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Web 340: Discussion 4.1

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Introduction to Express

“Express is a node js web application framework that provides broad features for building web and mobile applications. It is used to build a single page, multipage, and hybrid web application” (Sharma, 2022).

The purpose of Express is to ease the creation of APIs and web based applications. Express saves users time while making efficient applications. Express is written in JavaScript, which is helpful to those who don’t have previous knowledge of the language, as it is fairly easy to learn.

While you don’t need Express to build a Node.js powered website, I would suggest it because the purpose of Express was to help with the creation of web applications. There are so many features of Express that can really help save time while coding. Some features are middleware, routing, templating, and debugging. Express also uses one language for both front end and back-end coding. Just looking at some of the high powered companies that use Express (Netflix, IBM, eBay, and Uber) is enough to make you wonder how it would help in building your application. There are, of course, limitations within Express. Some of which are callback issues, error messaging, and a lack of organization.

There are other options, besides for Express, to consider. Koa allows you to get rid of callbacks, which is a downside of Express. Fastify is much faster than Express. Nest makes it easier to divide apps into microservices- making it clearer than Express. Angular is used for single-page web applications and focuses on the client side of things. Overall, Express is great for building fast and scalable web applications. However, it is important to see the needs of your team and which frameworks will best support everyone.

Resources:

Sharma, A. (2022, November 18). *Express JS tutorial: What is express in node JS?* Simplilearn.com. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from https://www.simplilearn.com/tutorials/nodejs-tutorial/what-is-express-js

Clark, J. (2022, December 23). *Top 10 expressjs alternatives - which is the best?* Back4App Blog. Retrieved January 23, 2023, from https://blog.back4app.com/expressjs-alternatives/#Koa