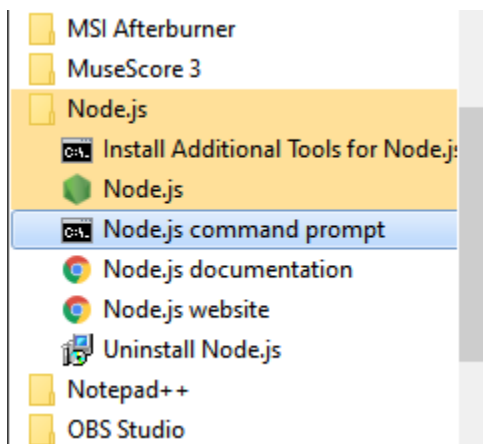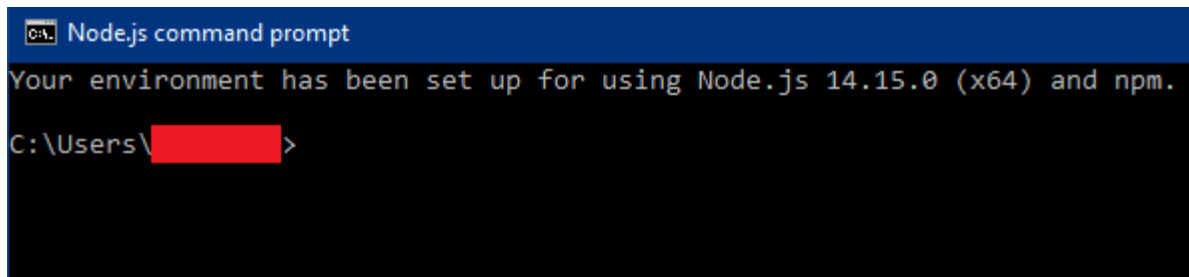… I've written some instructions for helping others to get Node.js and Express properly installed.

Installing Node.js and Express on Windows

1. Go to https://nodejs.org/en/download/

2. Download the appropriate Windows Installer (.msi package) for your system, either 32-bit or 64-bit. If you don't know what version of Windows you are running, read this article for help: https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/32-bit-and-64-bit-windows-frequently-asked-questions-c6ca9541-8dce-4d48-0415-94a3faa2e13d

3. Open the .msi file, install Node.js (probably to the default directory provided by the installer, to avoid any problems later). I'm not entirely sure if the extra install items (chocolatey, Python, etc.) is necessary, but we do need to use npm to install Express later. NOTE: Visual Studio 2017 Tools is part of those extra installation items, and is a 4GB sized install.

4. Once the installer is finished, it would open a Command Prompt window to help you install the additional dependencies *if you specified to install those*. Simply follow the on-screen prompts; this will then open a PowerShell window, once you get there just let it do its thing in the background (suggestion: just work on your lab's JS server code while this happens, as it might take time to install those dependencies).

5. You might need to do a reboot after all installation of Node.js and its dependencies is finished; don't forget to save any work you have open!

6. Once rebooted, go to Start Menu > All Programs > Node.js > Node.js command prompt

7. Go to File Explorer, open the folder you have saved your Lab 09 files to, and copy the directory string from the address bar.

8. Go back to the Node.js command prompt, type `cd` (with a space afterwards) and then right-click, it will paste the directory string. Press Enter. This step changes the folder in question on the command prompt to the folder with your server JS file in it.

9. Now, type `npm install express` and hit Enter.

10. Express should now be properly installed (after downloading the install files, it is a VERY quick install). When you install Express, it creates a folder called "node_modules" and a package-lock.json file in the directory. *DO NOT DELETE THESE*

How to get my server running?

1. Go to File Explorer, open the folder you have saved your Lab 09 files to.

2. In the Address Bar, type `cmd` and press Enter. (Source: https://www.itechtics.com/open-command-window-folder/#Using_CMD_command_in_File_Explorer_to_open_Command_Prompt_Window)

3. Now, you can type `node code_breaker_server.js` and hit Enter to run your server!

Optional - for starting up the server easily we can make a .bat file. A Batch Script (.bat) is used to execute commands in sequence, stored as simple text.

Create a .txt file, and write the following two lines in it, where `directoryWhereSaved` is the place where you saved your file.

```
cd directoryWhereSaved
node code_breaker_server.js
```

Save it, change the file's extension from `.txt` to `.bat`

Double-click the .bat file to easily get your server up and running.

In case you'd like to run the server in a Virtual Machine, you may first want to see how to get it from here: https://www.virtualbox.org/. Then, follow the instructions in either of these guides to install Linux Mint:

https://linuxhint.com/install_linuxmint_19_virtualbox/
https://itsfoss.com/install-linux-mint-in-virtualbox/