

Activity: Practice!

Testing My Understanding

- *Create sessions, add and update different kinds of data to sessions and end sessions*
I primarily learned about sessions using the provided material on Canvas. I was able to facilitate my understanding of sessions by going through and making notes on the 'Sessions' material posted in Week 5 and completing the activity in the 'Introduction to Sessions' page and creating the to-do list application as demonstrated in the 'Full Sessions Example' page. I didn't encounter too many difficulties, except for having to install some node packages and finding a port that wasn't in use.
- *Make HTTP requests, including POSTs, from the server and deal with the data you get back*
I primarily learned about this topic using the provided material on Canvas. I read and made notes on Express and the Request Library posted in Week 5 and accessed 'The Express Session Module' on GitHub listed under the Additional Resources. To test my understanding, I coded alongside the lecture videos and made a HTTP call via a GET request to Open Weather Map and POST request to httpbin. I did not encounter many difficulties with this activity, but I feel that I would like more practice coding HTTP requests from the server to gain a better understanding of this topic.
- *Set up pages to accept data from forms*
I feel comfortable setting up pages to accept data from forms. I practiced this topic when writing the to-do list application described in the Sessions section above, and the Ajax Interactions Activity from Week 4. I had a minor difficulty trying to acquire an API key for Open Weather Map activity, but I posted about this on Piazza and an instructor helped me better understand and resolve this issue.
- *Handle nested asynchronous requests and process errors if they crop up*
I found this topic the most confusing. I encountered nested asynchronous requests when making HTTP requests from the server as described above, in which I was making multiple HTTP requests inside a single handler. The example code looked quite technical and intimidating and as such I found it difficult to understand. Watching the lecture videos where the instructor broke down the code into smaller pieces enabled me to better understand the purpose of each function callback. I feel I would like more coding practice in this area to help me have a better grasp of the topic.

Difficulties

I feel the greatest difficulty I encountered was learning all of the above concepts in such a short period of time. The material is very technical, and it felt like a lot to learn and get your head around in one week. Before the final exam, I will revisit these topics and try to improve my understanding by accessing resources such as Mozilla Developer Tools and other resources posted in the Useful Links page on Canvas. Other students have posted useful resources on Slack and Piazza and I plan to look at these too.