

COMP1531



Full-Stack - HTTP Servers

Lecture 4.2

Author(s): Hayden Smith



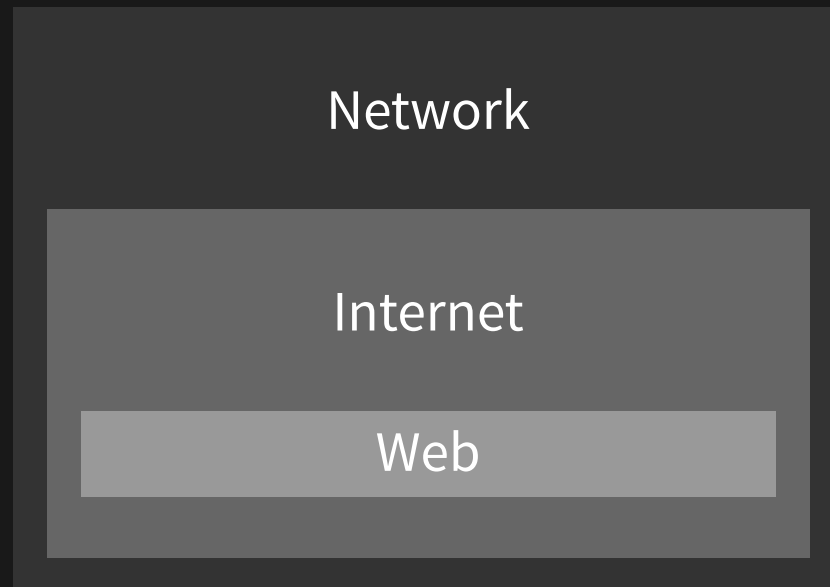
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In This Lecture

- **Why?** 🤔
 - Web servers are fundamental part of web-based full-stack software
- **What?** 📄
 - Networks
 - Express Server
 - APIs
 - Crud

Networks

- **Network:** A group of interconnected computers that can communicate
- **Internet:** A global infrastructure for networking computers around the entire world together
- **World Wide Web:** A system of documents and resources linked together, accessible via URLs





Networks

If you want to learn more about networking, go and study COMP3331.

Network Protocols

- Communication over networks must have a certain "structure" so everyone can understand.
- Humans do this all the time - waving, handshakes, clapping. Standard operation procedure that structures how we share info.
- Different "structures" (protocols) are used for different types of communication.

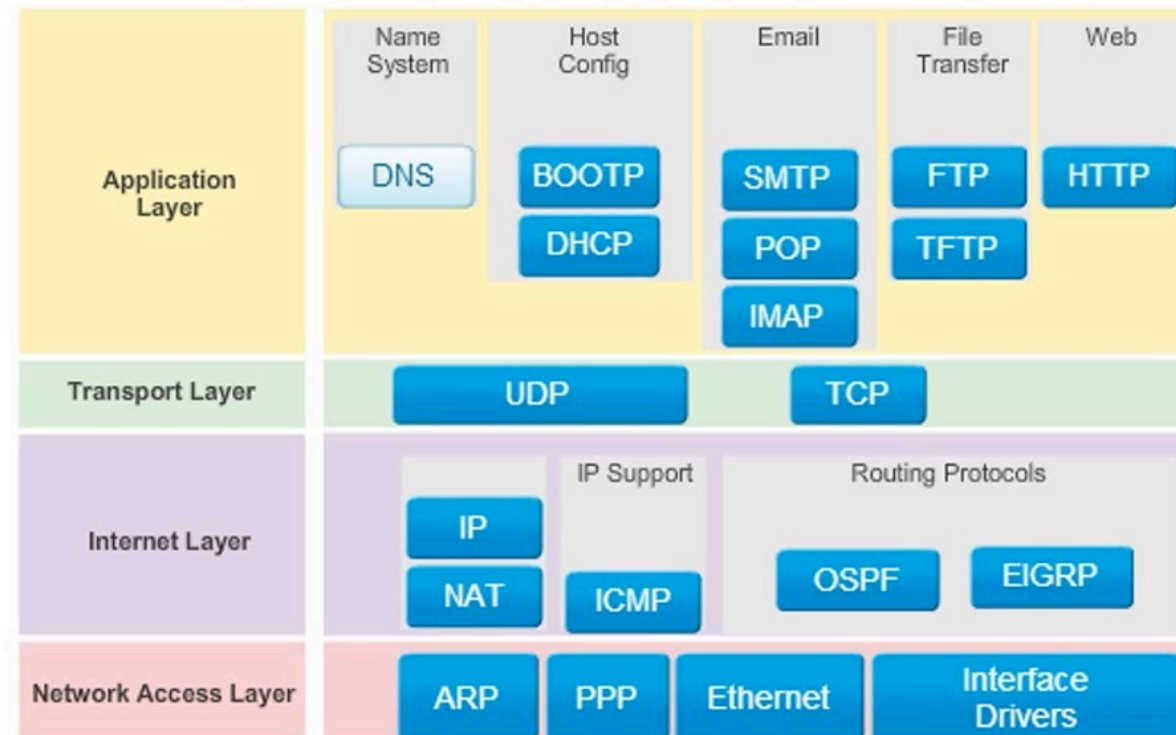


Network Protocols

Astrit Krasniqi CCNA/CCNP Certified Instructor – CCNA Cyber Ops, Chapter 4: Network Protocols and Services

TCP/IP Protocol Suite and Communication

TCP/IP Protocol Suite and Communication Process



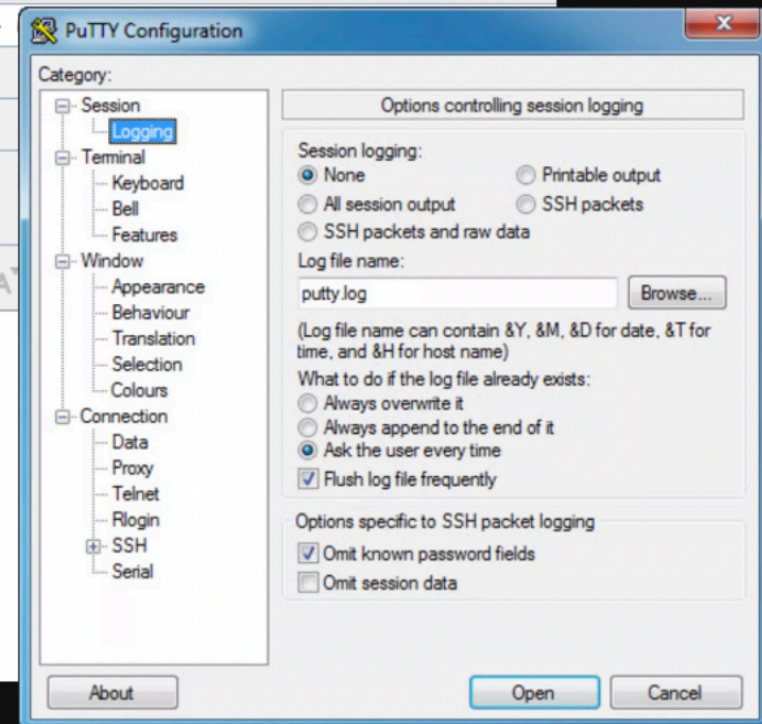
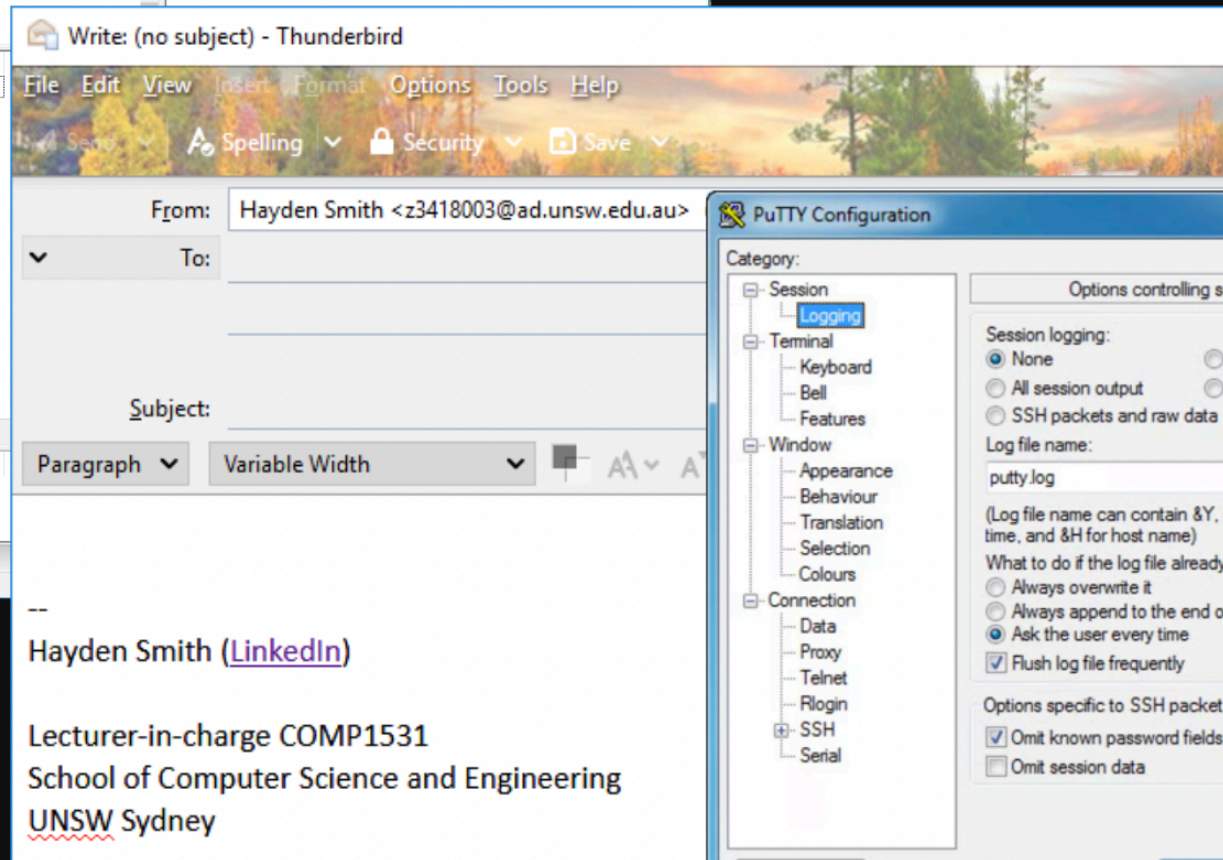
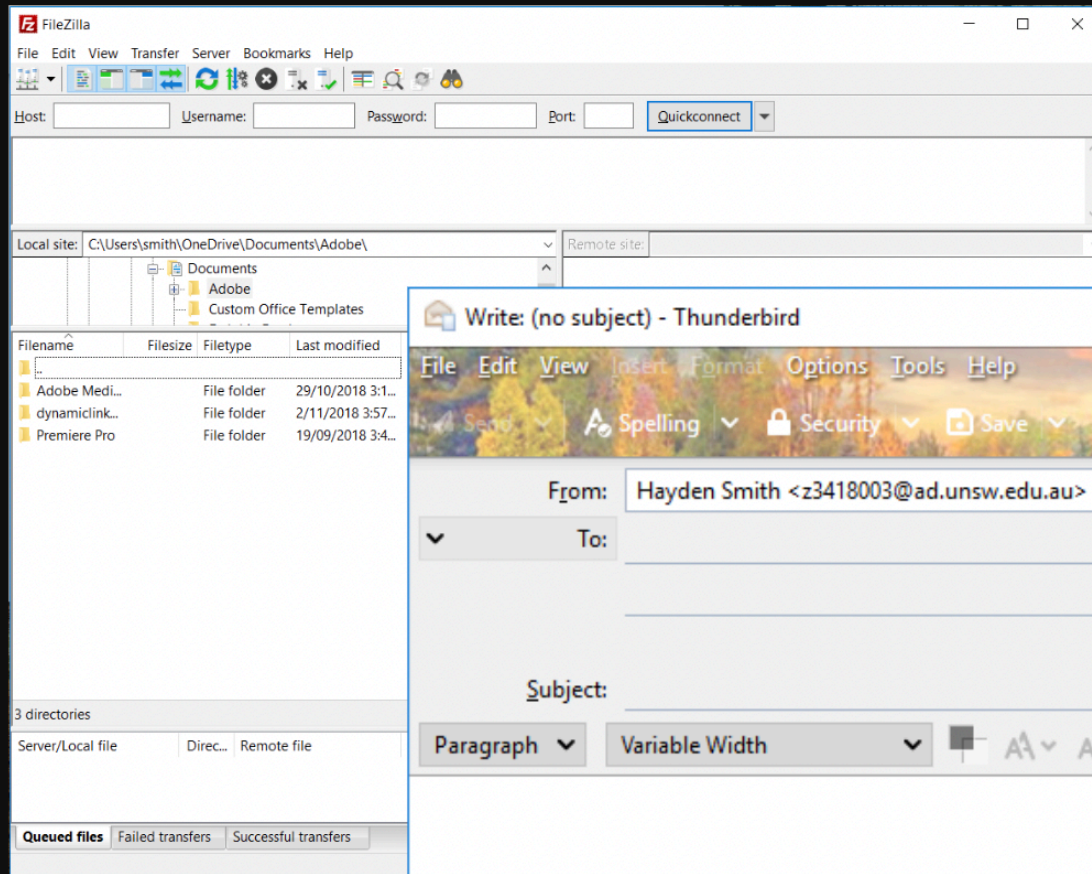
source

HTTP is an example of one of the protocols. It is the protocol of the web. The primary protocol you use to access URLs in your web browser.



Network Protocols

Examples



HTTP

HTTP: Hypertext Transfer Protocol

I.E. Protocol for sending and receiving HTML documents (nowadays much more)

Web Browsers (Client)

Web Servers



Web browsers are applications to request and receive HTTP.



NodeJS Express Server

A very popular npm library exists to allow you to run your own HTTP server with NodeJS.
It's called [Express Server](#).



NodeJS Express Server

```
1 import express from 'express';
2
3 const app = express();
4 const port = 3000;
5
6 app.use(express.text());
7
8 app.get('/', (req, res) => {
9   res.send('Hello World!');
10 });
11
12 app.listen(port, () => {
13   console.log(`Listening on port ${port}`);
14 });
```

4.2_express_basic.ts



NodeJS Express Server

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1 import express from 'express';
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4.2_express_basic.ts

This is us importing the express library



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14 });
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4.2_express_basic.ts

This creates an instance of a server, and we define the network port to run on.

A port is essentially one of the roads in and out of a computer's network. There are often 65,000-ish.



NodeJS Express Server

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8 app.get('/', (req, res) => {
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```

4.2_express_basic.ts

This line is a quirk of `express` that is required in order for the data of many requests to be interpreted.



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```

4.2_express_basic.ts

This says that "when URL / is accessed, call this function". The function sends some text to the person accessing that URL.

If we want our server to do more, we need to write lots more of these.



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[4.2_express_basic.ts](#)

This line actually starts the server (on a particular port). It essentially runs an infinite loop so the program runs forever constantly waiting for new people to "access" it via a certain URL.



NodeJS Express Server

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[4.2_express_basic.ts](#)

This line actually starts the server (on a particular port). It essentially runs an infinite loop so the program runs forever constantly waiting for new people to "access" it via a certain URL.

Let's take a step back to learn about what servers are used for.

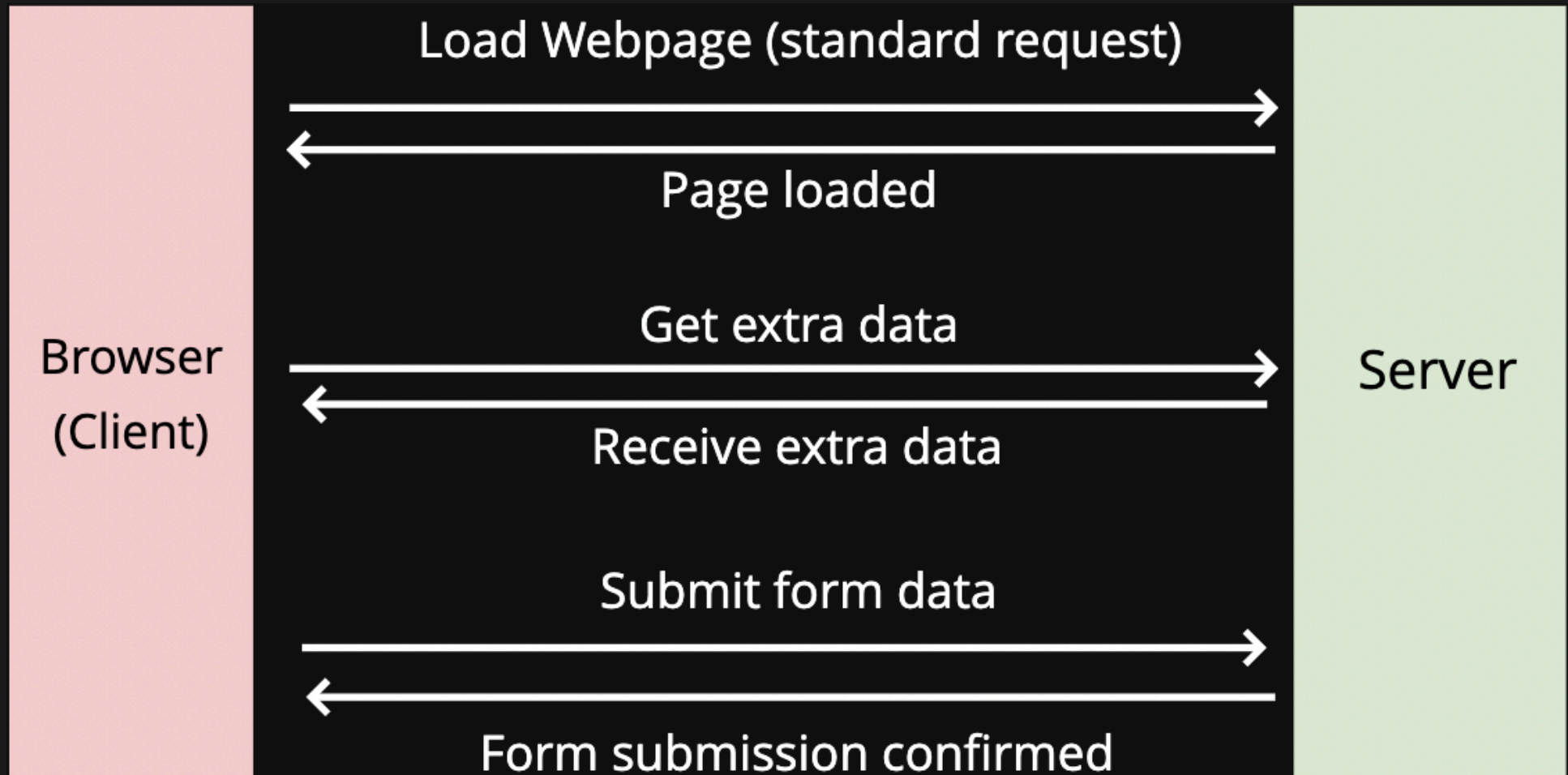


An API (Application Programming Interface) refers to an interface exposed by a particular piece of software.

The most common usage of "API" is for Web APIs, which refer to a "contract" that a particular service provides. The interface of the service acts as a black box and indicates that for particular endpoints, and given particular input, the client can expect to receive particular output.



Web API



RESTful API

A RESTful API is an application program interface (API) that uses HTTP requests to GET, PUT, POST and DELETE data. These 4 methods describe the "nature" of different API requests.

GET, PUT, POST, DELETE are HTTP Methods. They refer to CRUD operations.

Method	Operation
POST	Create
GET	Read
PUT	Update
DELETE	Delete



RESTful API

Different CRUD properties require different approaches for input. All output are the same.

```
1 import express from 'express';
2
3 const app = express();
4 const port = 3001;
5
6 app.use(express.text());
7
8 app.get('/apple', (req, res) => {
9   const name = req.query.name;
10  res.send(JSON.stringify({
11    msg: `Hi ${name}, thanks for sending apple!`,
12  }));
13 });
14
15 // same for .put and .delete
16 app.post('/orange', (req, res) => {
17   const body = JSON.parse(req.body);
18   const name = body.name;
19   res.send(JSON.stringify({
20     msg: `Hi ${name}, thanks for sending orange!`,
21   }));
22 });
23
24 app.listen(port, () => {
25   console.log(`Listening on port ${port}`);
26 });
```

RESTful API

Different CRUD properties require different approaches for input.

- For inputs:
 - GET|DELETE: via `req.query` (capture URL)
 - PUT|POST: via `req.body` (capture body)
- For outputs:
 - All outputs should be packaged up as JSON



RESTful API

If we embrace the use of JSON everywhere, we can make use of other library features to clean up the code.

```
1 import express from 'express';
2
3 const app = express();
4 const port = 3001;
5
6 app.use(express.json());
7
8 app.get('/apple', (req, res) => {
9   const name = req.query.name;
10  res.json({
11    msg: `Hi ${name}, thanks for sending apple!`,
12  });
13 });
14
15 // same for .put and .delete
16 app.post('/orange', (req, res) => {
17   const name = req.body.name;
18   res.json({
19     msg: `Hi ${name}, thanks for sending orange!`,
20   });
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RESTful API

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```


RESTful API

Task

Create a web server that uses CRUD to allow you to create, update, read, and delete a point via HTTP requests

Use a global variable to manage the state.



Talking To A Web Server

How can we talk to a web server as a client?

1. API client
2. Web Browser
3. An NPM library: `sync - requests`



API Client (ARC, Postman)

How to download/install ARC:

- Open google chrome
- Google "ARC client"
- Install the addon and open it
- Follow the demo in the lectures

You may need to use a tool like this in the final exam.



API Client (ARC, Postman)

ARC


Request

HTTP request

Socket

History


Send a request and recall it from here



Once you made a request it will appear in this place.

Saved

Save a request and recall it from here



Use ctrl+s to save a request. It will appear in this place.

Method
GET

Request URL

An URL is required.

SEND

Parameters

Headers

Variables

Toggle source mode

Insert headers set

Header name

Header value

ADD HEADER

Headers are valid

Headers size: bytes

Install new ARC with new features!

Selected environment: Default



Web Browser

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `127.0.0.1:5000/hello`. The page content is "Hello World!". The Network tab is active, showing a list of requests. The first request, named "hello", is selected. The details for this request are as follows:

Name	Headers	Preview	Response	Timing
hello	<p>General</p> <p>Request URL: <code>http://127.0.0.1:5000/hello</code></p> <p>Request Method: GET</p> <p>Status Code: 200 OK</p> <p>Remote Address: 127.0.0.1:5000</p> <p>Referrer Policy: no-referrer-when-downgrade</p> <p>Response Headers view source</p> <p>Content-Length: 12</p> <p>Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8</p> <p>Date: Wed, 09 Oct 2019 13:26:05 GMT</p> <p>Server: Werkzeug/0.16.0 Python/3.5.3</p> <p>Request Headers view source</p> <p>Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3</p> <p>Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br</p> <p>Accept-Language: en-GB,en-US;q=0.9,en;q=0.8</p> <p>Cache-Control: max-age=0</p>			

1 requests | 166 B transferred



Requests Library

We can use an npm package `sync-requests` to allow us to programmatically send RESTful API requests. `npm install sync-requests`.

We can send them to our previous server.

```
1 import request from 'sync-request';
2
3 const res = request(
4   'GET',
5   'http://localhost:3001/apple?name=Hayden'
6 );
7 console.log(JSON.parse(String(res.getBody())));
```

[4.2_requests.ts](#)



Requests Library

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7 console.log(JSON.parse(String(res.getBody())));
```

[4.2_requests.ts](#)

Let's look at the `sync-request` library to see if we can remove `name=Hayden` from URL.



Working With jest

```
1 import request from 'sync-request';
2
3 describe('Test Apple', () => {
4   test('If it returns a name string successfully', () => {
5     const res = request(
6       'GET',
7       'http://localhost:3001/apple',
8       {
9         qs: {
10           name: 'Hayden',
11         },
12       }
13     );
14     const bodyObj = JSON.parse(String(res.getBody()));
15     expect(bodyObj.msg).toBe('Hi Hayden, thanks for sending apple!');
16   });
17 });
18 describe('Test Orange', () => {
19   test('If it returns a name string successfully', () => {
20     const res = request(
21       'POST',
22       'http://localhost:3001/orange',
23       {
24         body: JSON.stringify({ name: 'Hayden' }),
25         headers: {
26           'Content-type': 'application/json',
27         },
28       }
29     );
30     const bodyObj = JSON.parse(String(res.getBody()));
31     expect(bodyObj.msg).toBe('Hi Hayden, thanks for sending orange!');
32   });
33 });
```



```
33 });
```

4.2_requests.test.ts



How To Wrap Into Project

In general, iteration 2 requires that you implement an HTTP server. However! Many of the routes that exist in iteration 2 are just wrappers of your iteration 1 functions.

Therefore it should be easy to "wrap" your iteration 1 functions with an HTTP server. I.E. Most of the "server" stuff you'll do is just routing, gathering bodies, and returning responses, while treating your iteration 1 functions like blackboxes.



Optional! Making Life Easier.

Did you know we can make node auto restart if new files are compiled?

If we:

- Run `npm install --save-dev nodemon`
- Replace `node` with `nodemon` in `package.json`

Then run `npm run start` in a separate terminal.



Optional! Making Life Easier.

Did you know we can make `tsc` auto run if source files are changed?

If we:

- Add `--watch` flag to `tsc` command

Then run `npm run tsc` in a separate terminal.

Feedback



Or go to the [form here](#).

