

Video 4.4
Getting User Data
Chris Murphy

#### Review

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**

#### 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



 An HTTP Request object can include query properties that come from the URL

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 var query = req.query;
 console.log(query);
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 var name = query.name;
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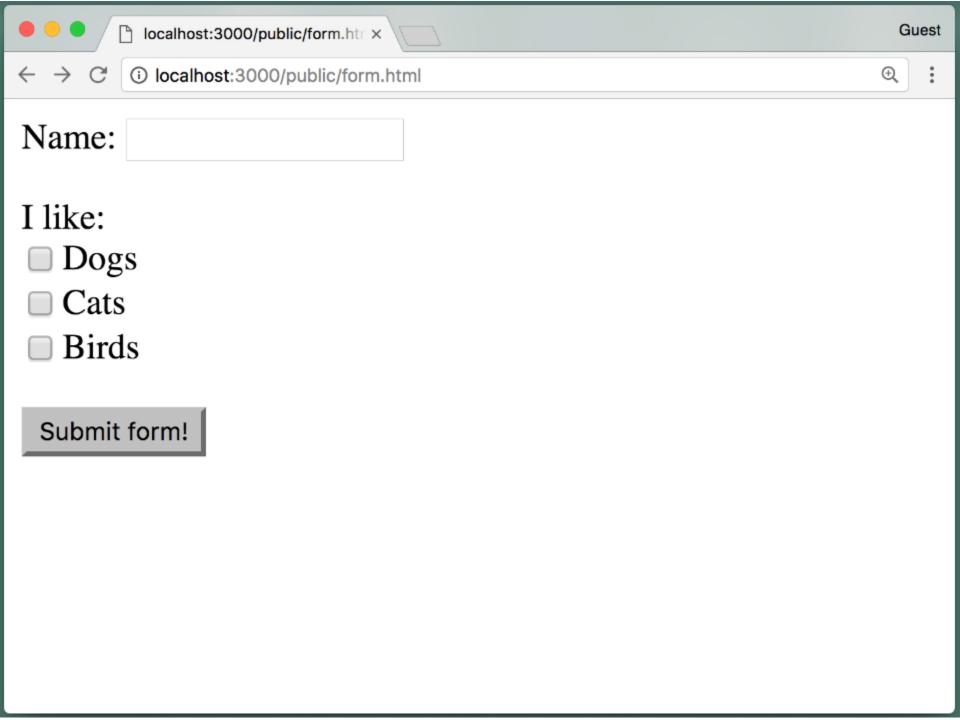


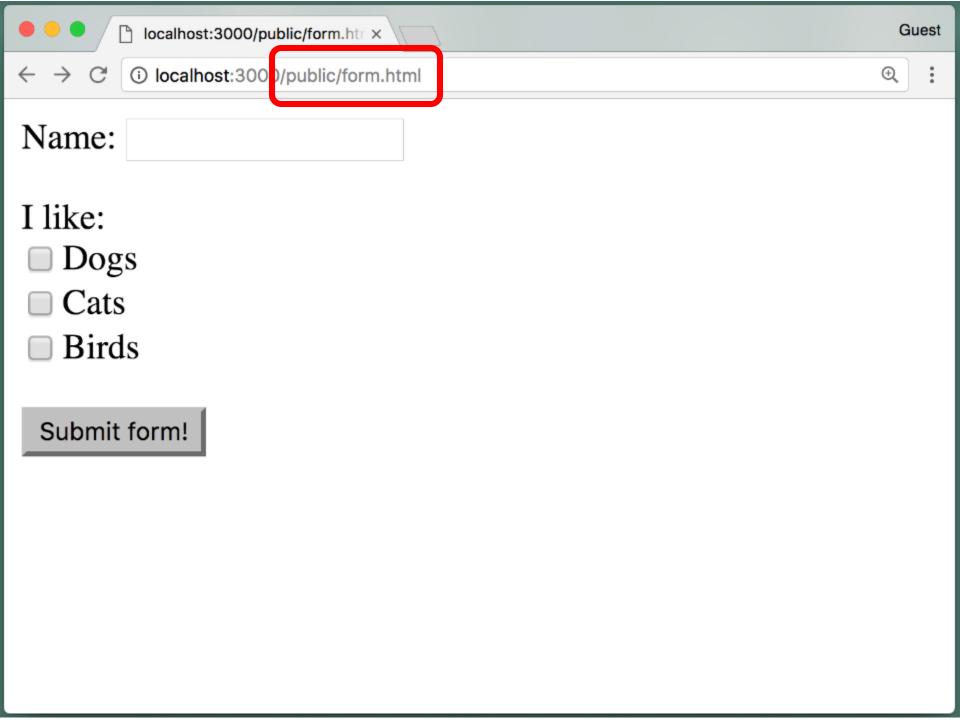
#### **HTML Forms**

 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







```
<html>
<body>
<form action="/handleForm" method="post">
Name: <input name="username">
>
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



```
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;
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  res.send('Thank you!');
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app.listen(3000, () => {
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## Summary

 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

