

Next.js - Api Routes

API Routes is a way to create rest API using Next.js. Next.js maps any file present in **/pages/api** folder and will be treated as API end point. An example of API function –

```
export default (req, res) => {  
  .....  
}
```

Following are some important points to consider.

- **req** – req is an instance of `http.IncomingMessage` and is used to get data from request.
- **res** – res is an instance of `http.ServerResponse` and is used to send data as response.

Let's create an example to demonstrate the same.

In this example, we are going to create an `user.js` in **pages/api** directory.

Let's update the nextjs project used in Global CSS Support chapter.

Create `user.js` file in `pages/api` directory as following.

```
export default (req, res) => {  
  res.statusCode = 200  
  res.setHeader('Content-Type', 'application/json')  
  res.end(JSON.stringify({ name: 'Robert' })))  
}
```

Start Next.js Server

Run the following command to start the server –.

```
npm run dev  
  
> nextjs@1.0.0 dev D:\Node\nextjs  
> next  
  
ready - started server on http://localhost:3000  
info   - Loaded env from D:\Node\nextjs\.env.local  
event  - compiled successfully  
event  - build page: /api/user  
wait   - compiling...  
event  - compiled successfully
```

```
event - build page: /next/dist/pages/_error  
wait - compiling...  
event - compiled successfully
```

Verify Output

Open localhost:3000/api/user in a browser and you will see the following output.

```
{"name": "Robert"}
```