



Express JS

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EXPRESS JS

Express Templating and Scaffolding

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- A template engine facilitates you to use static template files in your applications.
- At runtime, it replaces variables in a template file with actual values, and transforms the template into an HTML file sent to the client.
- So this approach is preferred to design HTML pages easily.
- pug (formerly known as jade) and mustache seems to be most popular choice for a templating engine

Template engine makes you able to use static template files in your application.

To render template files you have to set the following application setting properties:

- **Views:** It specifies a directory where the template files are located.

For example: `app.set('views', './views')`.

- **view engine:** It specifies the template engine that you use.
- For example, to use the Pug template engine: `app.set('view engine', 'pug')`.

PUG:

- Pug is a template engine for Node.js. Pug uses whitespaces and indentation as the part of the syntax. Its syntax is easy to learn.
- Create a Pug template file named index.pug in the views directory

Developing template engines for Express

Use the `app.engine(ext, callback)` method to create your own template engine. `ext` refers to the file extension, and `callback` is the template engine function, which accepts the following items as parameters:

- the location of the file, the options object, and the callback function.

- Scaffolding allows us to easily create a skeleton for a web application. We manually create our public directory, add middleware, create separate route files, etc. A scaffolding tool sets up all these things for us so that we can directly get started with building our application.
- Scaffolding is creating the skeleton structure of application. It allows users to create own public directories, routes, views etc. Once the structure for app is built, user can start building it.
- Using **express-generator** package to install ‘**express**’ command line tool. **express-generator** is used to create the structure of application.

- **Steps:**

1. Navigate to the folder where app is to be built out using the terminal.
2. Now in the terminal, install **express-generator** using the following command.

npm install express-generator -g

- Basic structure of the application like Public directories, paths, routes, views, etc. are created which would form the structure of application.
- It will create a new application, install all the dependencies, add few pages to the application (home page, 404 not found page, etc.) and gives a directory structure to work on.



THANK YOU

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