

Interactive Web Programming

1st semester of 2021

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Heavily based on [Victoria Kirst](#) slides

Schedule

Today:

- Servers, generally
- NodeJS
- npm
- Express
- `fetch()` to localhost

Lecture code

All lecture code is in this git repository:

<https://github.com/yayinternet/lecture19>

You will need to run the commands we show in lecture to run the server code!

Node installation instructions:

<https://murilocamargos.github.io/iwp/install-node/>

Servers

Server-side programming

The type of web programming we have been doing so far is called "**client-side**" programming:

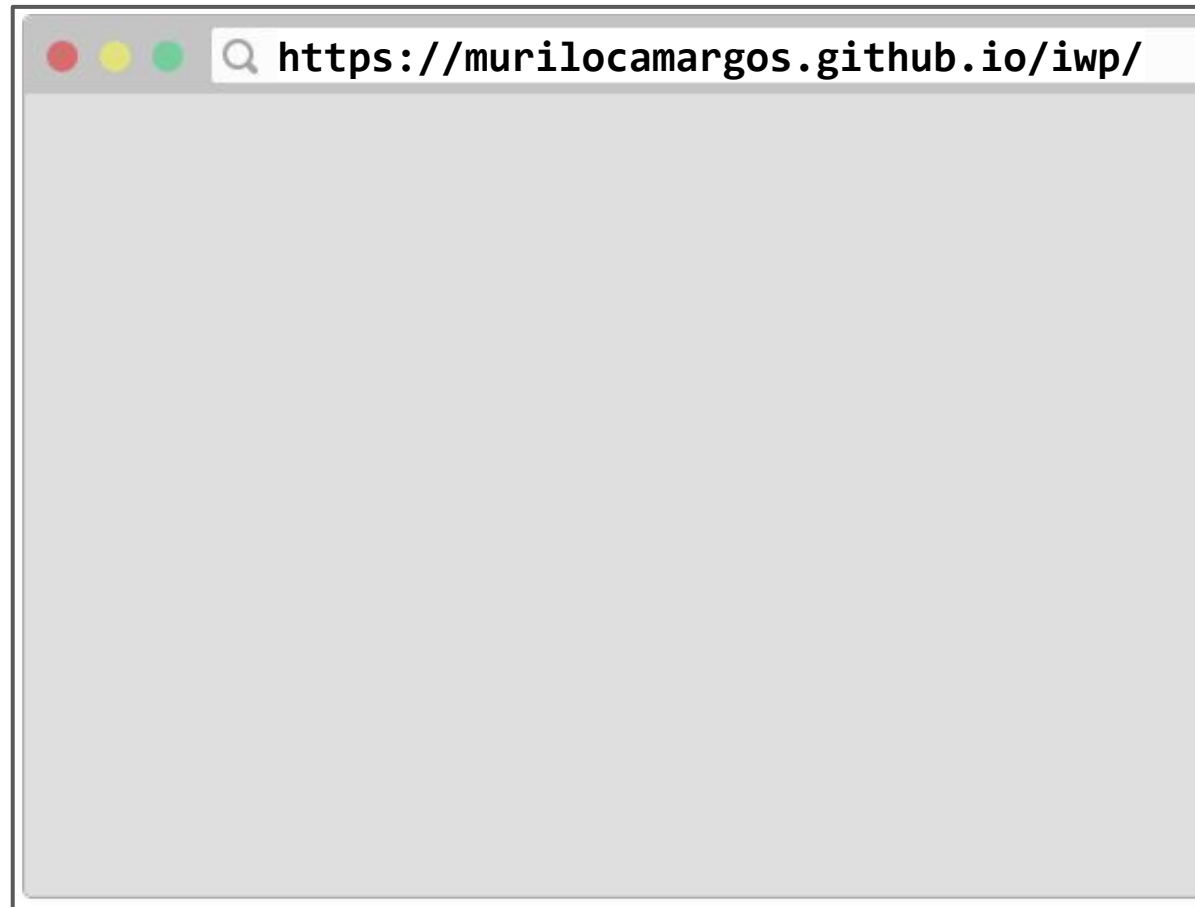
- The code we write gets run in a browser on the user's (client's) machine

Today we will begin to learn about **server-side** programming:

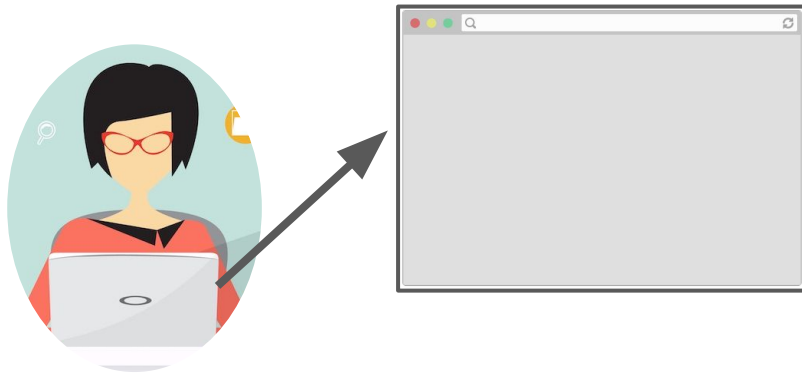
- The code we write gets run on a server.
- Servers are computers that run programs to generate web pages and other web resources.

Let's take another look
at how clients and servers work...

CLIENT: You type a URL in
the address bar and hit
"enter"



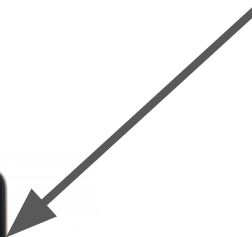
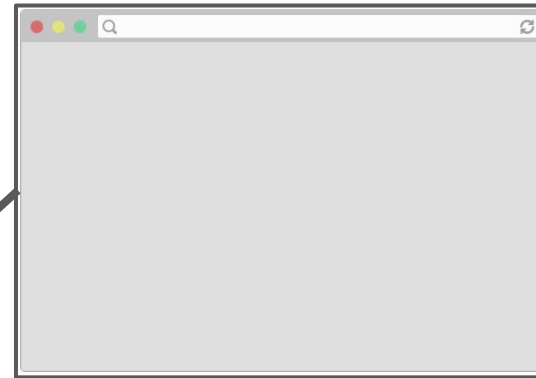
Browser sends an HTTP GET request saying
"Please GET me the index.html file at
<https://murilocamargos.github.io/iwp/>"



**Let's take a deeper
look at this process...**

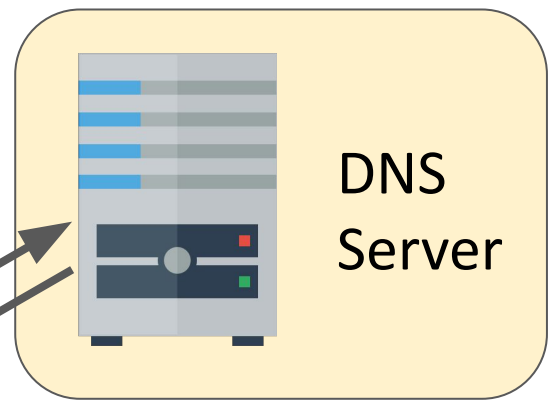
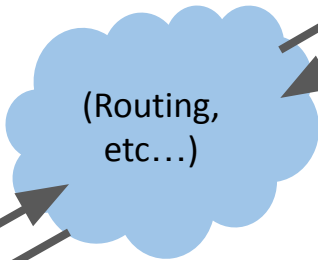

```
▼ Request Headers view parsed
GET /class/cs193x/ HTTP/1.1
Host: web.stanford.edu
Connection: keep-alive
Cache-Control: max-age=0
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_11_6)
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, sdch
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.8
```

Browser C++ code creates an array of bytes that is formatted in using [HTTP request message format](#)



Browser asks operating system, "Hey, can you send this HTTP Get request message to <https://murilocamargos.github.io/iwp/>"?

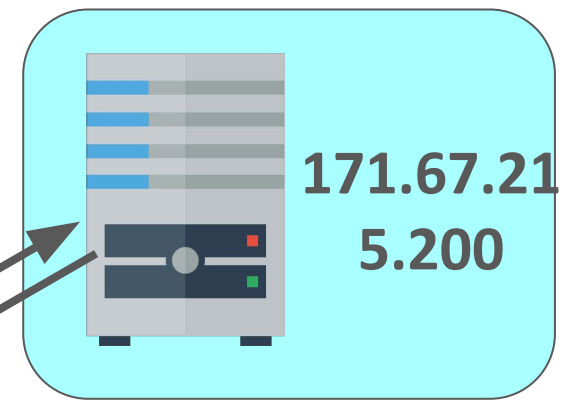
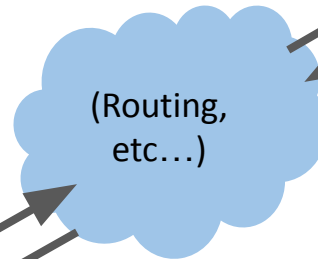
Operating system sends a **DNS** query to look up the **IP address** of "<https://murilocamargo.s.github.io/iwp/>"



DNS server replies with the **IP address**, e.g. 171.67.215.200

- **DNS**: Domain Name System: Translate domain names to **IP address** of the computer associated with that address.
- **IP address**: Numerical unique identifier for every computer connected to the internet.

Operating system
opens a **TCP**
connection with the
computer at
171.67.215.200



After the **TCP** connection is
established, the OS can send the
HTTP message to 171.67.215.200
through the **TCP** connection.

- **TCP**: Transmission Control Protocol, defines the data format for sending information over the wire. (Can be used for HTTP, FTP, etc)

171.67.215.200



SERVER: There is a computer that is connected to the internet at IP address 171.67.215.200.

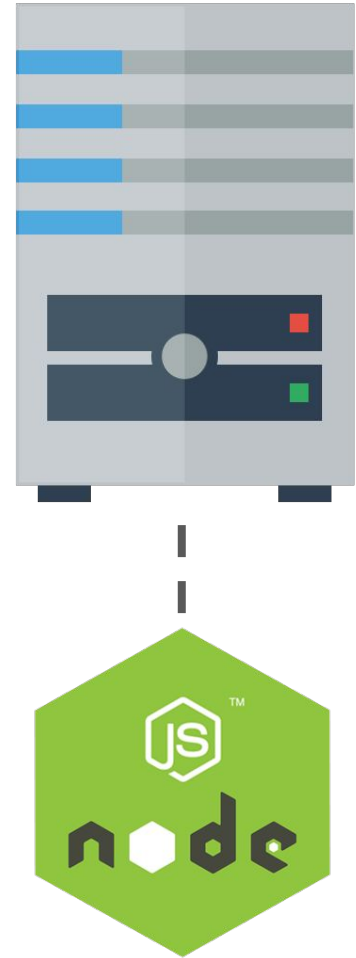
171.67.215.200

On this computer is a **web server program**:

- The web server program is **listening** for incoming messages that are sent to it.
- The web server program can **respond** to messages that are sent to it.

Node: The platform we will use to create a web server program that will receive and respond to HTTP requests.

- Also known as "**NodeJS**"; these terms are synonyms

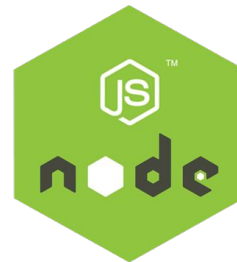
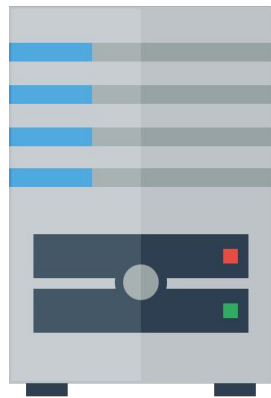


Aside: "Server"

The definition of **server** is overloaded:

- Sometimes "server" means the machine/computer that runs the server software.
- Sometimes "server" means the software running on the machine/computer.

You have to use context to know which is being meant.



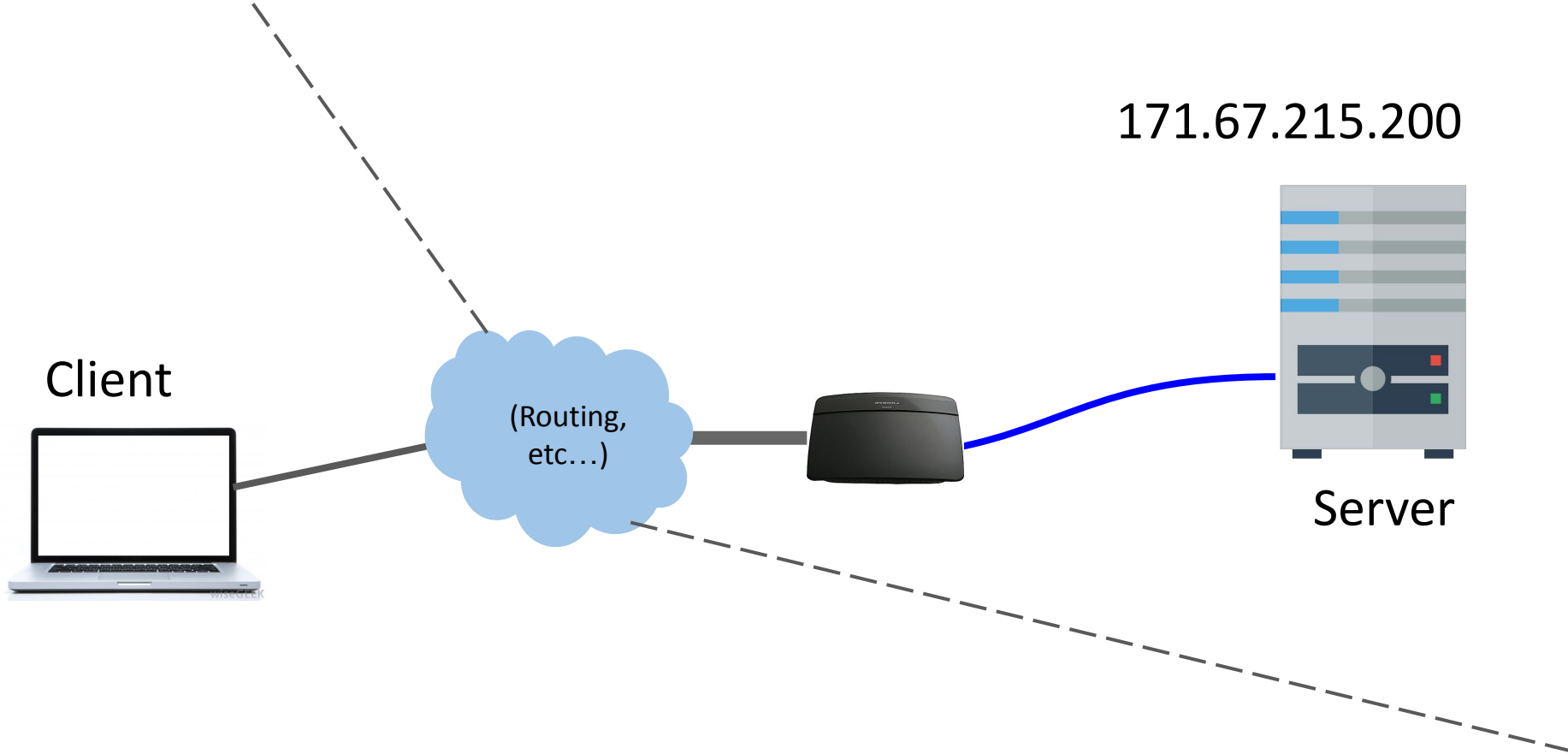
Aside: Sockets

Q: What does it mean for a program to be "listening" for messages?

When the server first runs, it executes code to create a **socket** that allows it to receive incoming messages from the OS.

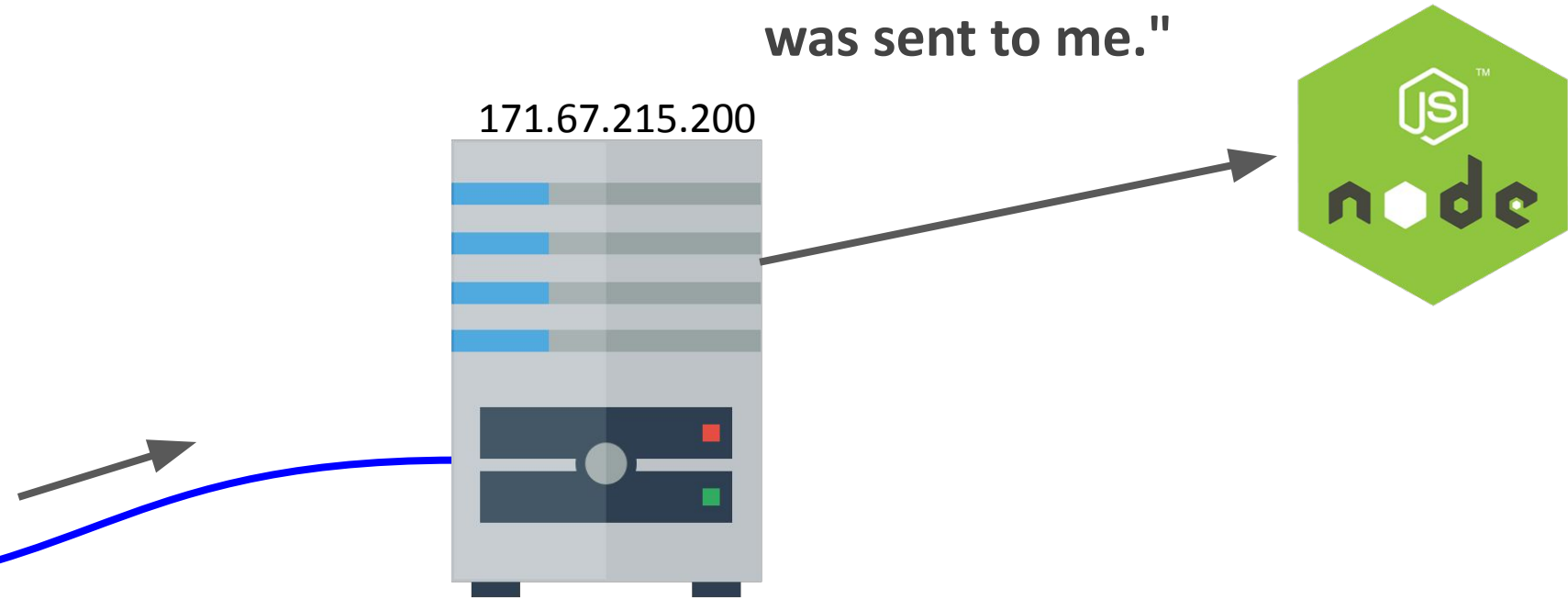
A [socket](#) is one end of a communication channel. You can send and receive data on sockets.

However, NodeJS will abstract this away so we don't have to think about sockets.



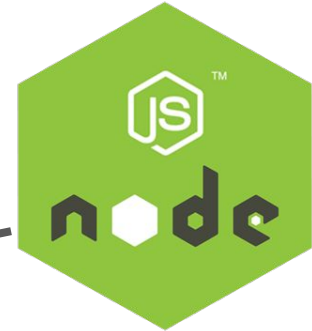
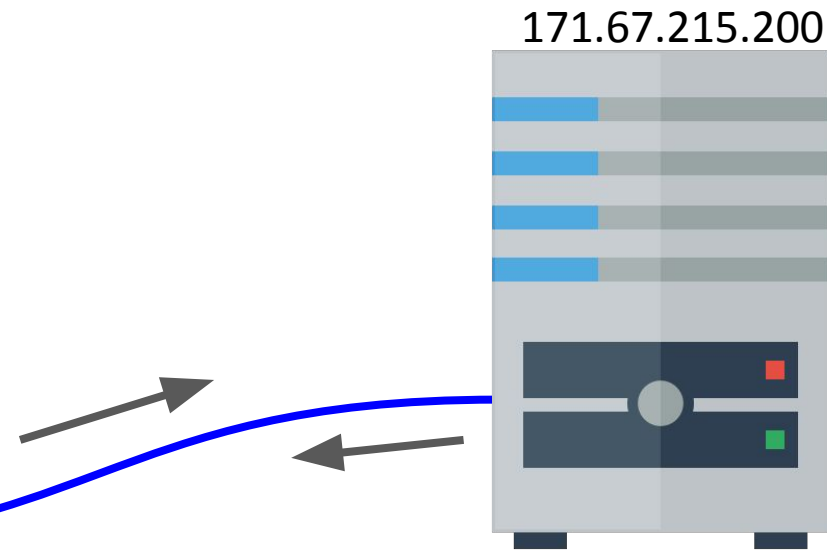
A TCP connection is established between the client and the server, so now the client and server can send messages directly to each other.

OS to server program:
"Hey, here's a message that
was sent to me."



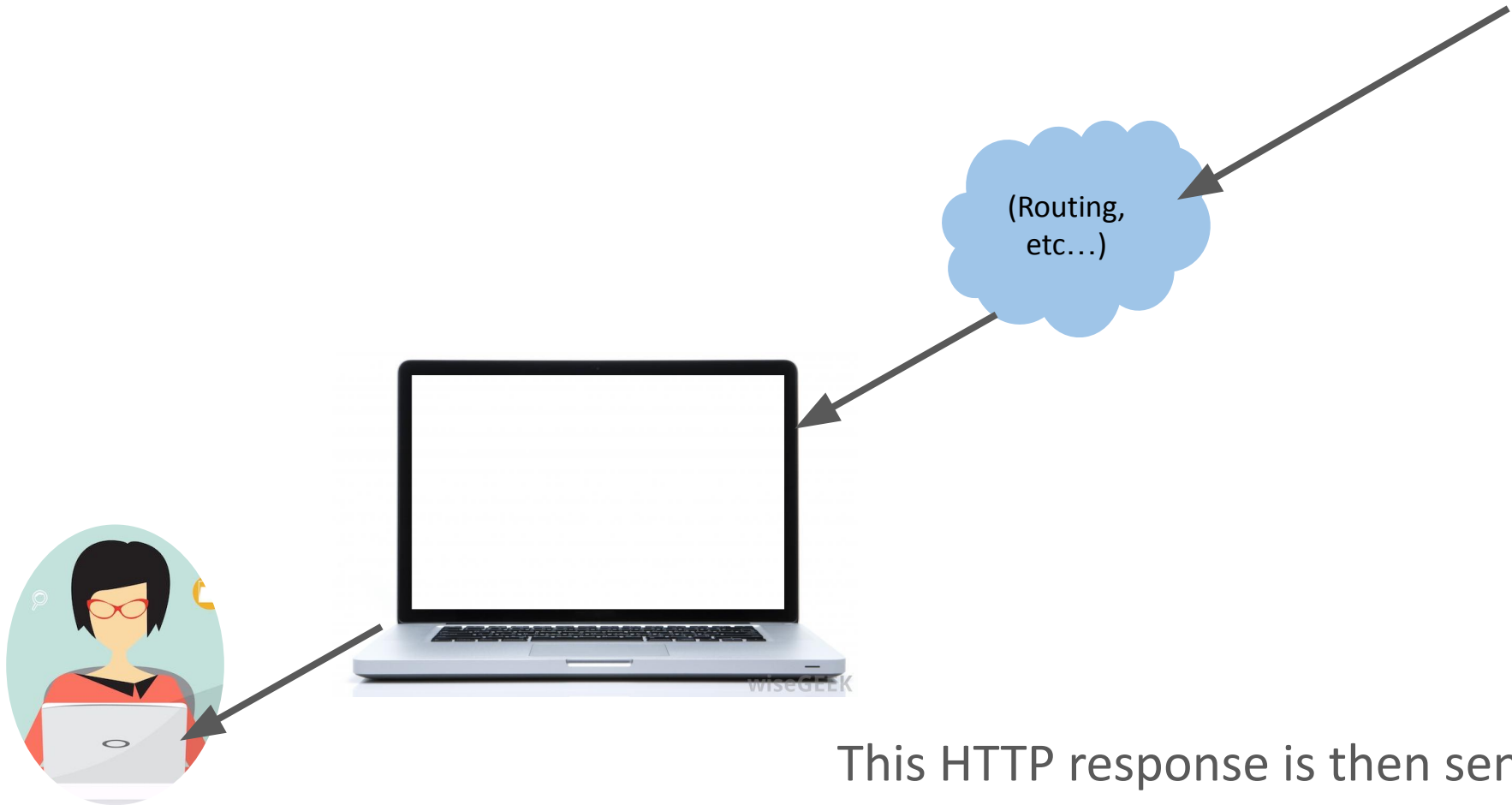
Now the operating system is receiving TCP packets from the wire, and the operating system begins sending the contents of the request to the server program.

OS to server program:
"Hey, here's a message that
was sent to me."

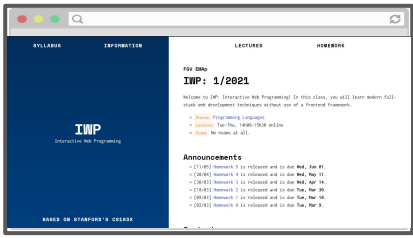


Server program to OS:
**"OK, can you send this message
back to the client?"**

The server software parses the HTTP request and then decides what message it wants to send in response. It formats this message in HTTP, then asks the OS to send this response message over TCP back to the sender.



This HTTP response is then sent back to the client's OS, which notifies the browser of the HTTP response, and then the browser displays the web page.



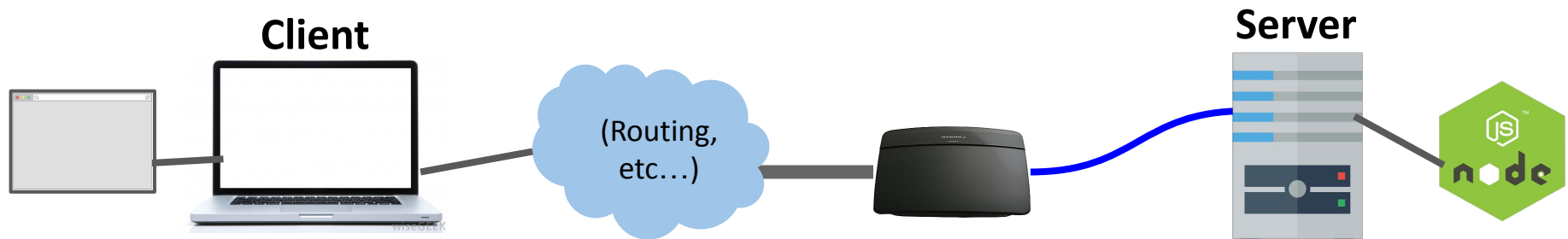
Summary

When you navigate to a URL:

- Browser creates an HTTP GET request
- Operating system sends the GET request to the server over TCP

When a server computer receives a message:

- The server's operating system sends the message to the server software (via a socket)
- The server software then parses the message
- The server software creates an HTTP response
- The server OS sends the HTTP response to the client over TCP



NodeJS

NodeJS

NodeJS:

- A JavaScript runtime written in C++.
- Can interpret and execute JavaScript.
- Includes support for the NodeJS API.

NodeJS API:

- A set of JavaScript libraries that are useful for creating server programs.

V8 (from Chrome):

- The JavaScript interpreter ("engine") that NodeJS uses to interpret, compile, and execute JavaScript code

NodeJS

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Q: What does this mean?

NodeJS API:

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First: Chrome



Chrome:

- A browser written in C++.
- Can interpret and execute JavaScript code.
- Includes support for the DOM APIs.

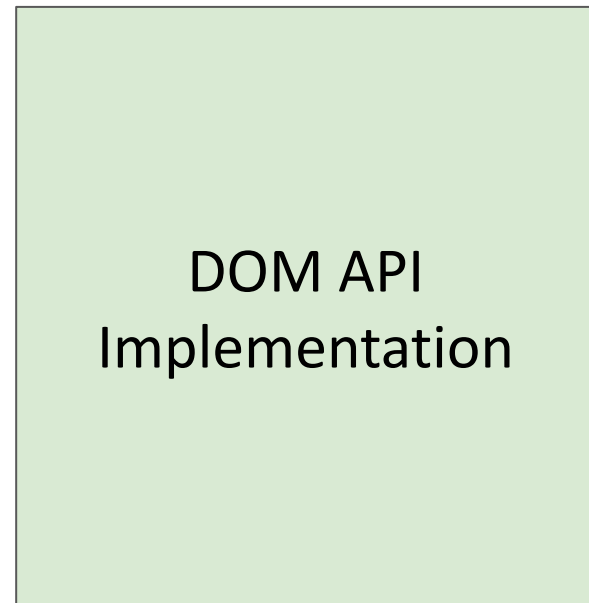
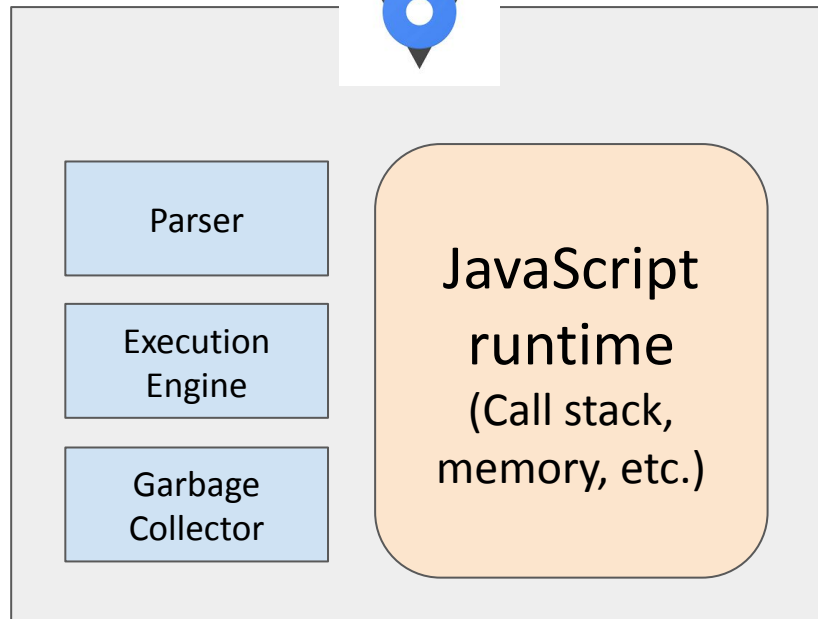
DOM APIs:

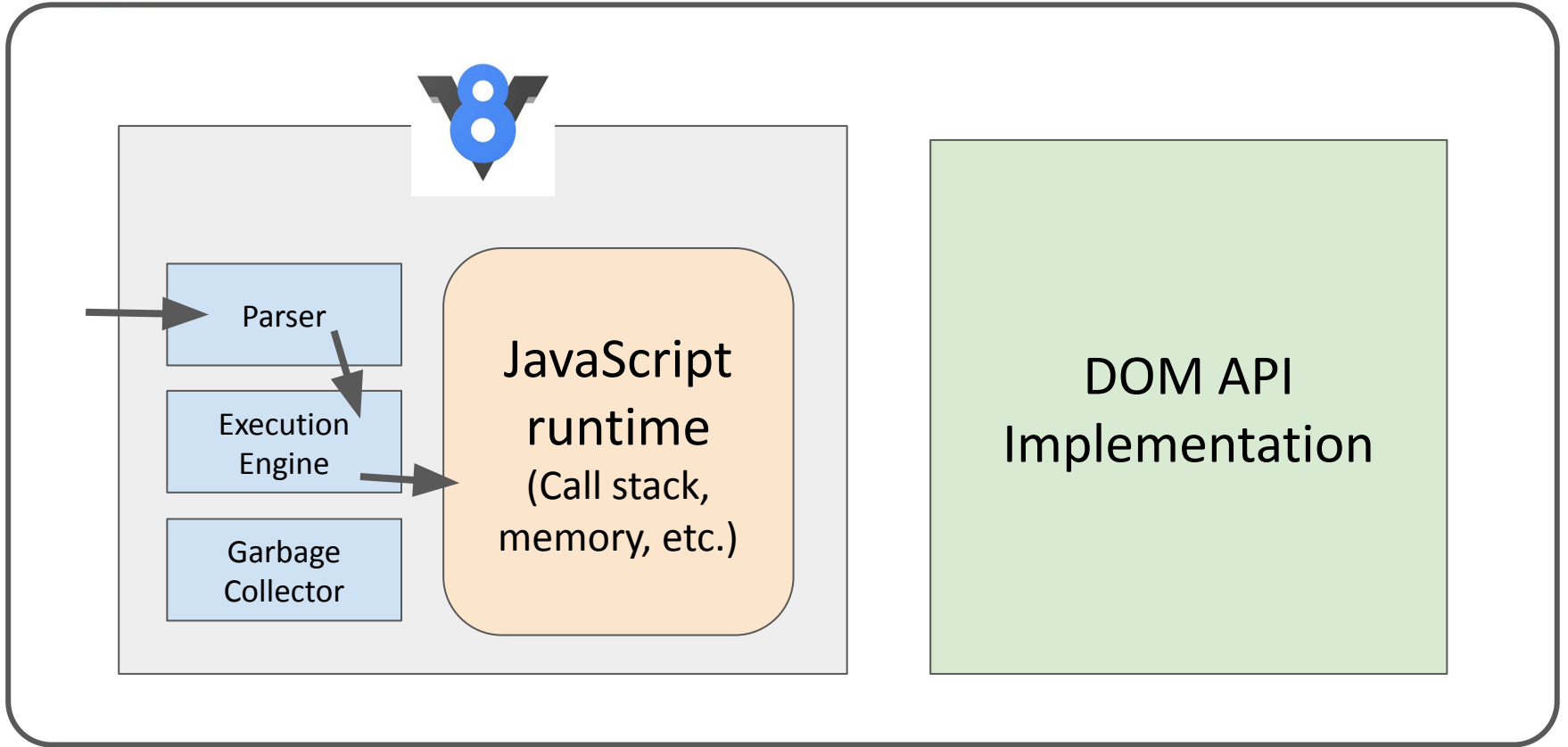
- JavaScript libraries to interact with a web page

V8:

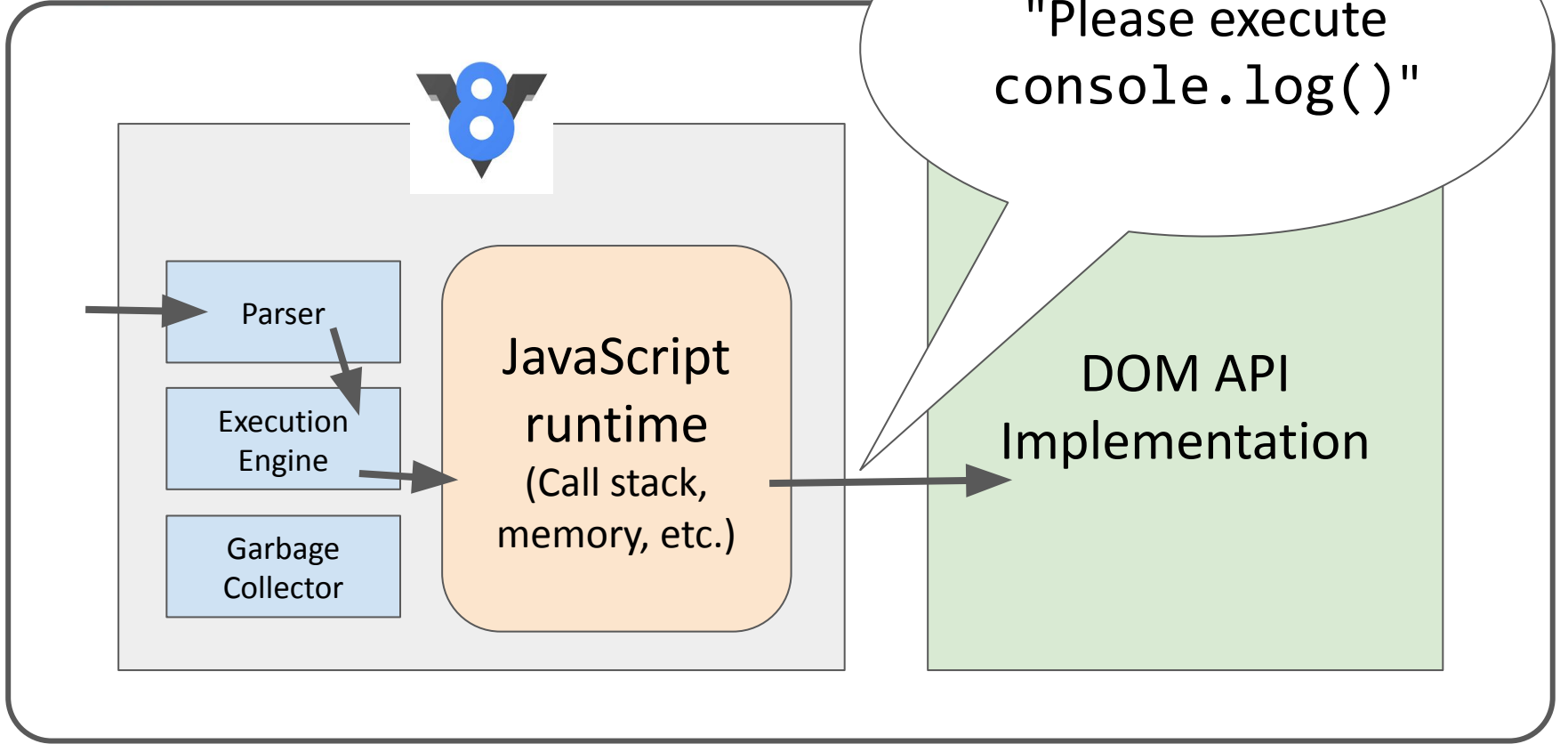
- The JavaScript interpreter ("engine") that Chrome uses to interpret, compile, and execute JavaScript code

Chrome, V8, DOM



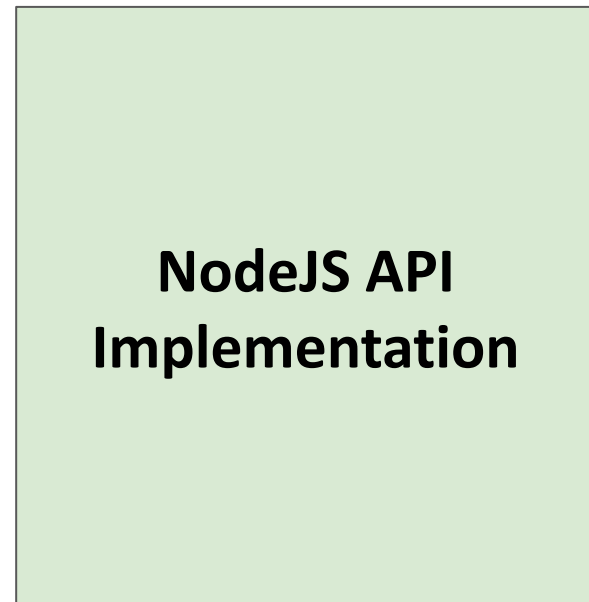
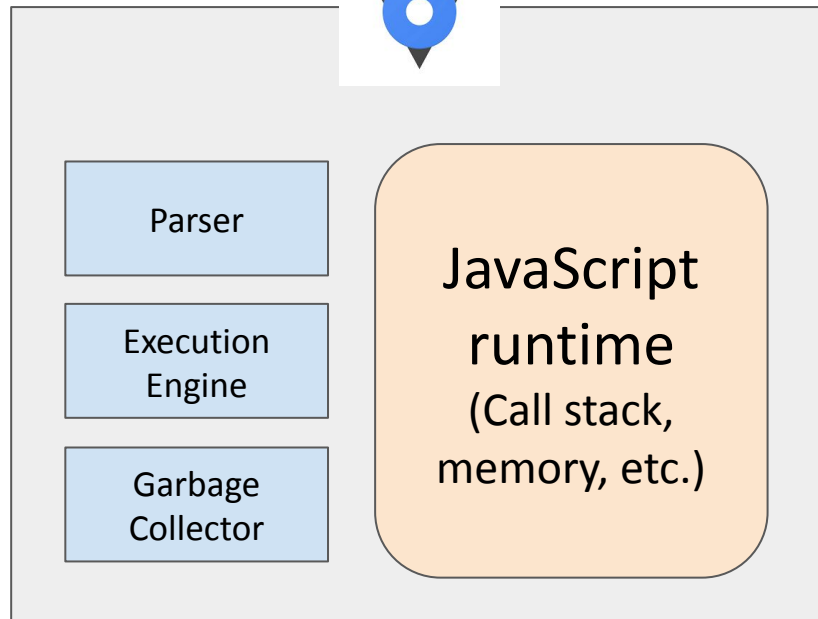


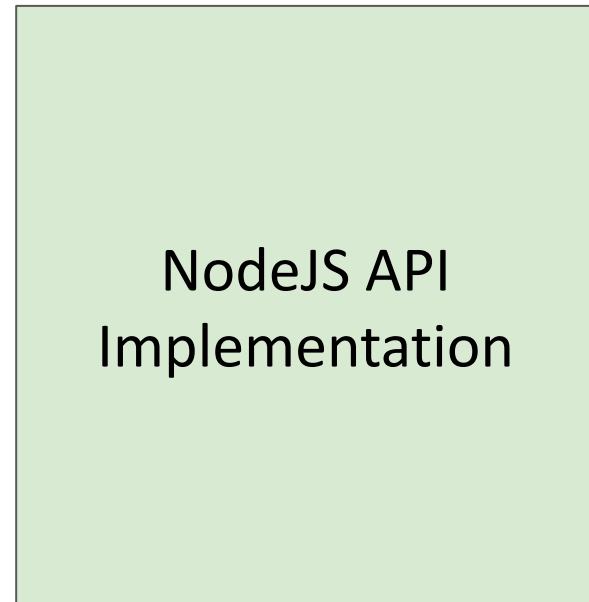
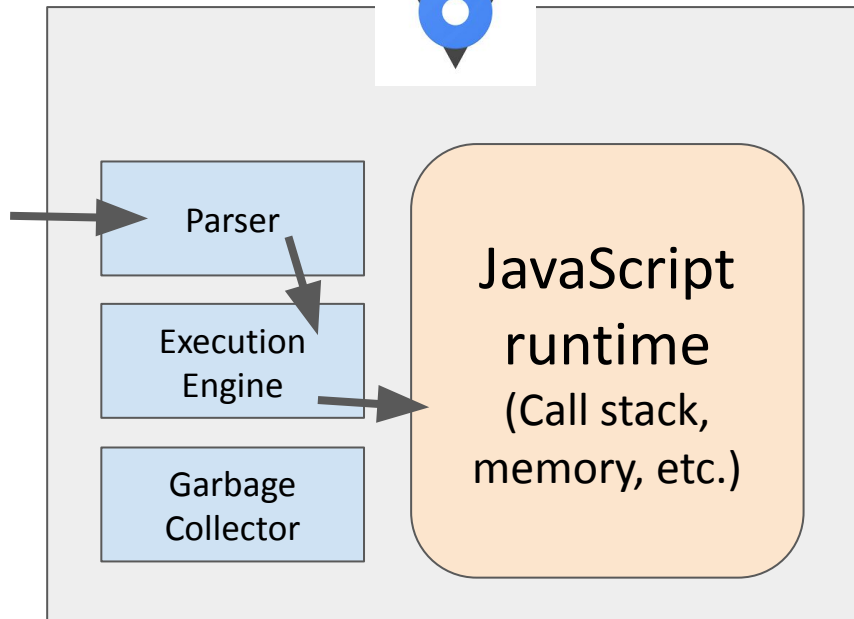
```
const name = 'V8';
```



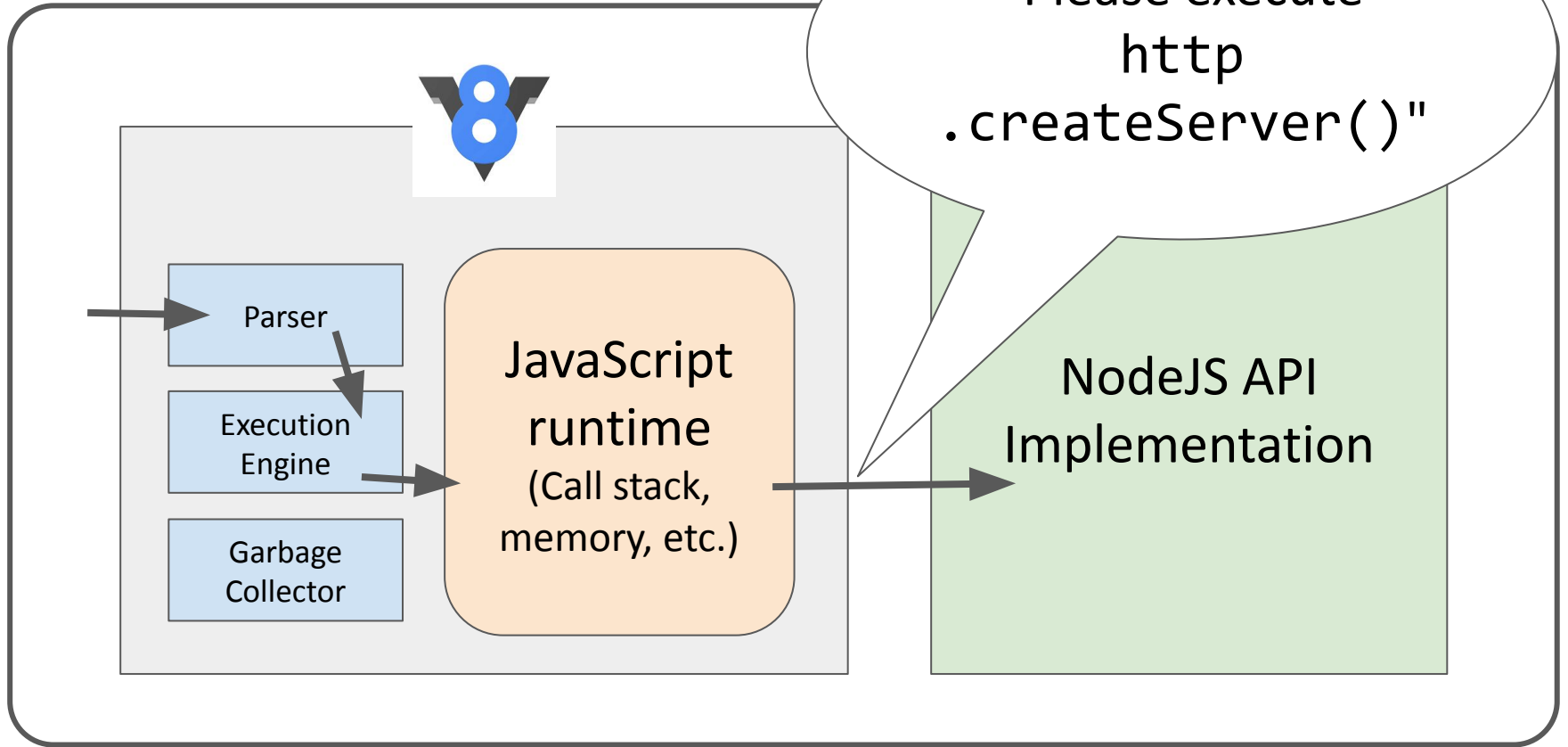
```
console.log('V8');
```

NodeJS, V8, NodeJS APIs

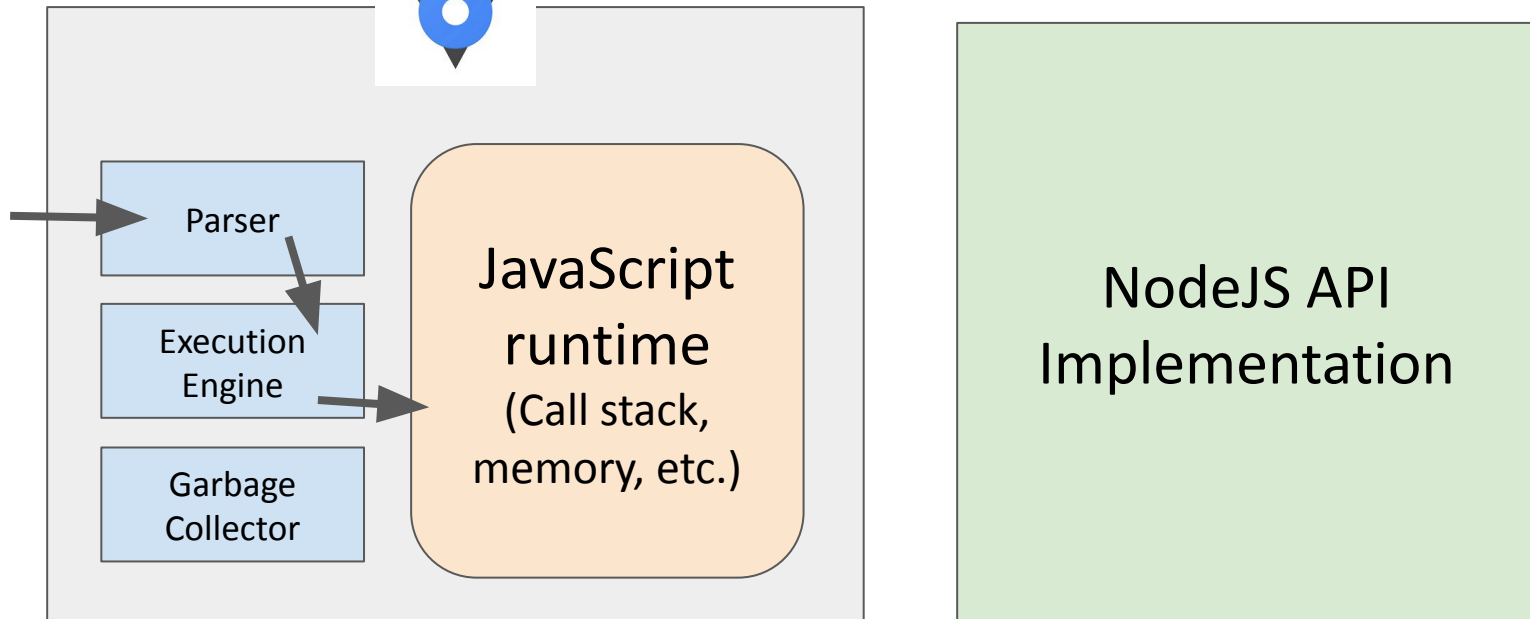




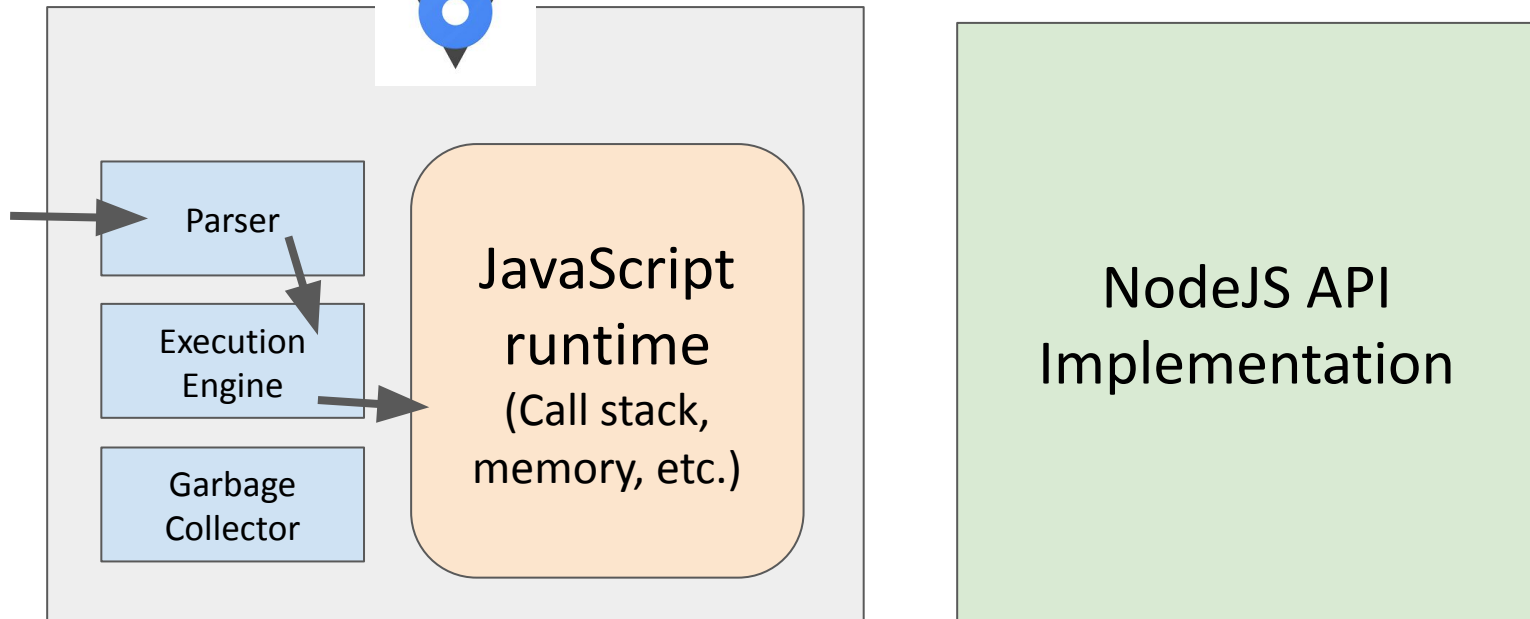
```
const x = 15;  
x++;
```



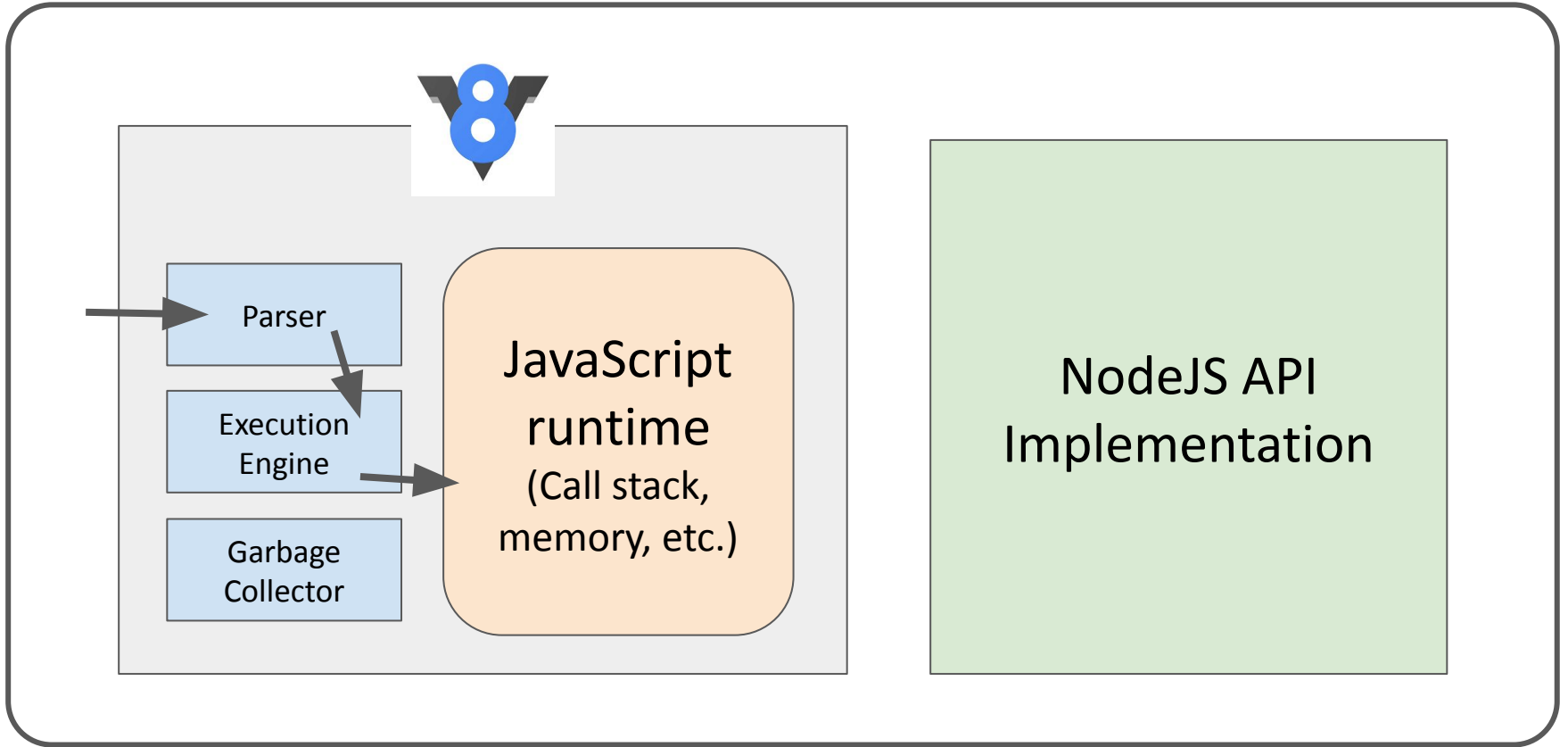
```
http.createServer();
```



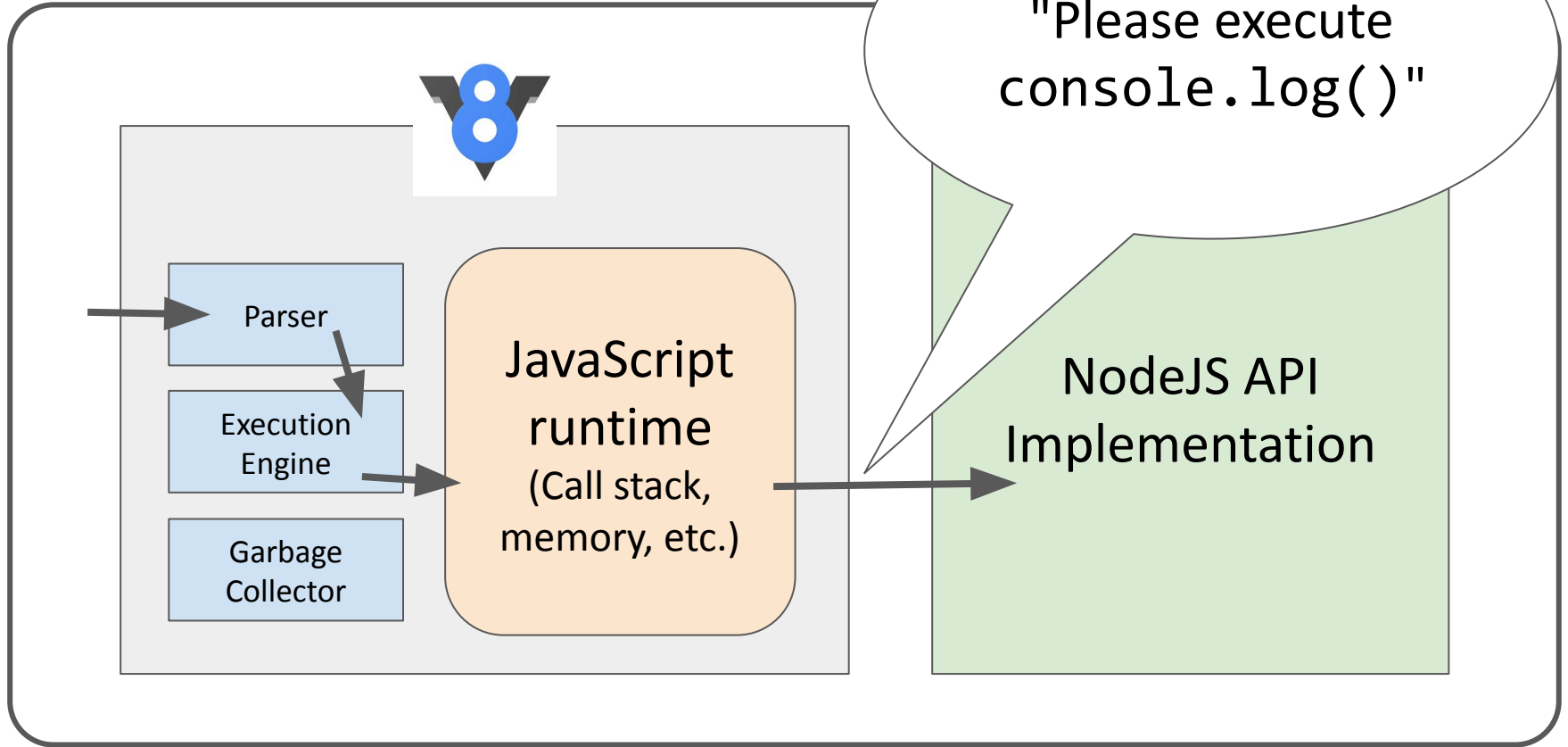
What if you tried to call
`document.querySelector('div');`
in the NodeJS runtime?



`document.querySelector('div');`
ReferenceError: document is not defined



What if you tried to call `console.log('nodejs');` in the NodeJS runtime?



```
console.log('nodejs');
```

(NodeJS API [implemented their own console.log](#))

NodeJS

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Installation

NOTE: The following slides assume you have already installed NodeJS.

NodeJS installation instructions:

- <https://murilocamargos.github.io/iwp/install-node/>

node command

Running node without a filename runs a REPL loop

- Similar to the JavaScript console in Chrome, or when you run "python"

```
$ node
```

```
> let x = 5;
```

```
undefined
```

```
> x++
```

```
5
```

```
> x
```

```
6
```

NodeJS

NodeJS can be used for writing scripts in JavaScript, completely unrelated to servers.

simple-script.js

```
function printPoem() {  
  console.log('Roses are red,');  
  console.log('Violets are blue,');  
  console.log('Sugar is sweet,');  
  console.log('And so are you.');
```

```
  console.log();  
}  
  
printPoem();  
printPoem();
```

node command

The node command can be used to execute a JS file:

```
$ node fileName
```

```
$ node simple-script.js
```

```
Roses are red,  
Violets are blue,  
Sugar is sweet,  
And so are you.
```

```
Roses are red,  
Violets are blue,  
Sugar is sweet,  
And so are you.
```

Node for servers

Here is a very basic server written for NodeJS:

```
const http = require('http');

const server = http.createServer();

server.on('request', function(req, res) {
  res.statusCode = 200;
  res.setHeader('Content-Type', 'text/plain');
  res.end('Hello World\n');
});

server.on('listening', function() {
  console.log('Server running!');
});

server.listen(3000);
```

(WARNING: We will **not actually be writing servers like this!!!**

We will be using ExpressJS to help, but we haven't gotten there yet.

require()

```
const http = require('http');  
const server = http.createServer();
```

The NodeJS `require()` statement loads a module, similar to `import` in Java or `include` in C++.

- We can `require()` modules included with NodeJS, or modules we've written ourselves.
- In this example, 'http' is referring to the [HTTP NodeJS module](#)

require()

```
const http = require('http');  
const server = http.createServer();
```

The `http` variable returned by `require('http')` can be used to make calls to the HTTP API:

- `http.createServer\(\)` creates a `Server` object

Emitter.on

```
server.on('request', function(req, res) {  
  res.statusCode = 200;  
  res.setHeader('Content-Type', 'text/plain');  
  res.end('Hello World\n');  
});
```

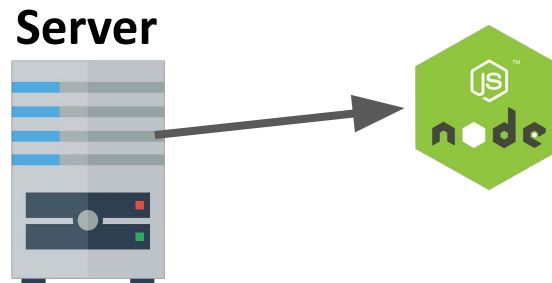
```
server.on('listening', function() {  
  console.log('Server running!');  
});
```

The [on\(\)](#) function is the NodeJS equivalent of `addEventListener`.

Emitter.on

```
server.on('request', function(req, res) {  
  res.statusCode = 200;  
  res.setHeader('Content-Type', 'text/plain');  
  res.end('Hello World\n');  
});
```

The [request](#) event is emitted each time there is a new HTTP request for the NodeJS program to process.



Emitter.on

```
server.on('request', function(req, res) {  
  res.statusCode = 200;  
  res.setHeader('Content-Type', 'text/plain');  
  res.end('Hello World\n');  
});
```

The [req](#) parameter gives information about the incoming request, and the [res](#) parameter is the response parameter that we write to via method calls.

- [statusCode](#): Sets the HTTP status code.
- [setHeader\(\)](#): Sets the HTTP headers.
- [end\(\)](#): Writes the message to the response body then signals to the server that the message is complete.

listen() and listening

```
server.on('listening', function() {  
  console.log('Server running!');  
});
```

```
server.listen(3000);
```

The [listen\(\)](#) function will make the program start accepting messages sent to the given **port number**.

- The [listening](#) event will be emitted when the server has been bound to a port.

Q: What's a port? What is binding?

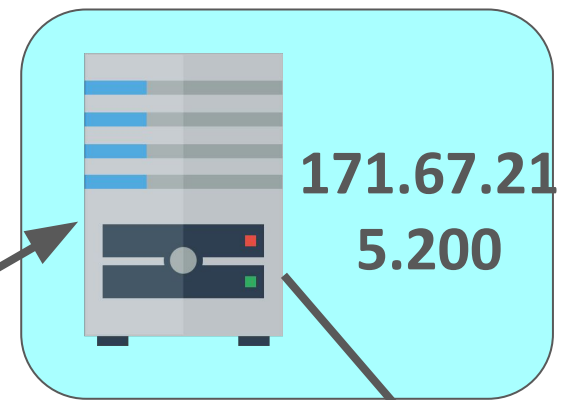
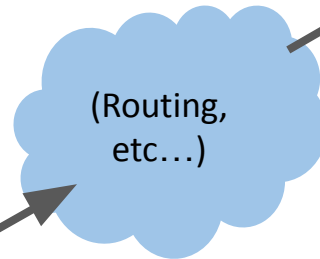
Ports and binding

port: In the context of networking, a "logical" (as opposed to a physical) connection place

- A number from 0 to 65535 (16-bit unsigned integer)

When you start running a server process, you tell the operating system what port number to associate with it. This is called **binding**.

Operating system
opens a TCP connection
on port **80**
of the computer at
171.67.215.200.



The server process
running on port **80**
Is responding to
requests.



A TCP connection requires an IP address
and a port number.

- If no port number is specified, 80 is the default for HTTP requests.

Ports defaults

There are many **well-known ports**, i.e. the ports that will be used by default for particular protocols:

21: File Transfer Protocol (FTP)

22: Secure Shell (SSH)

23: Telnet remote login service

25: Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)

53: Domain Name System (DNS) service

80: Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) used in the World Wide Web

110: Post Office Protocol (POP3)

119: Network News Transfer Protocol (NNTP)

123: Network Time Protocol (NTP)

143: Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP)

161: Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)

194: Internet Relay Chat (IRC)

443: HTTP Secure (HTTPS)

Development server

```
server.on('listening', function() {  
  console.log('Server running!');  
});
```

```
server.listen(3000);
```

For our development server, we can choose whatever port number we want. In this example, we've chosen 3000.

Running the server

When we run `node server.js` in the terminal, we see the following:

```
vrk:node-server $ node server.js
Server running!
```

The process does not end after we run the command, as it is now waiting for HTTP requests on port 3000.

Q: How do we send an HTTP request on port 3000?

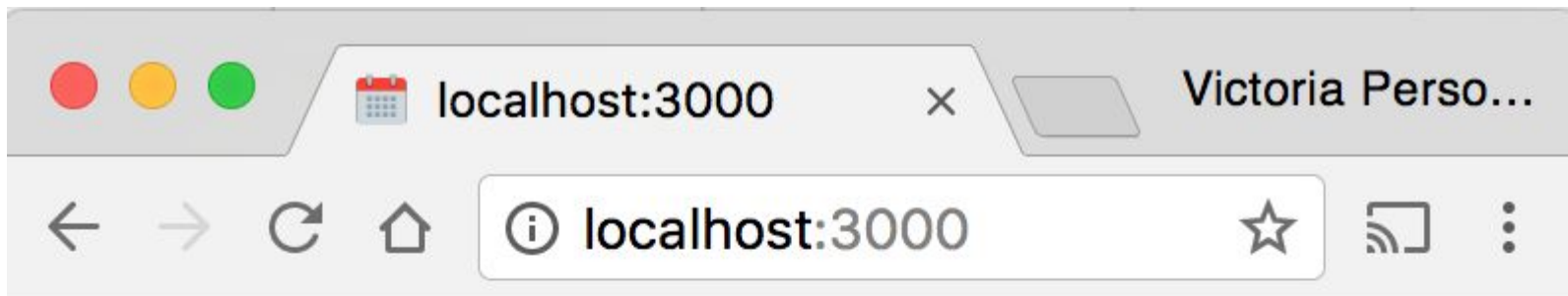
Localhost

We can send an HTTP GET request running on one of the ports on the local computer using the URL:

`http://localhost:portNumber`, e.g.

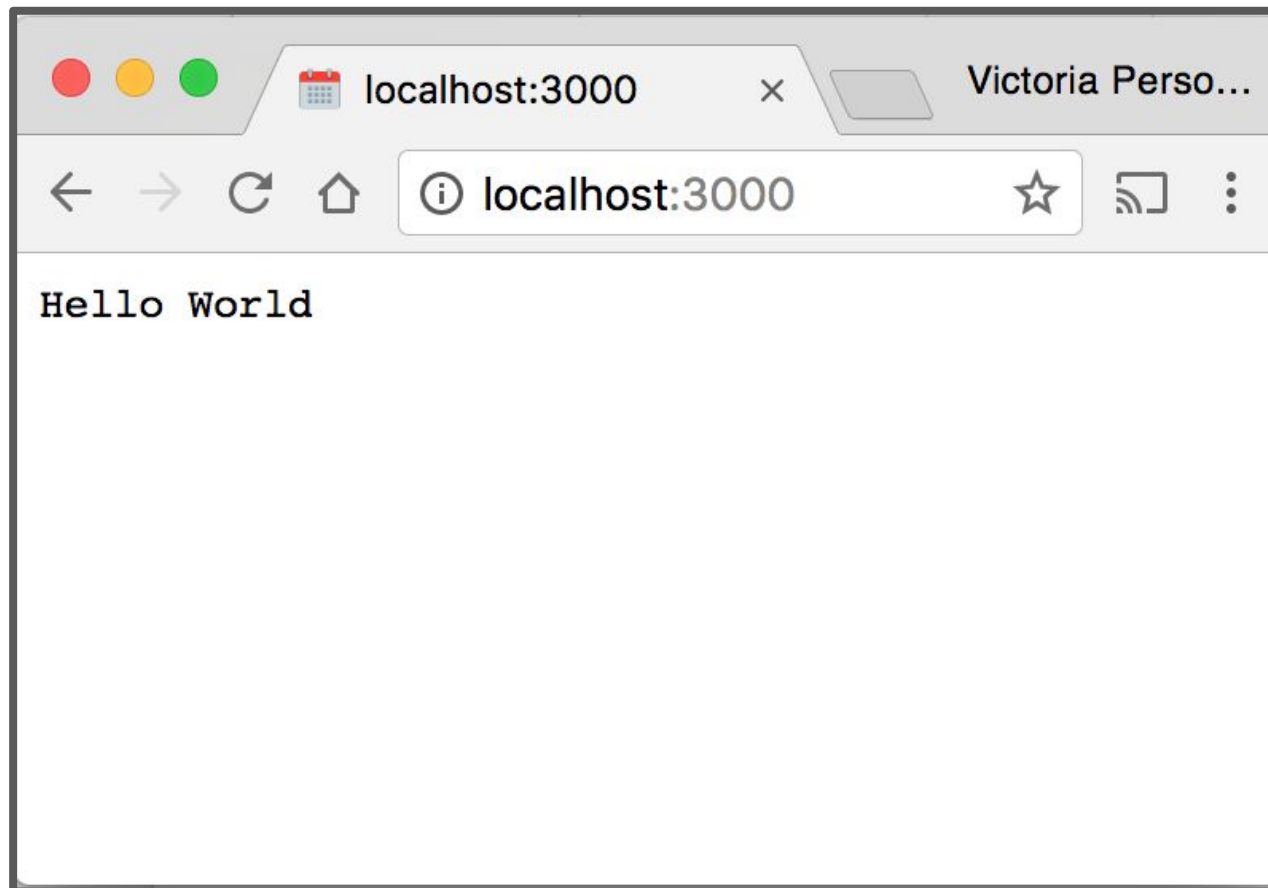
<http://localhost:3000>

[Localhost](#) is a hostname that means "this computer."



Server response

Here is the result of the request to our HTTP server:



Node for servers

This server returns the same response no matter what the request is.

```
const http = require('http');

const server = http.createServer();

server.on('request', function(req, res) {
  res.statusCode = 200;
  res.setHeader('Content-Type', 'text/plain');
  res.end('Hello World\n');
});

server.on('listening', function() {
  console.log('Server running!');
});

server.listen(3000);
```

Node for servers

The NodeJS server APIs are actually pretty low-level:

- You build the request manually
- You write the response manually
- There's a lot of tedious processing code

```
var http = require('http');

http.createServer(function(request, response) {
  var headers = request.headers;
  var method = request.method;
  var url = request.url;
  var body = [];
  request.on('error', function(err) {
    console.error(err);
  }).on('data', function(chunk) {
    body.push(chunk);
  }).on('end', function() {
    body = Buffer.concat(body).toString();
    // BEGINNING OF NEW STUFF

    response.on('error', function(err) {
      console.error(err);
    });

    response.statusCode = 200;
    response.setHeader('Content-Type', 'application/json');
    // Note: the 2 lines above could be replaced with this next one:
    // response.writeHead(200, {'Content-Type': 'application/json'})

    var responseBody = {
      headers: headers,
      method: method,
      url: url,
      body: body
    };
  });
});
```

ExpressJS

We're going to use a library called ExpressJS on top of NodeJS:

```
const express = require('express');
const app = express();

app.get('/', function (req, res) {
  res.send('Hello World!');
})

app.listen(3000, function () {
  console.log('Example app listening on port 3000!');
})
```


Express routing

ExpressJS

However, Express is not part of the NodeJS APIs. If we try to use it like this, we'll get an error:

```
const express = require('express');  
const app = express();
```

```
module.js:327  
  throw err;  
  ^  
  
Error: Cannot find module 'express'  
    at Function.Module._resolveFilename (node:internal/modules/cjs/loader:1028:15)
```

We need to install Express via npm.

npm

When you install NodeJS, you also install npm:

- **npm**: Node Package Manager*:
Command-line tool that lets you install **packages** (libraries and tools) written in JavaScript and compatible with NodeJS
- Can find packages through the online repository:
<https://www.npmjs.com/>



npm install and uninstall

`npm install package-name`

- This downloads the *package-name* library into a `node_modules` folder.
- Now the *package-name* library can be included in your NodeJS JavaScript files.

`npm uninstall package-name`

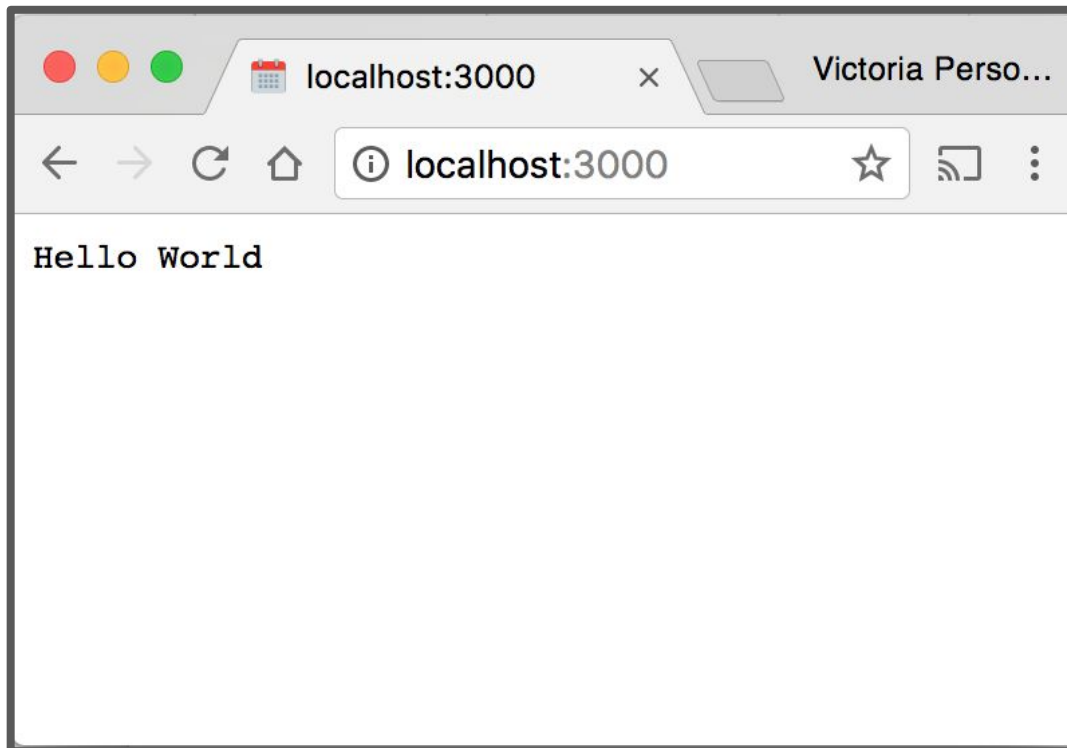
- This removes the *package-name* library from the `node_modules` folder, deleting the folder if necessary

Express example

```
$ npm install express
```

```
$ node server.js
```

Example app listening on port 3000!



Express routes

You can specify [routes in Express](#):

```
app.get('/', function (req, res) {  
  res.send('Main page!');  
});
```

```
app.get('/hello', function (req, res) {  
  res.send('GET hello!');  
});
```

```
app.post('/hello', function (req, res) {  
  res.send('POST hello!');  
});
```

Express routes

```
app.get('/hello', function (req, res) {  
  res.send('GET hello!');  
});
```

`app.method(path, handler)`

- Specifies how the server should handle HTTP *method* requests made to URL/*path*
- This example is saying:
 - When there's a GET request to <http://localhost:3000/hello>, respond with the text "GET hello!"

Handler parameters

```
app.get('/hello', function (req, res) {  
  res.send('GET hello!');  
});
```

Express has its own [Request](#) and [Response](#) objects:

- req is a Request object
- res is a Response object
- [res.send\(\)](#) sends an HTTP response with the given content
 - Sends content type "text/html" by default

Querying our server

Here are three ways to send HTTP requests to our server:

1. Navigate to `http://localhost:3000/<path>` in our browser
 - a. Can only do GET requests
2. Call `fetch()` in web page
 - a. We've done GET requests so far, but can send any type of HTTP request
3. `curl` command-line tool
 - a. Debug tool we haven't seen yet

curl

curl: Command-line tool to send and receive data from a server ([Manual](#))

```
curl --request METHOD url
```

e.g.

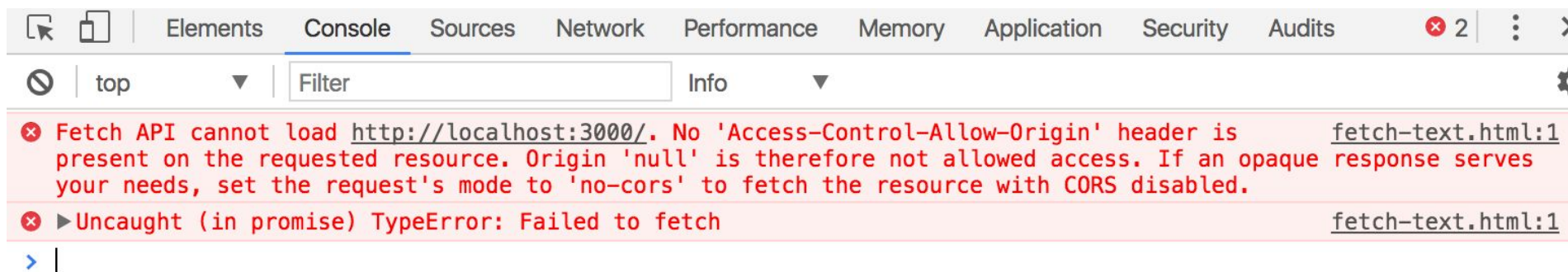
```
$ curl --request PUT http://localhost:3000/hello
```

fetch() to localhost

If we try fetching to localhost from file://

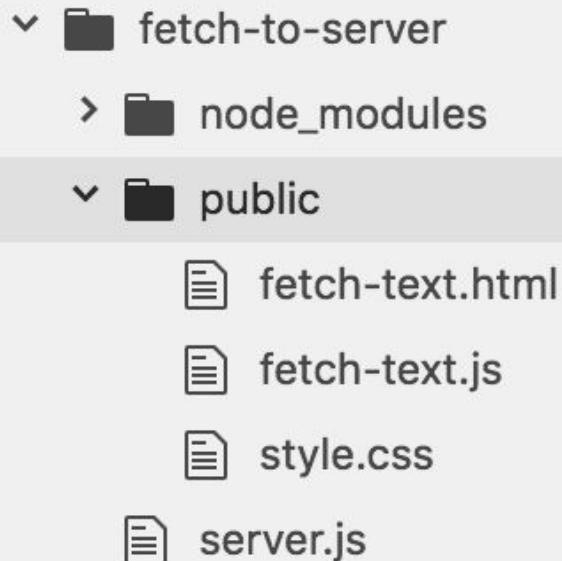
```
fetch('http://localhost:3000')  
  .then(onResponse)  
  .then(onTextReady);
```

We get this CORS error:



Server static data

We can instead serve our HTML/CSS/JS **statically** from the same server:



A file explorer showing the project structure. The 'public' folder is expanded, showing files: fetch-text.html, fetch-text.js, style.css, and server.js.

- fetch-to-server
 - node_modules
 - public
 - fetch-text.html
 - fetch-text.js
 - style.css
 - server.js

```
const express = require('express');  
const app = express();
```

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

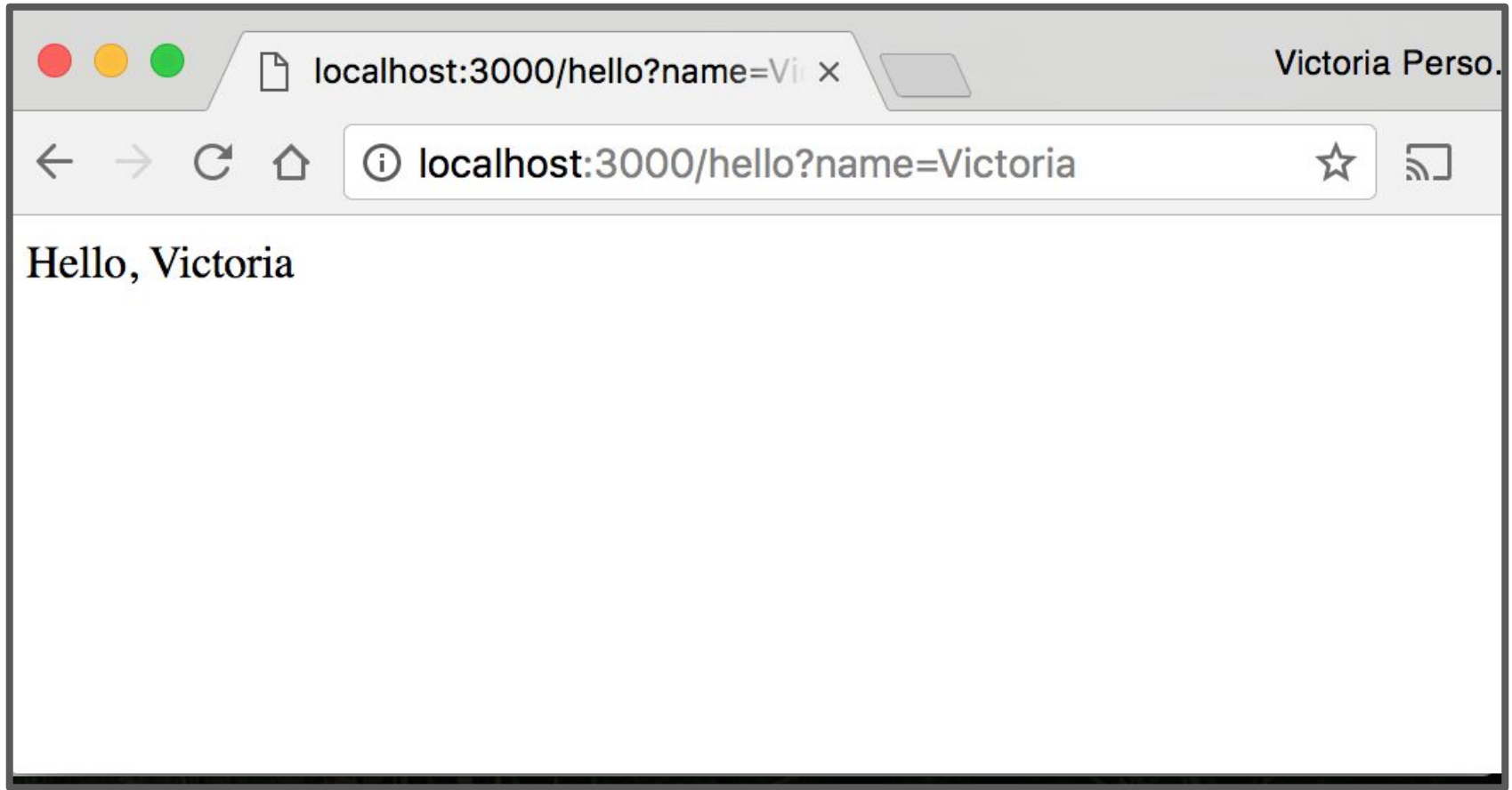
```
app.get('/', function (req, res) {  
  res.send('Main page!');  
});
```

GET query params in Express

```
app.get('/hello', function (req, res) {  
  const queryParams = req.query;  
  console.log(queryParams);  
  const name = req.query.name;  
  res.send('Hello, ' + name);  
});
```

Query parameters are saved in **req.query**.

GET query params in Express



fetch() with POST

```
app.post('/hello', function (req, res) {  
  res.send('POST hello!');  
});
```

On the server-side, you define your handler in `app.post()` to handle POST requests.

fetch() with POST

```
function onTextReady(text) {  
  console.log(text);  
}
```

```
function onResponse(response) {  
  return response.text();  
}
```

```
fetch('/hello', { method: 'POST' })  
  .then(onResponse)  
  .then(onTextReady);
```


fetch() with POST

```
function onTextReady(text) {  
  console.log(text);  
}
```

```
function onResponse(response) {  
  return response.text();  
}
```

```
fetch('/hello', { method: 'POST' })  
  .then(onResponse)  
  .then(onTextReady);
```

Query params with POST

You can send query parameters via POST as well:

```
function onTextReady(text) {
  console.log(text);
}

function onResponse(response) {
  return response.text();
}

fetch('/hello?name=Victoria', { method: 'POST' })
  .then(onResponse)
  .then(onTextReady);
```

(WARNING: We will **not be making POST requests like this!**

We will be sending data in the body of the request instead of via query params.)

Query params with POST

These parameters are accessed the same way:

```
app.post('/hello', function (req, res) {  
  const queryParams = req.query;  
  console.log(queryParams);  
  const name = req.query.name;  
  res.send('POST Hello, ' + name);  
});
```

(WARNING: We will **not be making POST requests like this!**

We will be sending data in the body of the request instead of via query params.)