



Video 4.4

Getting User Data

Chris Murphy

# Review

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- Node.js and Express allow us to build server-side web apps in JavaScript
- HTTP Requests and Responses are represented as JavaScript objects
- We can display content based on different routes through the app

# Getting Data from Users: HTTP Requests

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- **Query parameters**

- Key/value pairs that are part of the URL
- Can be part of a static URL or be generated by an HTML form using the “GET” method

- **POST data**

- Key/value pairs that are included in the body of the HTTP request
- Result from an HTML form using the “POST” method

# Request Object Query Properties

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<http://localhost:3000/?name=Lydia&location=United+States>

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  var query = req.query;  
  console.log(query);  
  
  var name = query.name;           // 'Lydia'  
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# HTML Forms

---

- Forms allow users to enter or select data, e.g. via input boxes, checkboxes, radio buttons, etc.
- The form specifies the **action** and **method** that result when the user chooses to **submit** the form
  - Action: the URL to be requested
  - Method: the HTTP Request “verb,” e.g. GET or POST

Name:

I like:

- ☐ Dogs
- ☐ Cats
- ☐ Birds

Submit form!



Name:

I like:

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```
<html>
<body>

<form action="/handleForm" method="post">

Name: <input name="username">
<p>
I like:<br>
<input type="checkbox" name="animal" value="dogs">Dogs <br>
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# Reading POST Data in Express

- When a form's method is "GET", the data is sent in the URL query parameters
- When a form's method is "POST", the data is sent in the **body** of the HTTP request
- To read the body of the HTTP request in Express, use the **body-parser** middleware
- To install it, run: **npm install body-parser**

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var express = require('express');
var app = express();

app.use('/public', express.static('files'));

var bodyParser = require('body-parser');
app.use(bodyParser.urlencoded({ extended: true }));

app.use('/handleForm', (req, res) => {
  var name = req.body.username;
  var animals = req.body.animal; // this is an array
  . . .
  res.send('Thank you!');
});

app.listen(3000, () => {
  console.log('Listening on port 3000');
});
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    var name = req.body.username;
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<form action="/handleForm" method="post">

Name: <input name="username">
<p>
I like:<br>
<input type="checkbox" name="animal" value="dogs">Dogs <br>
<input type="checkbox" name="animal" value="cats">Cats <br>
<input type="checkbox" name="animal" value="birds">Birds <br>
<p>
<input type="submit" value="Submit form!">

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# Summary

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- HTTP Request **query** properties: key/value pairs that come from URL
- HTTP Request **param** properties: key/value pairs that come from parameterized URL
- HTTP Request **body** properties: input data from form submitting using POST method