

Express Basics

<https://expressjs.com/>

- can define option for static files
 - `app.use(express.static(documentRoot))`
- Route == path (mostly)
- Define callbacks for method + routes
 - `app.get(path, callback);`
 - `app.post(path, callback);`
- Callback is passed `req` and `res`
- Read from `req`, write to `res`
- Remember the parts of request/response

Express Middleware

- Middleware can handle or alter request
 - in the "middle" of incoming and next step
- Middleware options:
 - On all requests with `app.use()`
 - On one route as 2nd param in route definition

```
app.get( '/cats', express.urlencoded(), (req, res) => {
```

More on the Request

<https://expressjs.com/en/4x/api.html#req>

- Query params are in `req.query` (parsed to object)
 - everything is strings (because url)
- Body params require **middleware**
 - Need to know how to parse
 - Parsed result is `req.body`

Request is already sent, read-only

Reading a URL-encoded POST body

- Use the `express.urlencoded()` middleware
- Body fields mapped to `req.body` object

Will complain unless you pass `{ extended: false }`

Dynamic Routes

What if you want data in path itself?

- e.g. `/students/Mengchin` vs `/students/Preetha`?

Define route with `:variableName`

- mapped to object `req.params`
- e.g. route: `app.get('/students/:name', ...)`
- e.g. url: `/students/Preetha`
- e.g. `req.params.name === 'Preetha'`

<https://expressjs.com/en/guide/routing.html#route-parameters>

Writing Response

<https://expressjs.com/en/4x/api.html#res>

- Status, Headers, Body
 - Sends *as you go*
- `.status(code)` send status
 - 200 sent if you skip this step
- `.redirect(url)` sends a 302 w/location
- `.send(content)` sends content
 - Content is just string, even if HTML

Static Assets

```
app.use(express.static('./public'));
```

`express.static(...)` returns middleware func

- Checks requests against static file?
- Pass document root to `express.static(...)`
- `'./public'` is "public" subdirectory
- `/cats/maru.html` matches:
 - `(your project)/public/cats/maru.html`
- If it isn't inside `public/`, it can't be viewed
 - Does not show your `server.js`, etc

Using Express (and beyond)

- Match the route (method + route)
- Build the response as a string
 - use request params/body as needed
 - templating outside this course
- Send the response
 - Status, Headers, Body

Finishing Express

- Routes are checked in order of addition
- `app.listen(...)` is passed port and callback
 - Listens on port
 - Calls callback when ready
 - Doesn't respond until `app.listen(...)`
- Enters loop until killed

Other Webservers

- Express is just one webserver framework
- We are doing the basics
 - More abstractions available
 - dynamic vs static
- All webservers handle
 - method
 - path
 - query
 - headers
 - body
- Response is just strings

Summary

- Use middleware
- Static routes with `express.static(...)`
- Handle routes (method+path)
 - callback passed `req` + `res`
- Read inputs
 - query vs params vs body
- Compose response
 - status, headers, body