Intro to Node

It's JavaScript, but for the backend!

What is Node?

- A JavaScript runtime environment
- Allows us to run JavaScript outside of the browser
- We will use it to create our web servers

Browser JS vs. Node JS

- In the browser we can use tools like jQuery or the global document object to access the DOM
- There is **no DOM** in Node, because we aren't inside of a browser. Instead, Node gives us other global variables like process.
- Fetch is only available from browser, not Node
- Both give you access to a global variable called 'console' -> BUT note that logs will be in the browser for your frontend and terminal for the backend.

Other Tools

- Heroku – we'll use this instead of Netlify as it supports deployment of web servers
- Git – this is a *distributed version control system* for tracking changes in code bases. That means – you can store your repo across many machines and have each person make their own changes.
- Github – this is a company that will **host** git repos for you. Like storing your photos on the iCloud or Google Photos or Dropbox.
- NPM – this is the node package manager. This will allow us to install and manage dependencies in our applications.

The Big Picture

Browser

HTTP Request →

Node
(Express)

Request →

Database

← **HTTP Response**

← **Response**