport@0.2.0 --save</code>
Passport-Facebook	1.0.3	<code>npm install passport-facebook@1.0.3 --save</code>
socket.io	0.9.17	<code>npm install socket.io@0.9.17 --save</code>

Snapshot of package.json that will install all the above versions in one shot. Copy and paste it into package.json in your app folder and run `npm install`

```
{
  "name": "ChatCAT",
  "version": "0.0.1",
  "description": "",
  "main": "index.js",
  "scripts": {
    "start": "node app.js"
  },
  "author": "",
  "license": "BSD-2-Clause",
  "dependencies": {
    "express": "4.2.0",
    "hogan-express": "0.5.2",
    "cookie-parser": "1.1.0",
    "express-session": "1.2.0",
    "connect-mongo": "0.4.1",
    "mongoose": "3.8.10",
    "passport": "0.2.0",
    "passport-facebook": "1.0.3",
    "socket.io": "0.9.17"
  }
}
```

Finally, if something doesn't work, let me know and I'll help you out with it.

Happy Learning,

Sachin B

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