

Interactive Web Programming

1st semester of 2021

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Heavily based on [Victoria Kirst](#) slides

Our schedule

Today

- MongoDB
- Servers and MongoDB

Next week

- Web application architecture
- Authentication

MongoDB installation

This lecture assumes you have **installed MongoDB**:

- <http://web.stanford.edu/class/cs193x/install-mongodb/>

MongoDB

Database definitions

A **database (DB)** is an organized collection of data.

- In our dictionary example, we used a JSON file to store the dictionary information.
- By this definition, the JSON file can be considered a database.

A **database management system (DBMS)** is software that handles the storage, retrieval, and updating of data.

- Examples: MongoDB, MySQL, PostgreSQL, etc.
- Usually when people say "**database**", they mean data that is managed through a DBMS.

MongoDB

MongoDB: A popular open-source DBMS

- *A document-oriented* database as opposed to a *relational* database

Relational database:

Name	School	Employer	Occupation
Lori	null	Self	Entrepreneur
Malia	Harvard	null	null

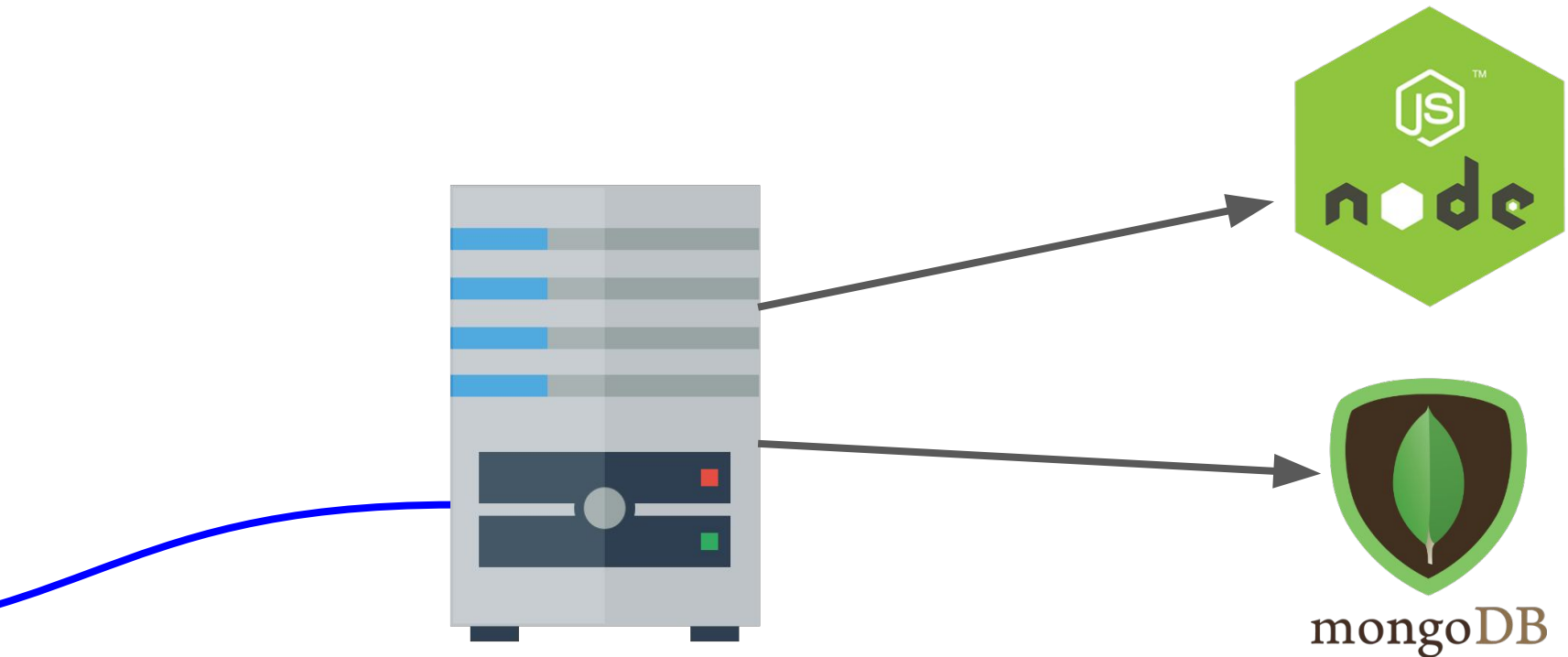
[Relational databases](#) have fixed schemas;

[document-oriented databases](#) have

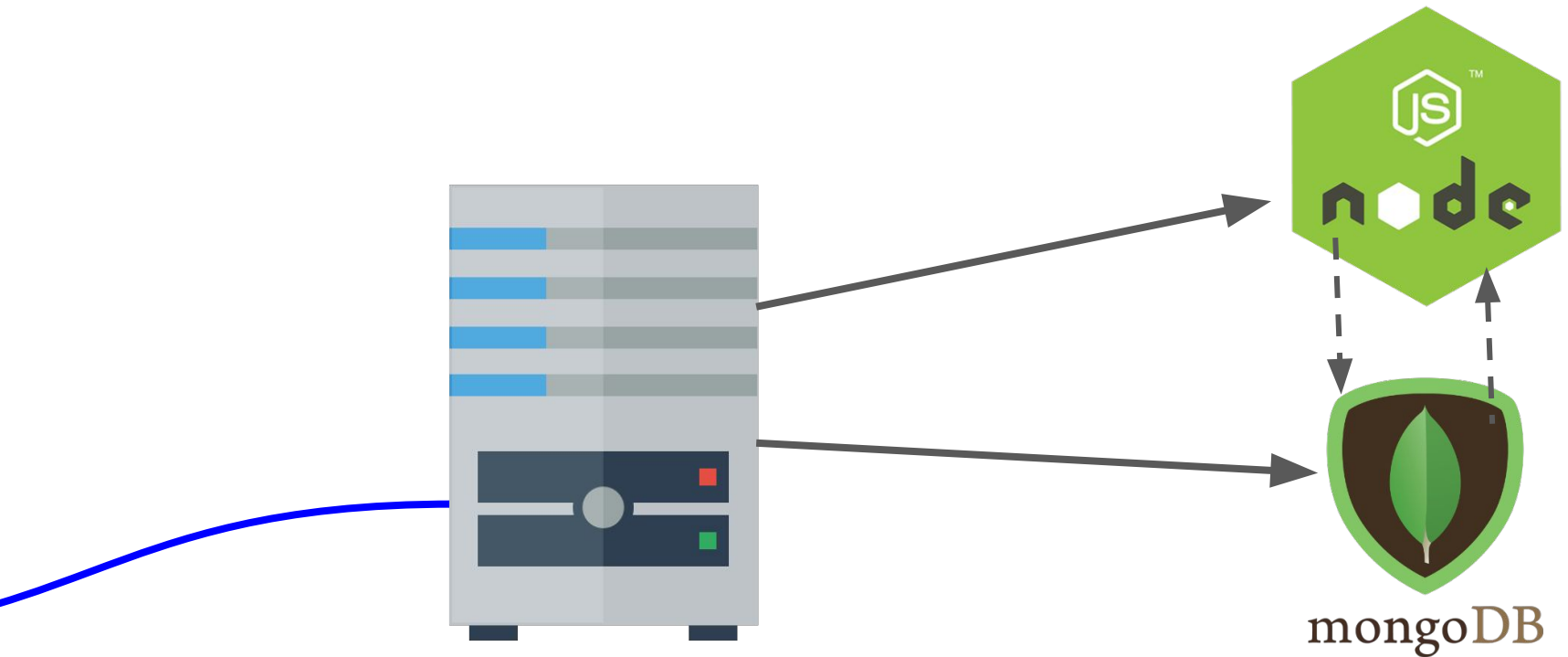
flexible schemas

Document-oriented DB:

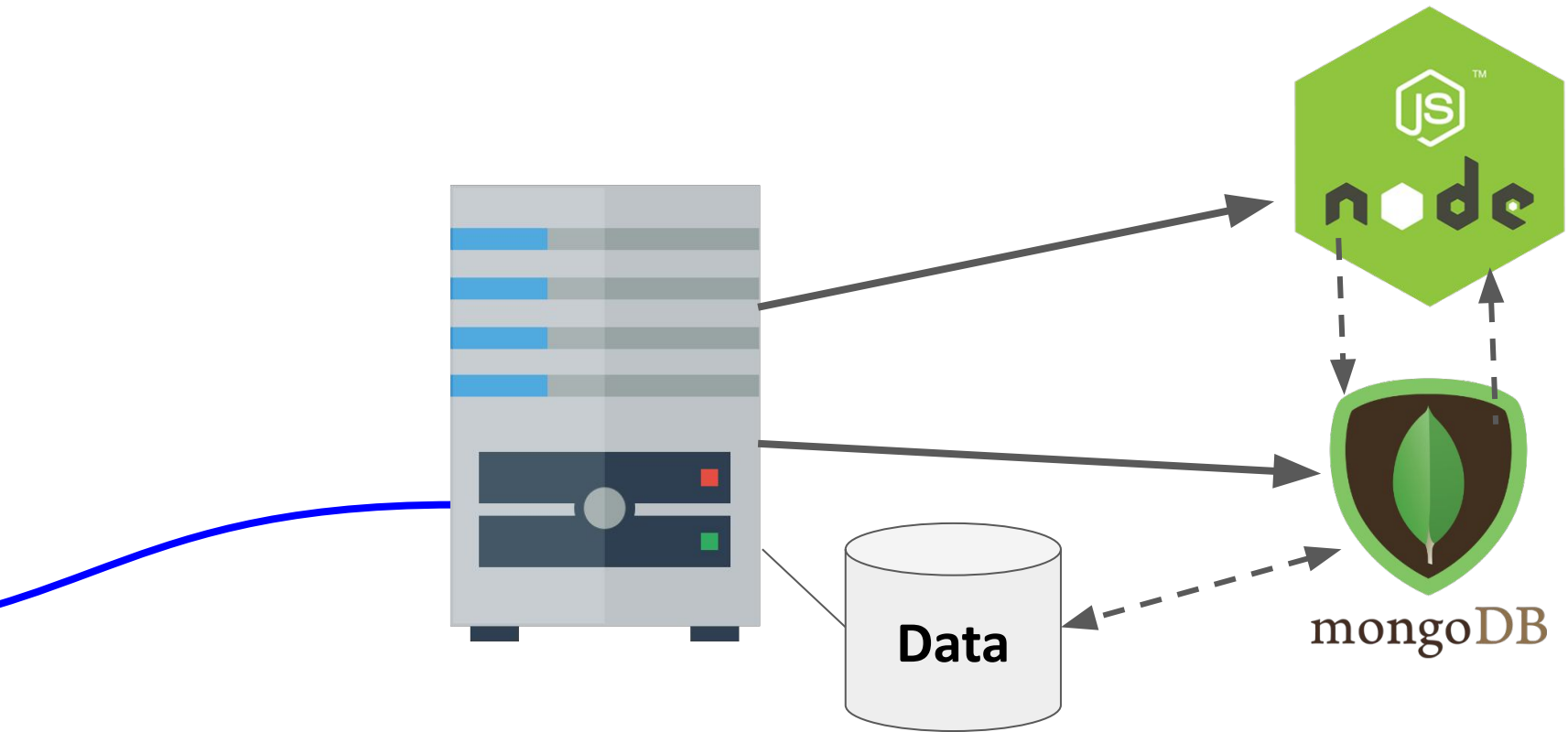
```
{
  name: "Lori",
  employer: "Self",
  occupation: "Entrepreneur"
}
{
  name: "Malia",
  school: "Harvard"
}
```



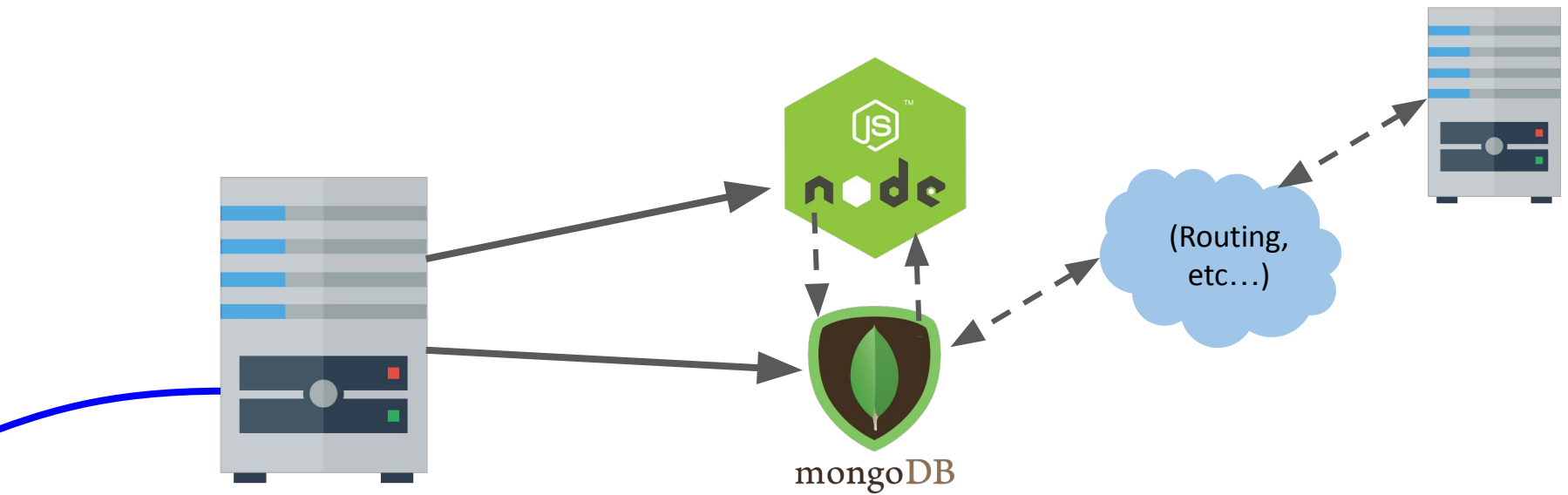
MongoDB is another **software program** running on the computer, alongside our NodeJS server program. It is also known as the **MongoDB server**.



There are MongoDB libraries we can use in NodeJS to communicate with the MongoDB Server, which reads and writes data in the database it manages.

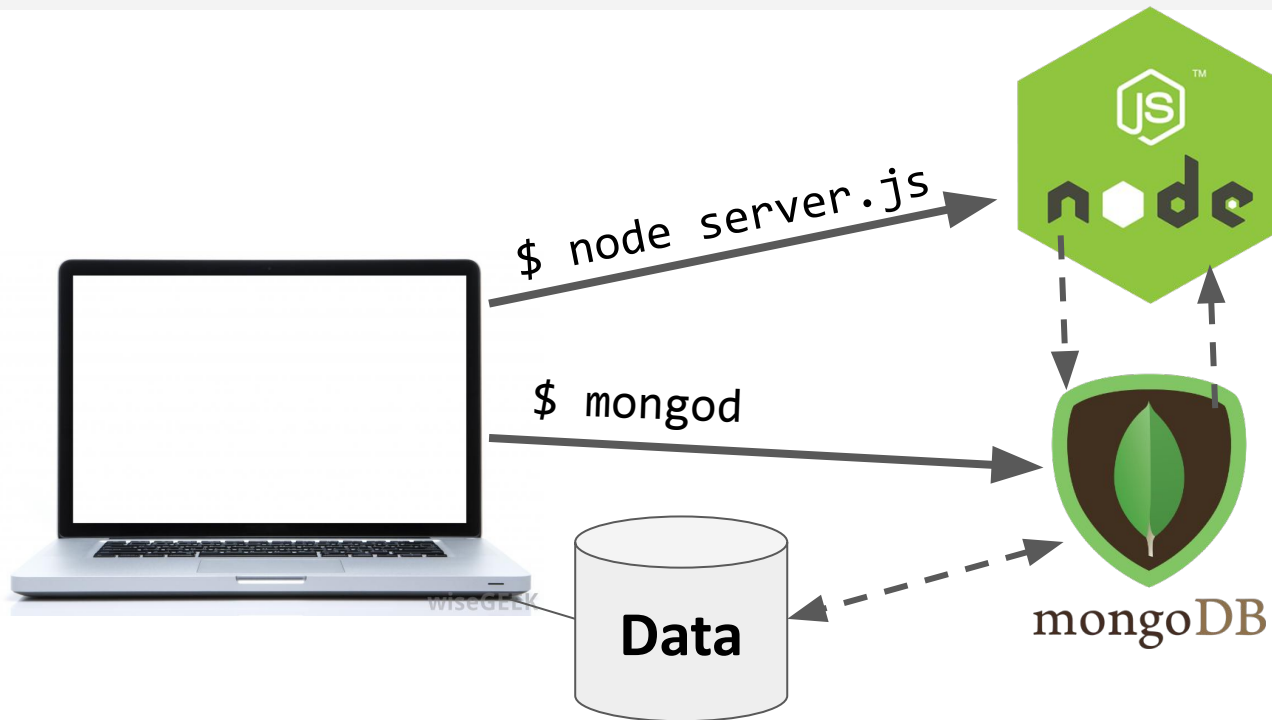


The database the MongoDB Server manages might be local to the server computer...



Or it could be stored on other server computer(s)
("cloud storage").

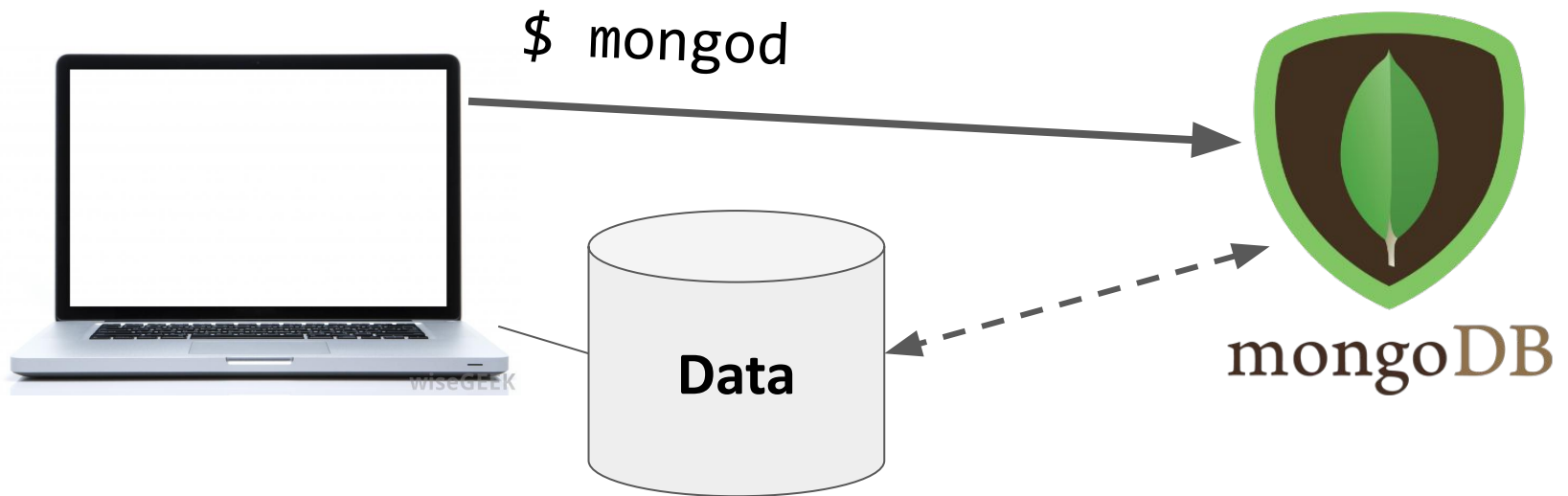
System overview



For development, we will have 2 processes running:

- node will run the main server program on port 3000
- **mongod will run the database server on a port 27017**

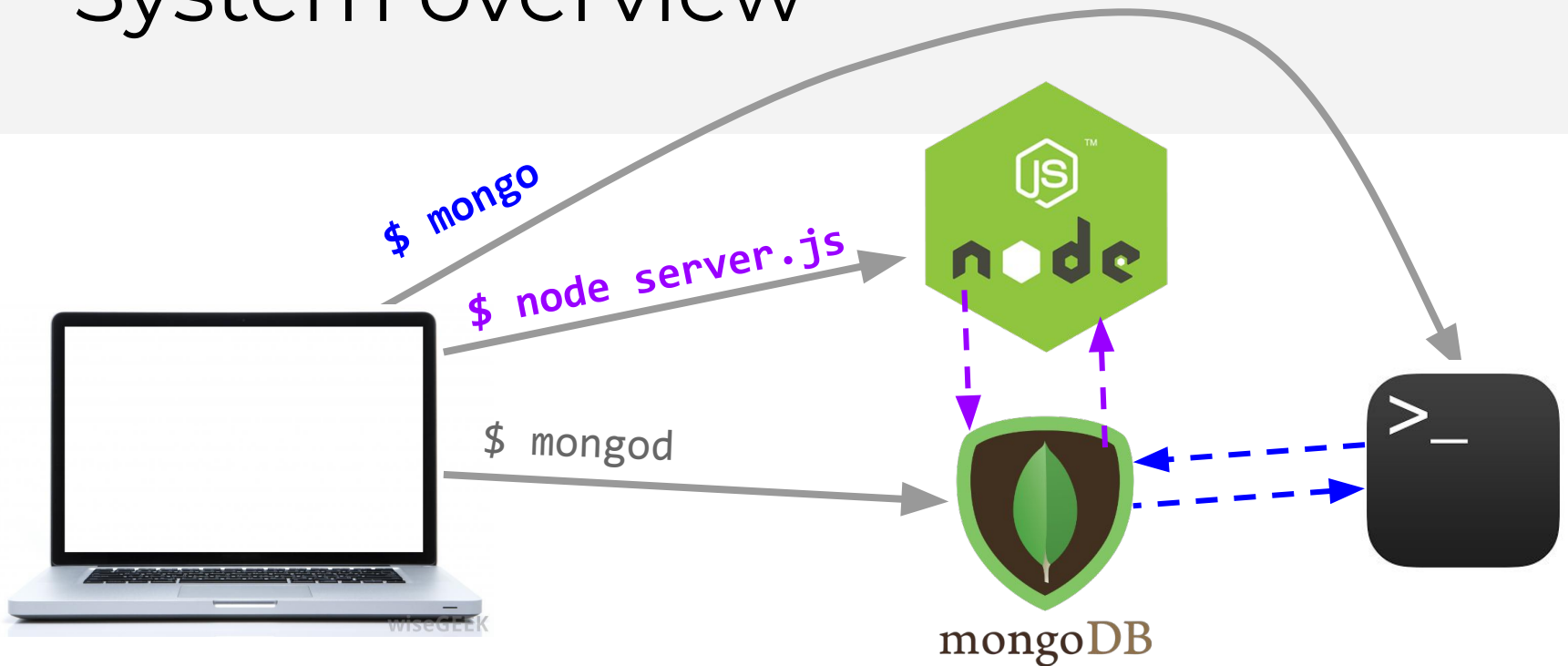
System overview



The mongod server will be bound to port 27017 by default

- The mongod process will be listening for messages to manipulate the database: insert, find, delete, etc.

System overview



We will be using two ways of communicating to the MongoDB server:

- NodeJS libraries
- mongo command-line tool

MongoDB concepts

Database:

- A container of MongoDB **collections**

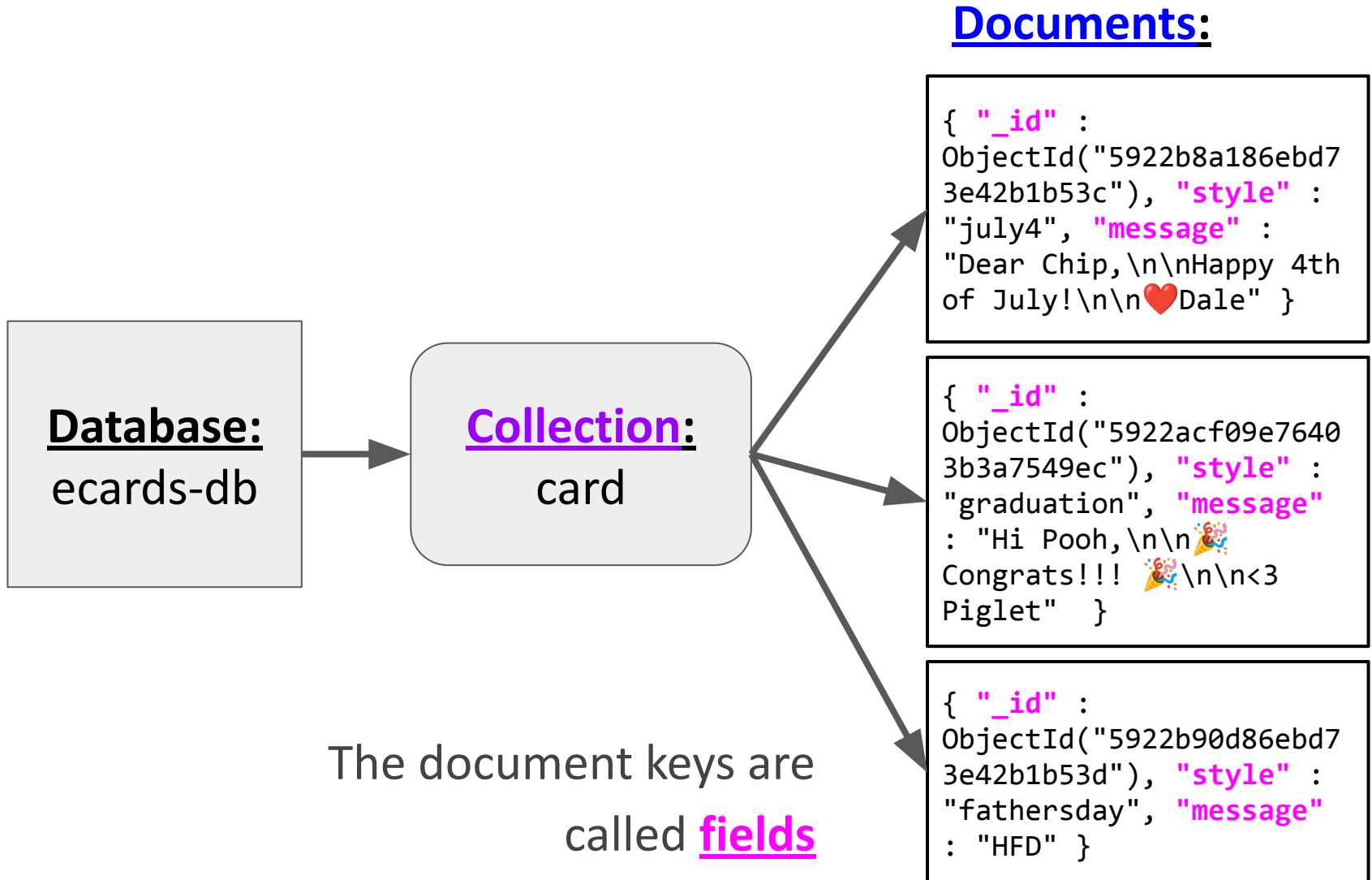
Collection:

- A group of MongoDB **documents**.
- (**Table** in a relational database)

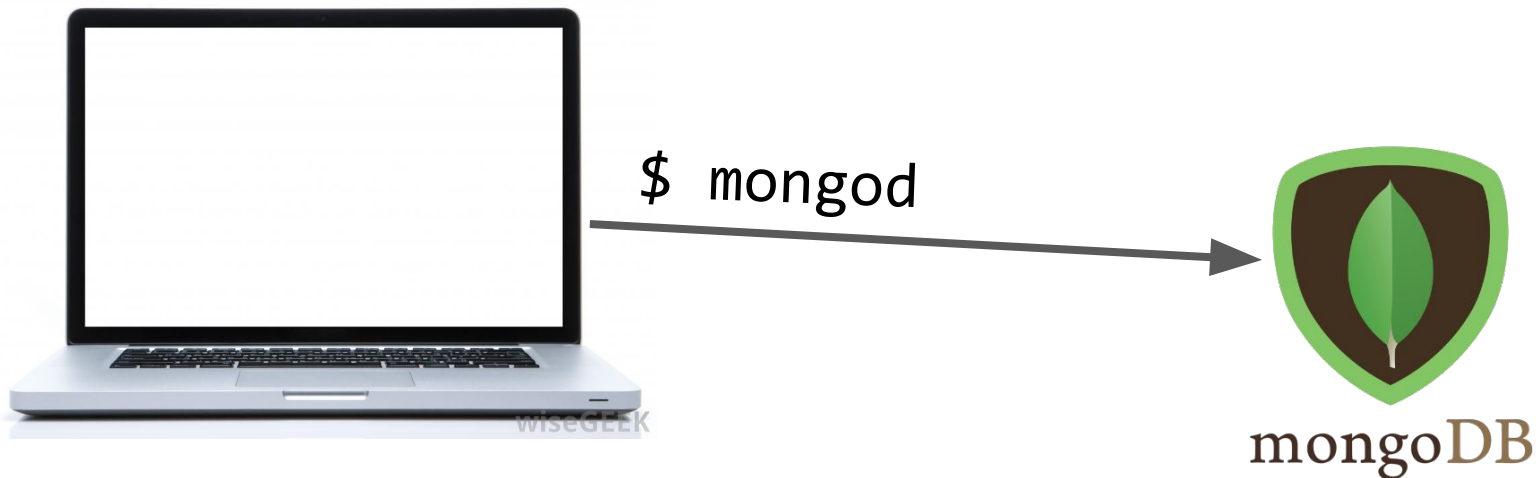
Document:

- A JSON-like object that represents one instance of a collection (**Row** in a relational database)
- Also used more generally to refer to any set of key-value pairs.

MongoDB example



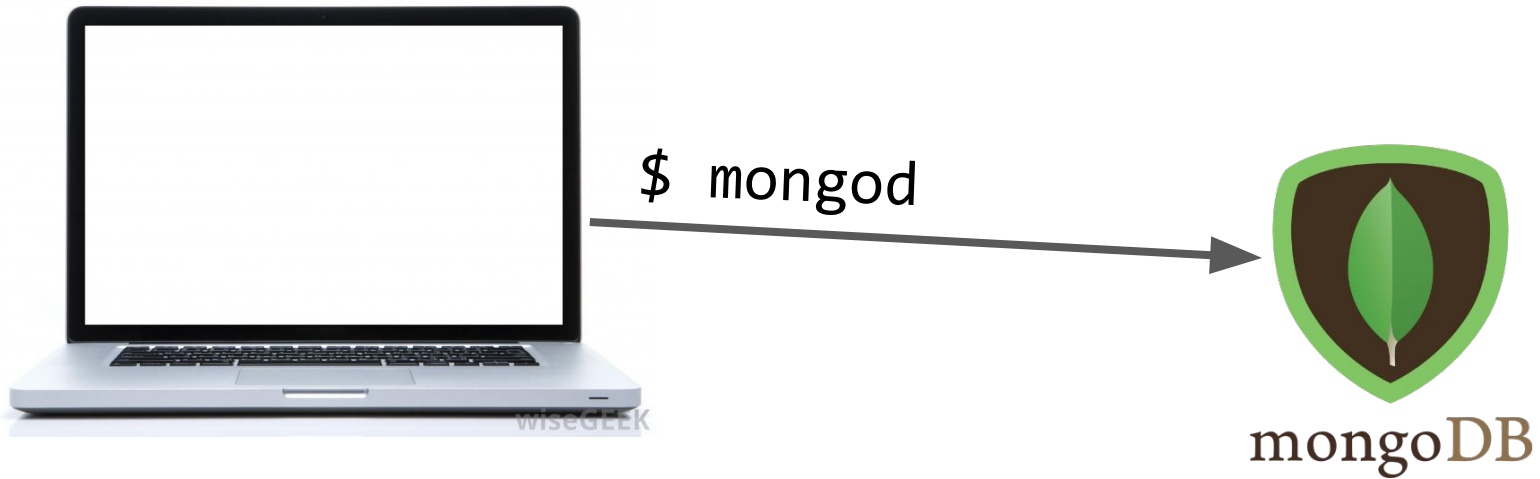
mongod: Database process



When you [install MongoDB](#), it will come with the `mongod` command-line program. This launches the MongoDB database management process and binds it to port 27017:

```
$ mongod
```


mongo: Command-line interface



You can connect to the MongoDB server through the **mongo** shell:

```
$ mongo
```

mongo shell commands

- > show dbs
 - Displays the databases on the MongoDB server
- > use *databaseName*
 - Switches current database to *databaseName*
 - The *databaseName* does not have to exist already
 - It will be created the first time you write data to it
- > show collections
 - Displays the collections for the current database

mongo shell commands

> `db.collection`

- Variable referring to the *collection* collection

> `db.collection.find(query)`

- Prints the results of *collection* matching the query
- The *query* is a MongoDB Document (i.e. a JSON object)
 - To get everything in the *collection* use
`db.collection.find()`
 - To get everything in the collection that matches
`x=foo, db.collection.find({x: 'foo'})`

mongo shell commands

> `db.collection.findOne(query)`

- Prints the first result of *collection* matching the query

> `db.collection.insertOne(document)`

- Adds *document* to the *collection*
- *document* can have any structure

```
> db.test.insertOne({ name: 'dan' })
```

```
> db.test.find()
```

```
{ "_id" : ObjectId("5922c0463fa5b27818795950"), "name" : "dan" }
```

MongoDB will automatically add a unique **_id** to every document in a collection.

mongo shell commands

- > `db.collection.deleteOne(query)`
 - Deletes the first result of **collection** matching the query
- > `db.collection.deleteMany(query)`
 - Delete multiple documents from **collection**.
 - To delete all documents, `db.collection.deleteMany()`
- > `db.collection.drop()`
 - Removes the collection from the database

mongo shell

When should you use the mongo shell?

- Adding test data
- Deleting test data

NodeJS and MongoDB

NodeJS

Recall: 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.');
```

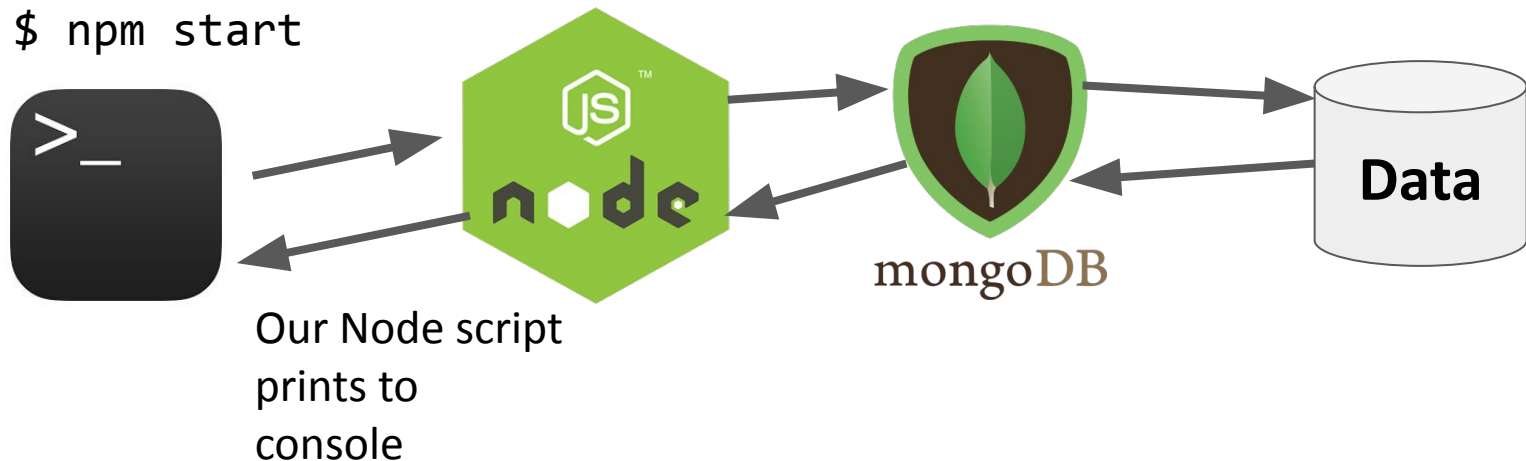


```
  console.log();  
}  
  
printPoem();  
printPoem();
```


Mongo JS scripts

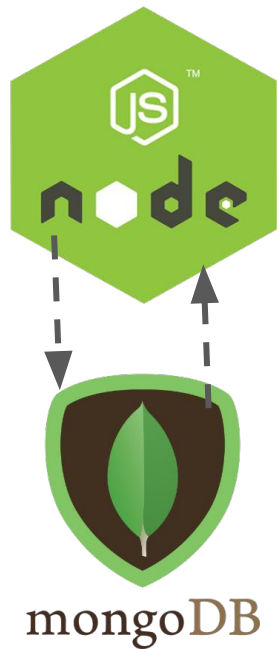
Before we start manipulating MongoDB from the server, let's just write some JavaScript files that will query MongoDB.

```
$ npm start
```



No web servers are involved yet!

NodeJS Driver



To read and write to the MongoDB database from Node we'll be using the 'mongodb' library.

We will install via npm:

```
$ npm install --save mongodb
```

On the MongoDB website, this library is called the ["MongoDB NodeJS Driver"](#)

mongodb objects

The mongodb Node library provides objects to manipulate the database, collections, and documents:

- [Db](#): Database; can get collections using this object
- [Collection](#): Can get/insert/delete documents from this collection via calls like `insertOne`, `find`, etc.
- Documents are not special classes; they are just JavaScript objects

Getting a [Db](#) object

You can get a reference to the database object by using the `MongoClient.connect(url, callback)` function:

- *url* is the connection string for the MongoDB server
- *callback* is the function invoked when connected
 - *database* parameter: the [Db](#) object

```
const DATABASE_NAME = 'eng-dict';
const MONGO_URL = `mongodb://localhost:27017/${DATABASE_NAME}`;

let db = null;
MongoClient.connect(MONGO_URL, function (err, database) {
  db = database;
});
```

Connection string

```
const DATABASE_NAME = 'eng-dict';  
const MONGO_URL = `mongodb://localhost:27017/${DATABASE_NAME}`;
```

- The URL is to a MongoDB server, which is why it begins with `mongodb://` and not `http://`
- The MongoDB server is running on our local machine, which is why we use `localhost`
- The end of the connection string specifies the database name we want to use.
 - If a database of that name doesn't already exist, it will be created the first time we write to it.

[MongoDB Connection string format](#)

Callbacks and Promises

Every asynchronous MongoDB method has two versions:

- Callback
- Promise

The callback version of `MongoClient.connect` is:

```
let db = null;
MongoClient.connect(MONGO_URL, function (err, database) {
  db = database;
});
```

Callbacks and Promises

Every asynchronous MongoDB method has two versions:

- Callback
- Promise

The Promise version is:

```
let db = null;
function onConnected(err, database) {
  db = database;
}
MongoClient.connect(MONGO_URL)
  .then(onConnected);
```

Callbacks and Promises

Every asynchronous MongoDB method has two versions:

- Callback
- Promise

The Promise + async/await version is:

```
let db = null;
async function main() {
  db = await MongoClient.connect(MONGO_URL);
}
main();
```


Using a collection

```
async function main() {  
  db = await MongoClient.connect(MONGO_URL);  
  collection = db.collection('words');  
}  
main();
```

```
const coll = db.collection(collectionName);
```

- Obtains the collection object named *collectionName* and stores it in `coll`
- You do not have to create the collection before using it
 - It will be created the first time we write to it
- This function is **synchronous**

collection.insertOne (Callback)

```
collection.insertOne(doc, callback);
```

- Adds one item to the collection
- ***doc*** is a JavaScript object representing the key-value pairs to add to the collection
- The ***callback*** fires when it has finished inserting
 - The first parameter is an error object
 - The second parameter is a result object, where **result.insertedId** will contain the id of the object that was created

Callback version

```
function insertWord(word, definition) {  
  const doc = {  
    word: word,  
    definition: definition  
  };  
  collection.insertOne(doc, function (err, result) {  
    console.log(`Document id: ${result.insertedId}`);  
  });  
}
```

collection.insertOne (Promise)

```
const result = await collection.insertOne(doc);
```

- Adds one item to the collection
- *doc* is a JavaScript object representing the key-value pairs to add to the collection
- Returns a Promise that resolves to a result object when the insertion has completed
 - `result.insertedId` will contain the id of the object that was created

Promise version

```
async function insertWordAsync(word, definition) {  
  const doc = {  
    word: word,  
    definition: definition  
  };  
  const result = await collection.insertOne(doc);  
  console.log(`Document id: ${result.insertedId}`);  
}
```

We will be using the Promise + async/await versions of all the MongoDB asynchronous functions, as it will help us avoid [callback hell](#)

collection.findOne

```
const doc = await collection.findOne(query);
```

- Finds the first item in the collection that matches the query
- *query* is a JS object representing which fields to match on
- Returns a Promise that resolves to a document object when `findOne` has completed
 - `doc` will be the JS object, so you can access a field via `doc.fieldName`, e.g. `doc._id`
 - If nothing is found, `doc` will be `null`

collection.findOne

```
async function printWord(word) {
  const query = {
    word: word
  };
  const response = await collection.findOne(query);
  console.log(
    `Word: ${response.word},
    definition: ${response.definition}`);
}
```

collection.find()

```
const cursor = await collection.find(query);
```

- Returns a [Cursor](#) pointing to the first entry of a set of documents matching the query
- You can use `hasNext` and `next` to iterate through the list:

```
async function printAllWordsCursor() {  
  const cursor = await collection.find();  
  while (await cursor.hasNext()) {  
    const result = await cursor.next();  
    console.log(`Word: ${result.word}, definition: ${result.definition}`);  
  }  
}
```

(This is an example of something that is **a lot** easier to do with `async/await`)

collection.find().toArray()

```
const cursor = await collection.find(query);  
const list = await cursor.toArray();
```

- [Cursor](#) also has a `toArray()` function that converts the results to an array

```
async function printAllWords() {  
  const results = await collection.find().toArray();  
  for (const result of results) {  
    console.log(`Word: ${result.word}, definition: ${result.definition}`);  
  }  
}
```

collection.update

```
await collection.update(query, newEntry);
```

- Replaces the item matching *query* with *newEntry*
 - (Note: This is the simplest version of update. There are more complex versions of update that we will address later.)

collection.update

```
async function updateWord(word, definition) {  
  const query = {  
    word: word  
  };  
  const newEntry = {  
    word: word,  
    definition: definition  
  };  
  const response = await collection.update(query, newEntry);  
}
```

"Upsert" with collection.update

MongoDB also supports "upsert", which is

- Update the entry if it already exists
- Insert the entry if it doesn't already exist

```
const params = { upsert: true };  
await collection.update(query, newEntry, params);
```

"Upsert" with collection.update

```
async function upsertWord(word, definition) {
  const query = {
    word: word
  };
  const newEntry = {
    word: word,
    definition: definition
  };
  const params = {
    upsert: true
  }
  const response = await collection.update(query, newEntry, params);
}
```

collection.deleteOne/Many

```
const result = await collection.deleteOne(query);
```

- Deletes the first the item matching *query*
- `result.deletedCount` gives the number of docs deleted

```
const result = await collection.deleteMany(query);
```

- Deletes all items matching *query*
- `result.deletedCount` gives the number of docs deleted
- Use `collection.deleteMany()` to delete everything

collection.deleteOne

```
async function deleteWord(word) {  
  const query = {  
    word: word  
  };  
  const response = await collection.deleteOne(query);  
  console.log(`Number deleted: ${response.deletedCount}`);  
}
```

collection.deleteMany

```
async function deleteAllWords() {  
  const response = await collection.deleteMany();  
  console.log(`Number deleted: ${response.deletedCount}`);  
}
```


Advanced queries

MongoDB has a very powerful querying syntax that we did not cover in these examples.

For more complex queries, check out:

- [Querying](#)

- [Query selectors and projection operators](#)

- `db.collection('inventory').find({ qty: { $lt: 30 } });`

- [Updating](#)

- [Update operators](#)

- `db.collection('words').updateOne(
 { word: searchWord },
 { $set: { definition: newDefinition } })`

Looking up documents by
MongoDB id (ObjectID)

MongoDB: `_id`

MongoDB **creates a unique id** for each doc it creates.

- This is stored in a `_id` field and consists of a string stored in an [ObjectID](#) object.

```
> db.people.insertOne({ name: 'Mary' })
```

```
> db.people.findOne({name: "Mary"})
{ "_id" : ObjectId("59287fde798a736faf91b8e"), "name" : "Mary" }
```

Recall the id is returned after we've inserted a new document:

```
const result = await collection.insertOne(doc);
```

- `result.insertedId` will contain the `_id` of the object that was created

Find by Mongo ID: ObjectId

Let's say you have a route that creates documents:

```
async function onSaveCard(req, res) {
  const style = req.body.style;
  const message = req.body.message;

  const doc = {
    style: style,
    message: message
  };
  const collection = db.collection('card');
  const response = await collection.insertOne(doc);

  res.json({ cardId: response.insertedId });
}
app.post('/save', bodyParser, onSaveCard);
```

Find by Mongo ID: ObjectId

Let's say you have a route that creates documents:

```
async function onSaveCard(req, res) {  
  const style = req.body.style;  
  const message = req.body.message;  
  
  const doc = {  
    style: style,  
    message: message  
  };  
  const collection = db.collection('cards');  
  const response = await collection.insertOne(doc);  
  
  res.json({ cardId: response.insertedId });  
}  
app.post('/save', bodyParser.json, onSaveCard);
```

You are returning the MongoDB-generated unique ID for the document, for querying later.

Find by Mongo ID: ObjectID

If you want to find a document by its MongoDB generated `_id` field, **you must wrap the string id in an [ObjectID](#)**.

- You need to import the `ObjectID` class first.

```
const ObjectID = require('mongodb').ObjectID;
```

```
async function onGetCard(req, res) {  
  const cardId = req.params.cardId;  
  const collection = db.collection('card');  
  const response = await collection.findOne({ _id: ObjectID(cardId) });  
  
  res.render('card', { message: response.message, style: response.style });  
}  
app.get('/id/:cardId', onGetCard);
```

Find by Mongo ID: ObjectId

If you want to find a document by its MongoDB generated `_id` field, **you must wrap the string id in an [ObjectId](#).**

- You need to import the `ObjectId` class first.

```
const ObjectId = require('mongodb').ObjectId;
```

```
async function onGetCard(req, res) {  
  const cardId = req.params.cardId;  
  const collection = db.collection('card');  
  const response = await collection.findOne({ _id: ObjectId(cardId) });  
  
  res.render('card', { message: response.message, style: response.style });  
}  
app.get('/id/:cardId', onGetCard);
```

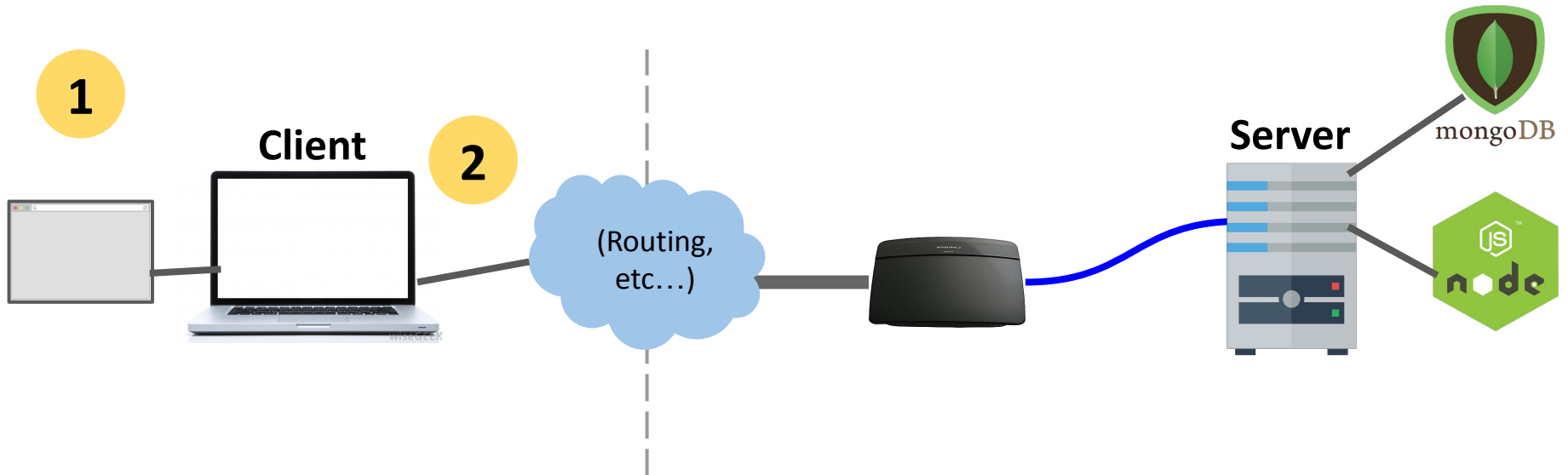
Using MongoDB in a server

Dictionary with MongoDB

Let's change our Dictionary example to use a MongoDB backend instead of dictionary.json.



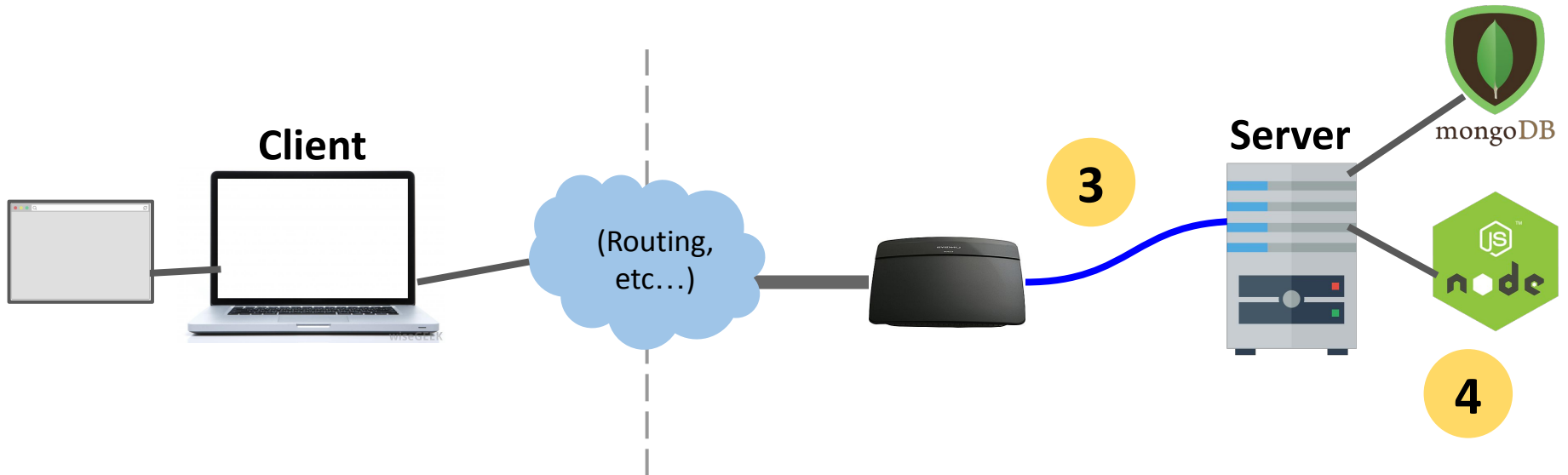
Review system



If we deployed our dictionary web app to abc.com:

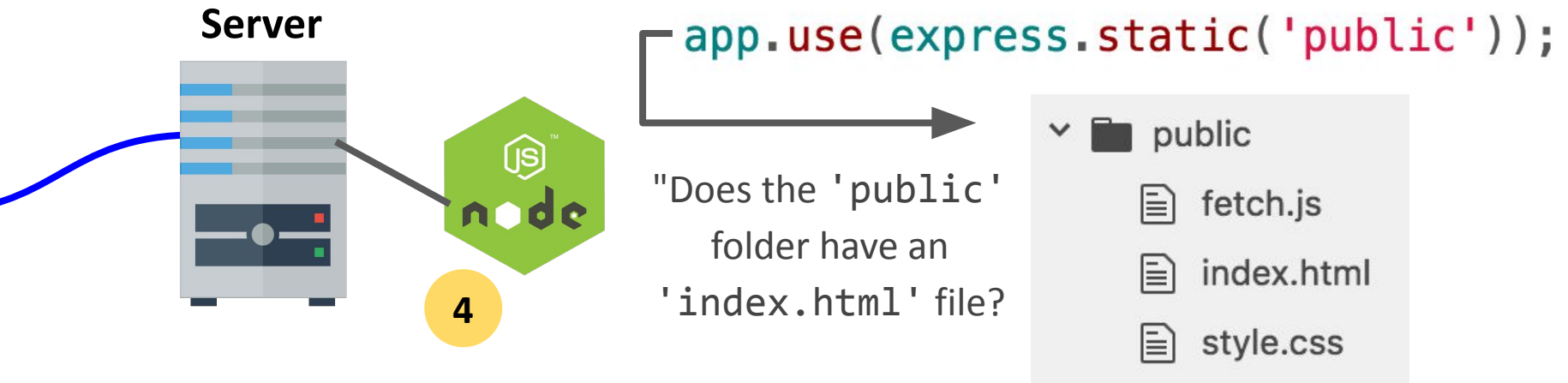
1. The user navigates to abc.com
2. The browser makes an HTTP GET request for abc.com

Review system



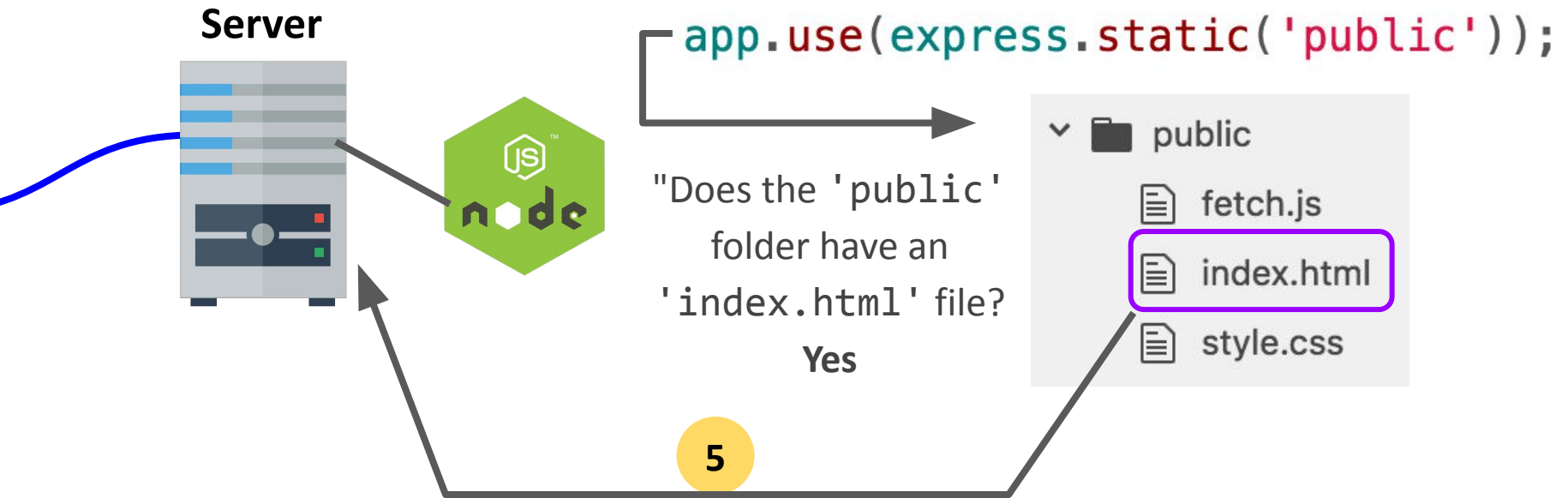
3. The server computer that is located at abc.com receives the HTTP GET request
4. The server computer gives the NodeJS server process the HTTP GET request message

Review system



Our NodeJS server code has `app.use(express.static('public'))`; so it will first look to see if an `index.html` file exists in the `public` directory.

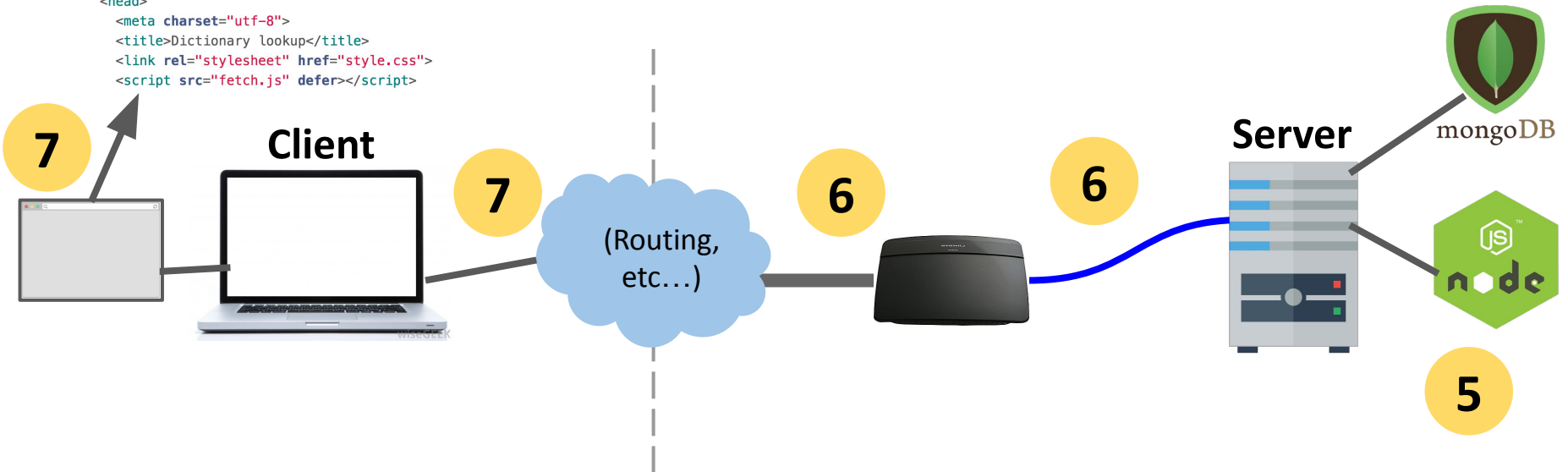
Review system



5. Since there is an index.html file, our NodeJS server will respond with the index.html file

Review system

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title>Dictionary lookup</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
    <script src="fetch.js" defer></script>
```

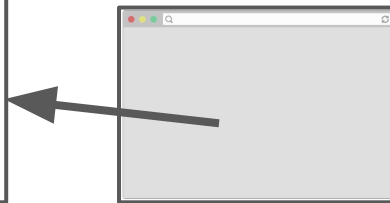


5. Our Node server program replies with the index.html file
6. The server computer sends back the index.html file
7. The browser receives the index.html file and begins to render it

Review system

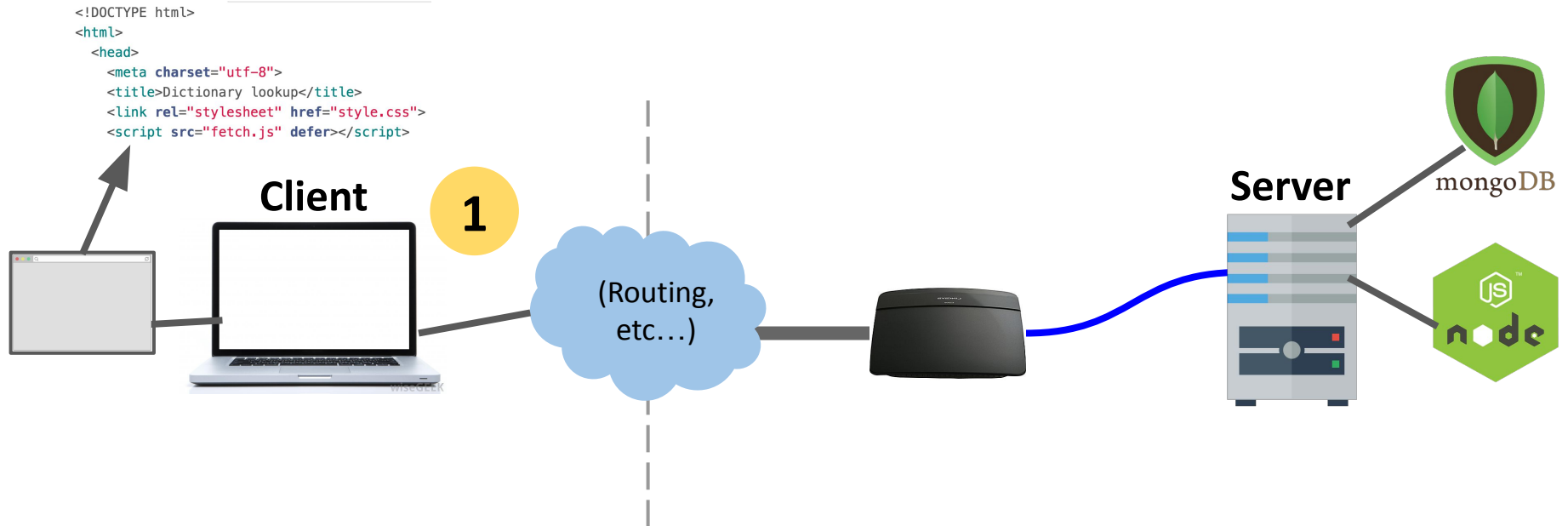
```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">  
<script src="fetch.js" defer></script>
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
  <head>  
    <meta charset="utf-8">  
    <title>Dictionary lookup</title>  
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">  
    <script src="fetch.js" defer></script>
```



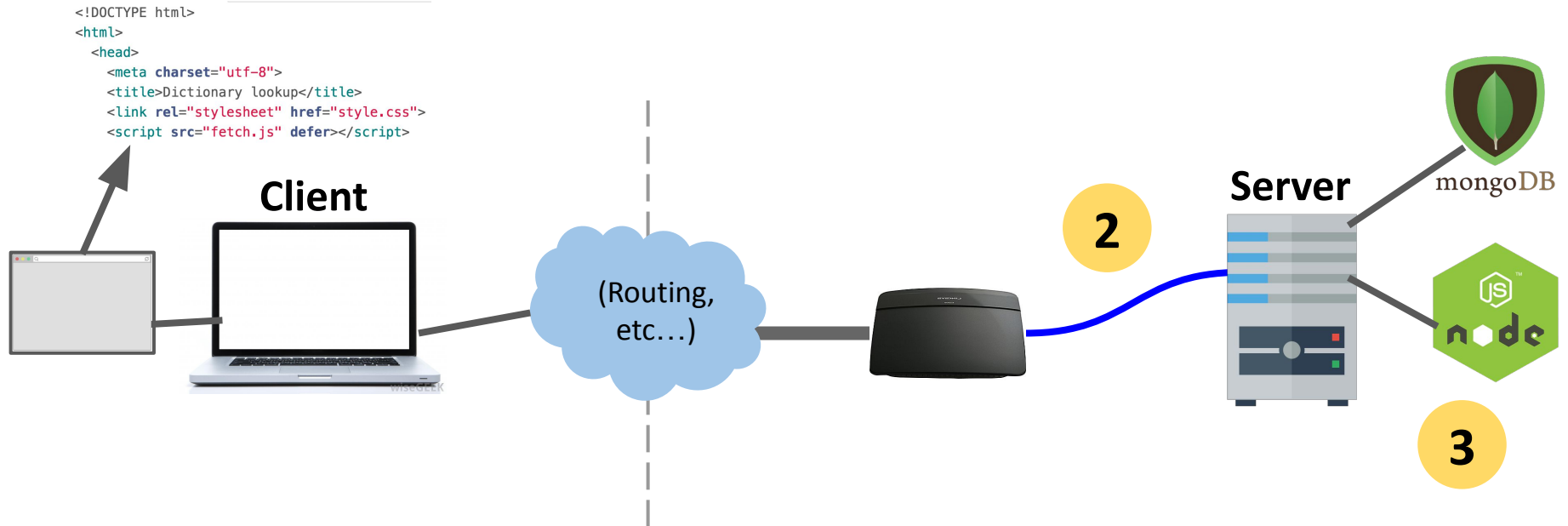
8. In rendering the HTML, the browser sees it needs style.css and fetch.js

Review system



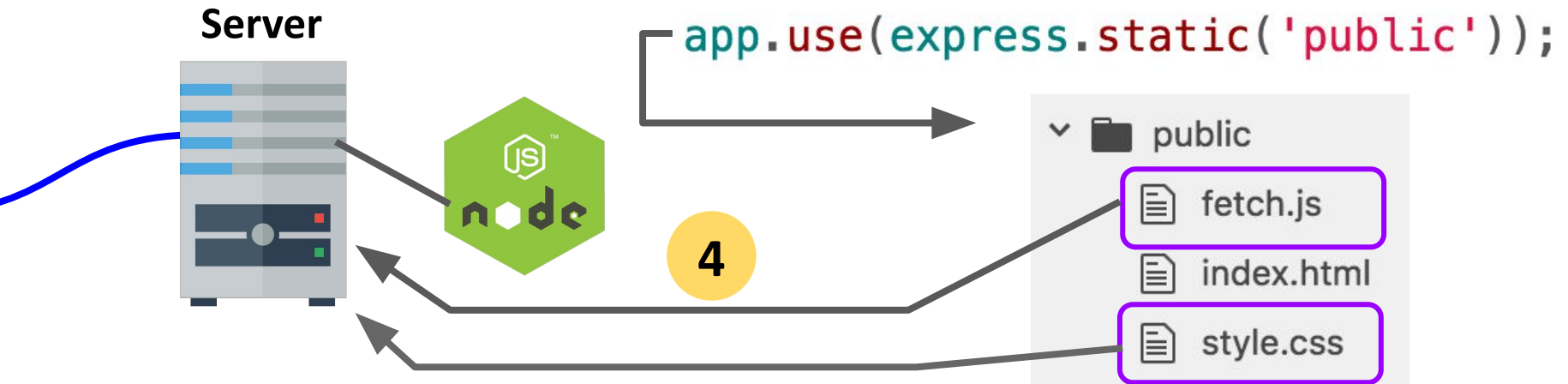
1. So the browser makes two more HTTP GET requests:
 - One for style.css
 - One for script.js

Review system



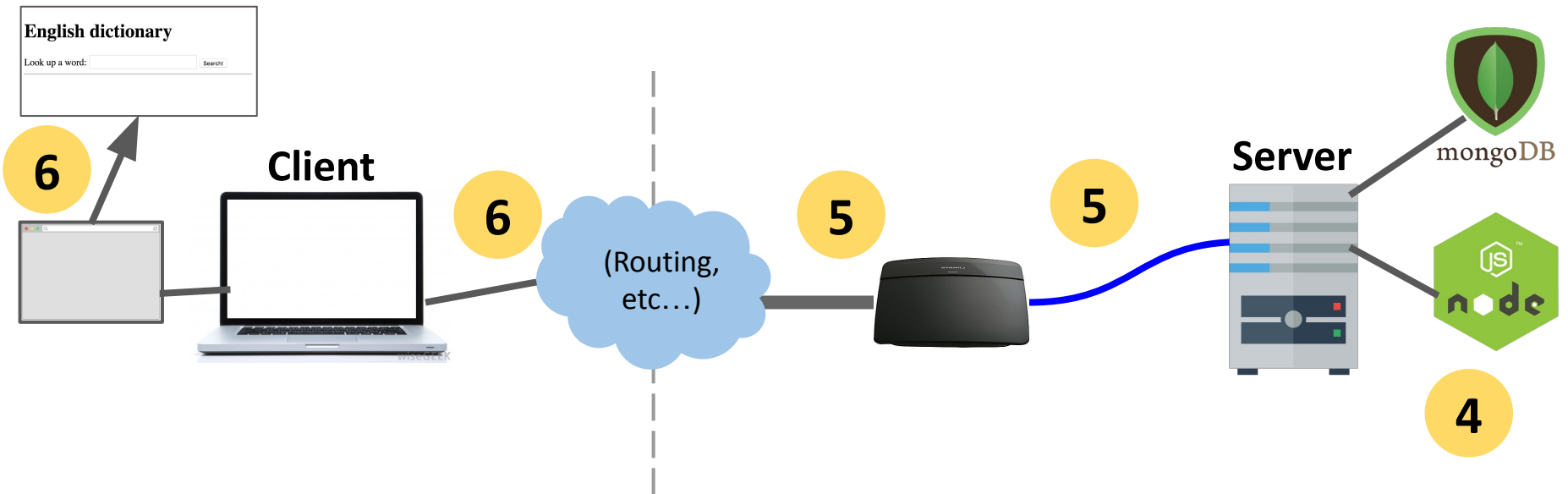
2. These GET requests get routed to the server computer
3. The server computer sends the GET requests to our NodeJS process

Review system



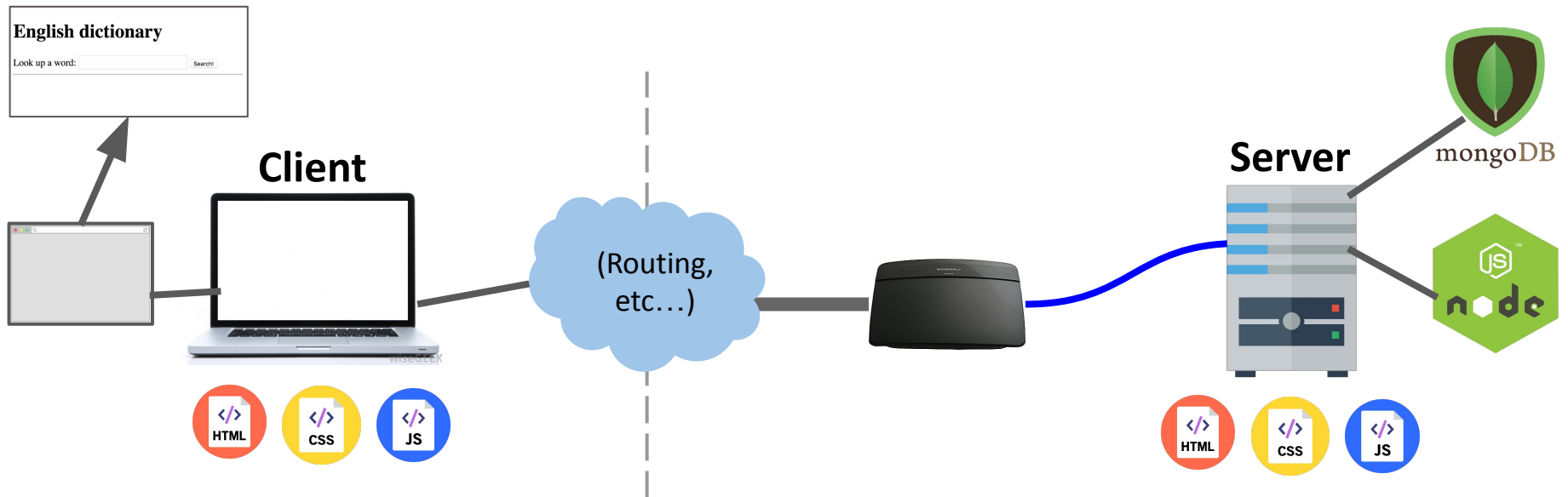
4. Our NodeJS server code finds fetch.js and style.css in the public directory, so it responds with those files

Review system



4. Our Node server program replies with the `style.css` and `fetch.js` files
5. The server computer sends these files back to the client
6. The browser receives the files and continues rendering `index.html`

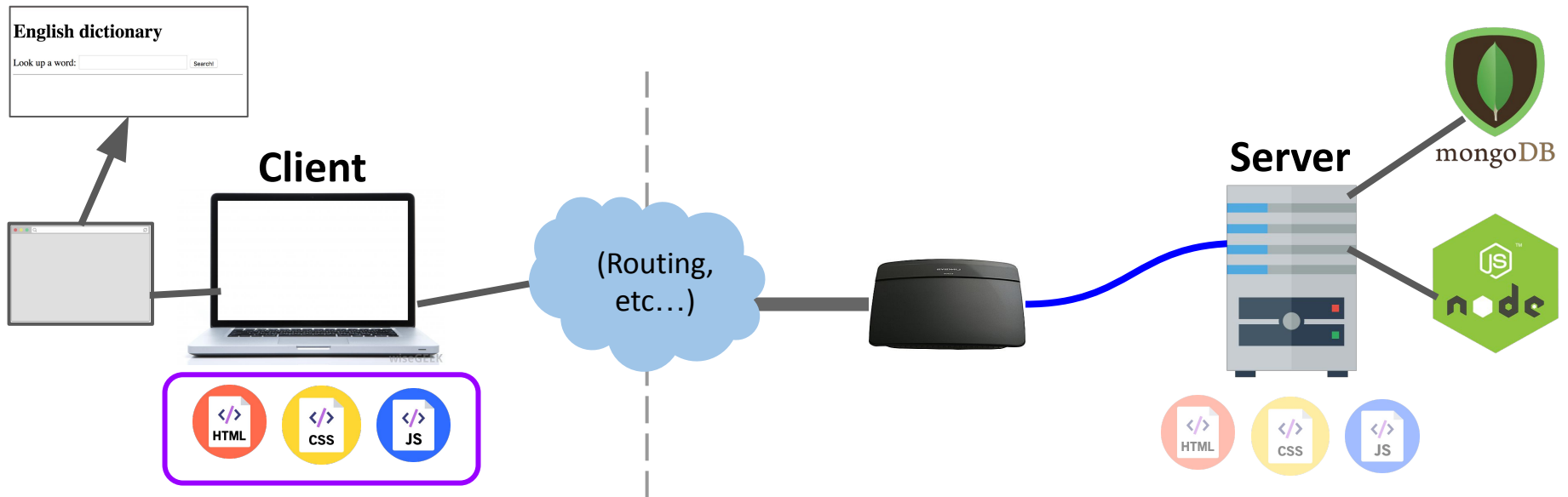
Review system



In this picture, there are **two copies** of index.html, style.css, and fetch.js:

- The server computer has these files stored in its file system
- The browser has just downloaded the files from the server

Review system



The server computer **provided** the files.

But the client computer is going to **execute** the files.

- So the code in `fetch.js` is going to be run on the client, not on the server.

Review system

English dictionary

Look up a word:

1

```
const searchForm = document.querySelector('#search');  
searchForm.addEventListener('submit', onSearch);
```



Client

1. The client has rendered the page and ran the JavaScript in `fetch.js` to attach the event listeners.
2. Then, when we enter a word and hit "Search"...

Review system

2

English dictionary

Look up a word:



Client

```
async function onSearch(event) {  
  event.preventDefault();  
  const input = document.querySelector('#word-input');  
  const word = input.value.trim();  
  const result = await fetch('/lookup/' + word);  
  const json = await result.json();  
}
```

2. ...the onSearch function is executed on the client.

Review system



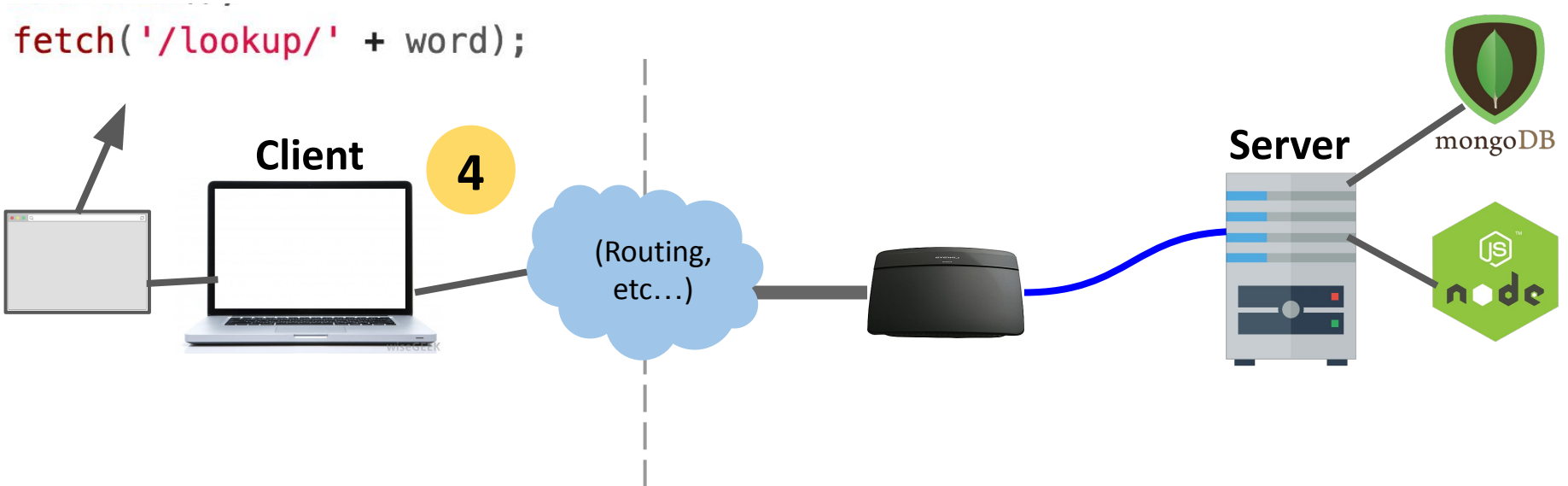
Client

3

```
async function onSearch(event) {  
  event.preventDefault();  
  const input = document.querySelector('#word-input');  
  const word = input.value.trim();  
  const result = await fetch('/lookup/' + word);  
  const json = await result.json();  
}
```

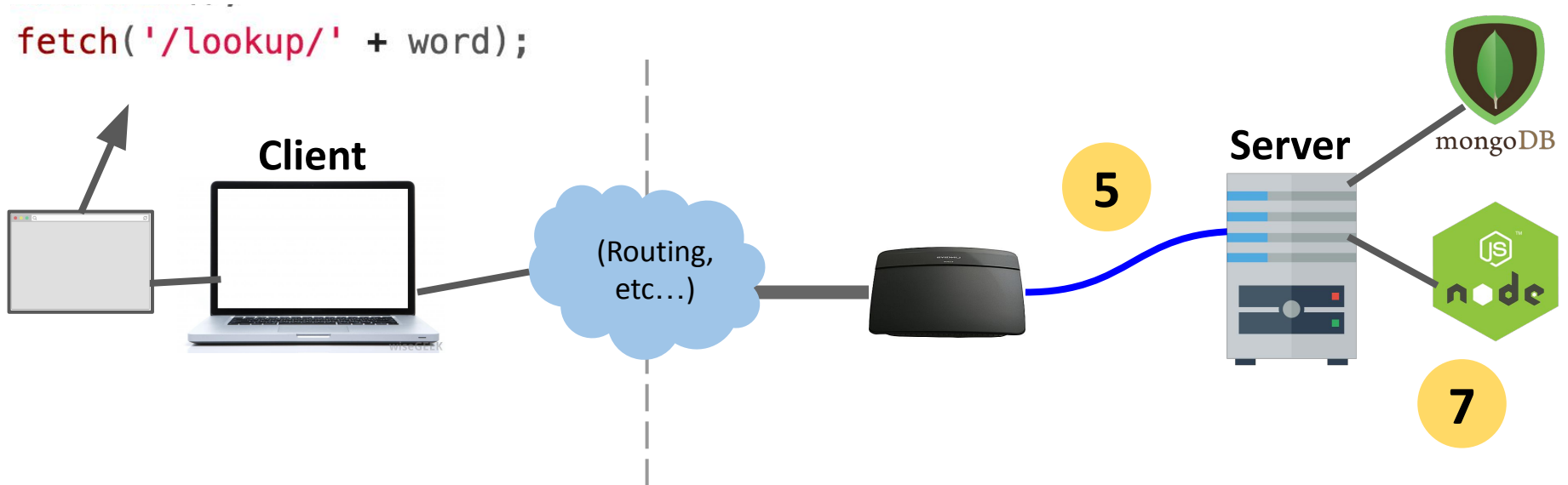
3. Our onSearch function includes a call to `fetch()`, which is going to trigger another HTTP GET request, this time for `abc.com/lookup/cat`.

Review system



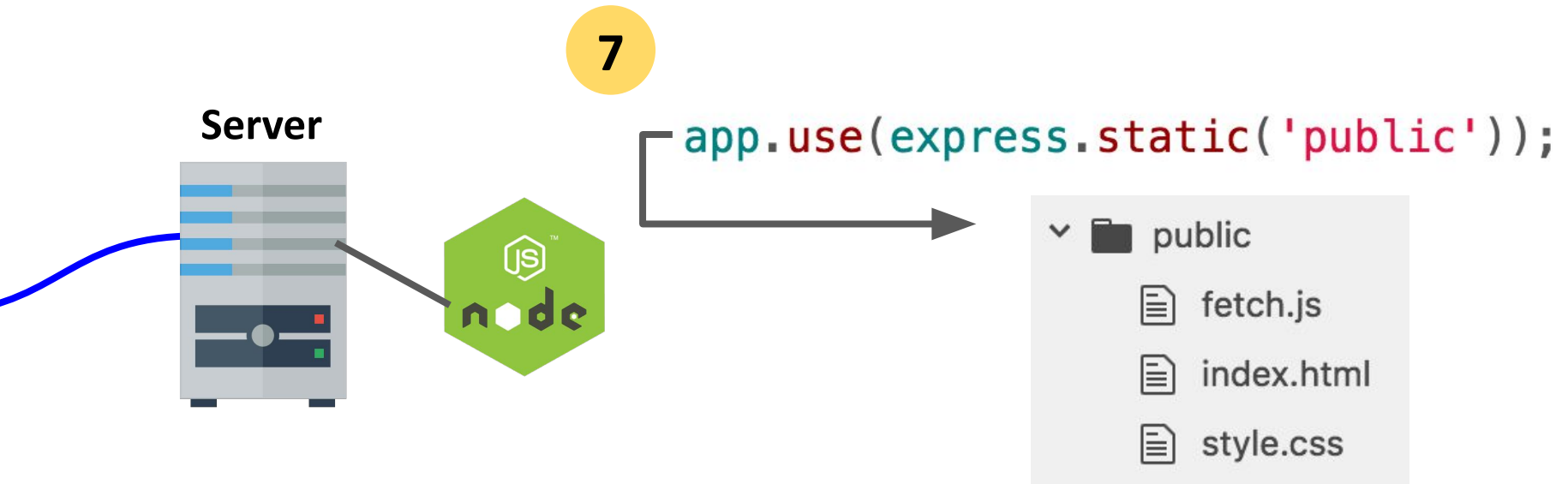
4. Because of the call to `fetch()`, the browser makes an HTTP GET request for `abc.com/lookup/cat`.

Review system



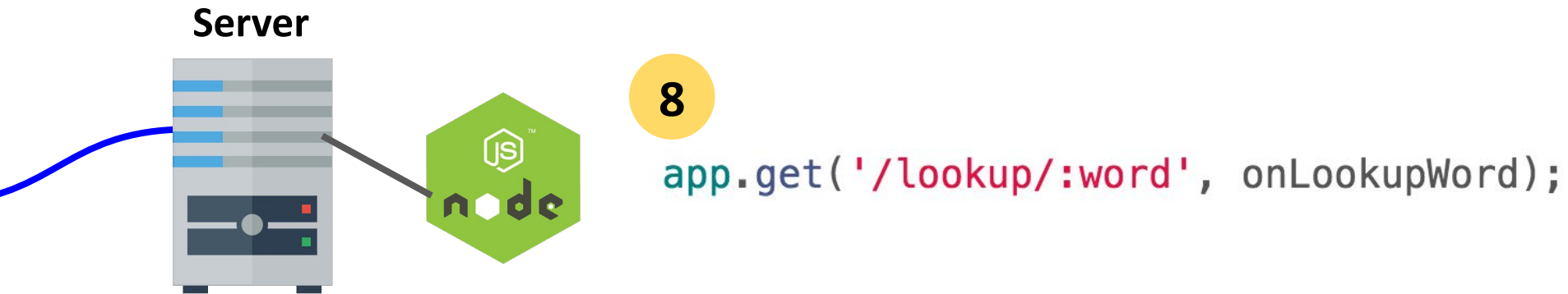
5. These GET requests get routed to the server computer
6. The server computer sends the GET requests to our NodeJS process

Review system



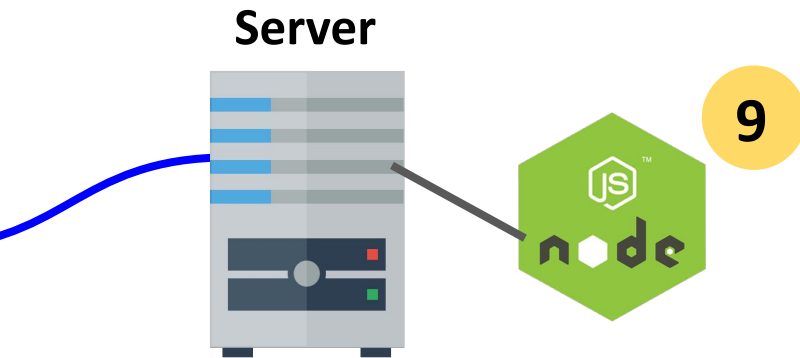
7. Our NodeJS server code first tries to see whether there's an "lookup/cat/index.html" in the public directory.

Review system



8. "public/lookup/cat/index.html" doesn't exist, so now it sees whether there's a route that matches GET "/lookup/cat":
- '/lookup/:word' matches, so onLookupWord is executed on the server

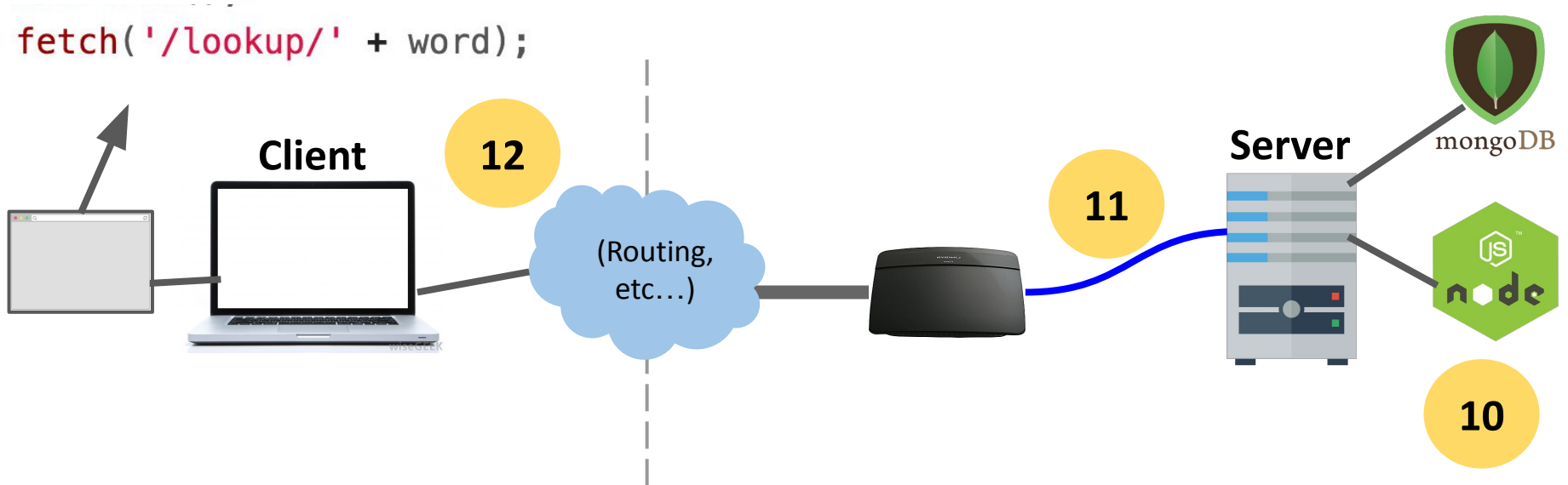
Review system



```
function onLookupWord(req, res) {  
  const routeParams = req.params;  
  const word = routeParams.word;  
  
  const key = word.toLowerCase();  
  const definition = englishDictionary[key];  
  
  res.json({  
    word: word,  
    definition: definition  
  });  
}
```

9. In the version we wrote before, we get the definition from the JSON dictionary file that's also located on the server.
- We'll change this to query MongoDB instead.

Review system



10. Our Node server program replies with JSON

11. The server computer sends JSON back to the client

12. The browser receives the JSON and continues executing the JavaScript

Review system

13

```
const result = await fetch('/lookup/' + word);  
const json = await result.json();
```

```
wordDisplay.textContent = json.word;  
defDisplay.textContent = json.definition;  
results.classList.remove('hidden');
```

```
}
```



Client

13. The onSearch function continues executing with the JSON results and updates the client page.

Review system



Client

English dictionary

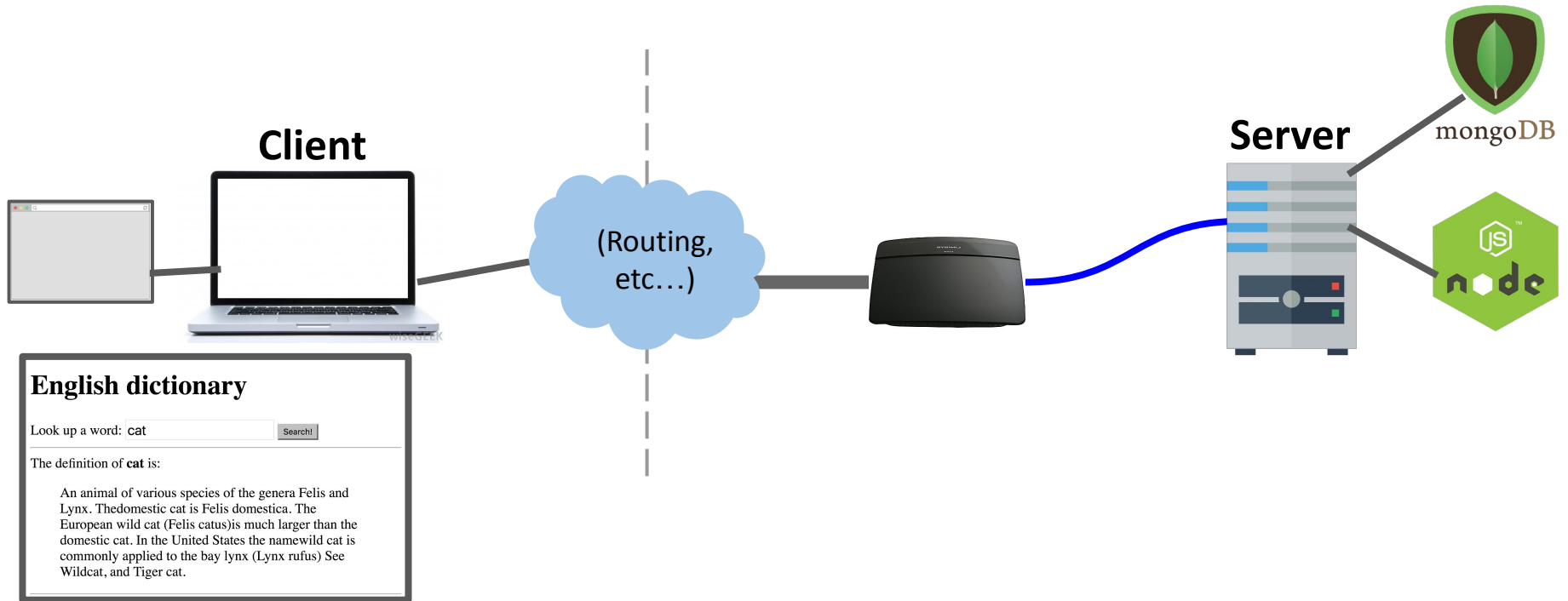
Look up a word:

Search!

The definition of **cat** is:

An animal of various species of the genera Felis and Lynx. The domestic cat is Felis domestica. The European wild cat (Felis catus) is much larger than the domestic cat. In the United States the name wild cat is commonly applied to the bay lynx (Lynx rufus) See Wildcat, and Tiger cat.

Review system



The server **generated** the JSON with the word and definition.
The client **consumed** the JSON with the word and definition.

Using MongoDB in a server

Starting a server: Before

```
async function startServer() {  
  await app.listen(3000);  
  console.log('Listening on port 3000');  
}  
startServer();
```

(Previous code: This **doesn't** use MongoDB)

Starting a server: After

```
async function startServer() {  
  db = await MongoClient.connect(MONGO_URL);  
  collection = db.collection('words');  
  await app.listen(3000);  
  console.log('Listening on port 3000');  
}  
startServer();
```

Starting a server: After

```
const DATABASE_NAME = 'eng-dict';
const MONGO_URL = `mongodb://localhost:27017/${DATABASE_NAME}`;

let db = null;
let collection = null;

async function startServer() {
  // Set the db and collection variables before starting the server.
  db = await MongoClient.connect(MONGO_URL);
  collection = db.collection('words');
  // Now every route can safely use the db and collection objects.
  await app.listen(3000);
  console.log('Listening on port 3000');
}
startServer();
```

Example: Dictionary

We want our server to load definitions from the dictionary...

English dictionary

Look up a word:

The definition of **cat** is:

An animal of various species of the genera Felis and Lynx. The domestic cat is Felis domestica. The European wild cat (Felis catus) is much larger than the domestic cat. In the United States the name wild cat is commonly applied to the bay lynx (Lynx rufus) See Wildcat, and Tiger cat.

JSON Dictionary lookup

```
function onLookupWord(req, res) {  
  const routeParams = req.params;  
  const word = routeParams.word;  
  
  const key = word.toLowerCase();  
  const definition = englishDictionary[key];  
  
  res.json({  
    word: word,  
    definition: definition  
  });  
}  
app.get('/lookup/:word', onLookupWord);
```

(Previous code: This **doesn't** use MongoDB)

MongoDB Dictionary lookup

```
async function onLookupWord(req, res) {
  const routeParams = req.params;
  const word = routeParams.word;

  const query = { word: word.toLowerCase() };
  const result = await collection.findOne(query);

  const response = {
    word: word,
    definition: result ? result.definition : ''
  };
  res.json(response);
}
app.get('/lookup/:word', onLookupWord);
```


Dictionary with MongoDB

And we want to modify
definitions in the
dictionary:



JSON Dictionary write

```
async function onSetWord(req, res) {
  const routeParams = req.params;
  const word = routeParams.word;

  const definition = req.body.definition;
  const key = word.toLowerCase();
  englishDictionary[key] = definition;

  // Write the entry back to the JSON file.
  await fse.writeJson('./dictionary.json', englishDictionary);
  res.json({ success: true });
}
app.post('/set/:word', jsonParser, onSetWord);
```

(Previous
code: This
doesn't use
MongoDB)

MongoDB Dictionary write

```
async function onSetWord(req, res) {
  const routeParams = req.params;
  const word = routeParams.word.toLowerCase();
  const definition = req.body.definition;

  const query = { word: word };
  const newEntry = { word: word, definition: definition };
  const params = { upsert: true };
  const response =
    await collection.update(query, newEntry, params);

  res.json({ success: true });
}
app.post('/set/:word', bodyParser, onSetWord);
```

Another example: E-cards

Example: E-cards

We'll be creating an e-card app, whose data is saved in a MongoDB database:

CS193x e-cards

Preview



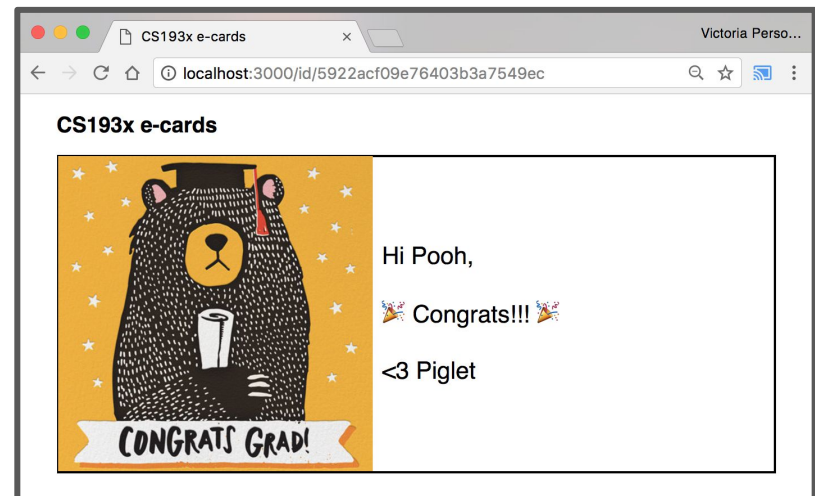
Hi Pooh,
🎉 Congrats!!! 🎉
<3 Piglet

Choose a style:
Happy Graduation ▾

Write a message:

Hi Pooh,
🎉 Congrats!!! 🎉
<3 Piglet

Create card




Setup

When the user loads to an index page, we want to present them with an E-Card Maker UI

CS193x e-cards

Preview



Hi Pooh,
🎉 Congrats!!! 🎉
<3 Piglet

Choose a style:

Happy Graduation ▾

Write a message:

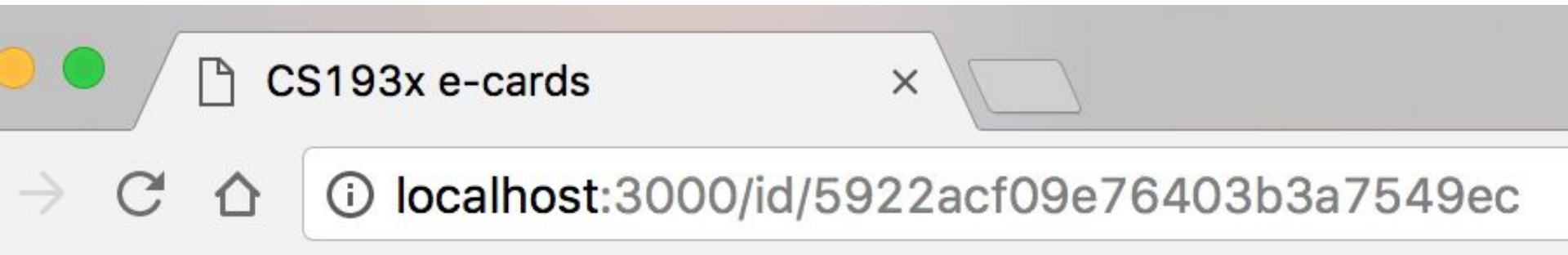
Hi Pooh,
🎉 Congrats!!! 🎉
<3 Piglet

Create card

Setup

When the user has created an e-card, we want it accessible via URL of this form:

`/id/<ecard_id>`



Step 1: Saving data

We'll need to save 3 pieces of data:

- Card style
- Card message
- A unique id for each card

Choose a style:

Happy Graduation ▾

Write a message:

Hi Pooh,

🎉 Congrats!!! 🎉

<3 Piglet

Create card

Example: E-card saving data

```
async function onSaveCard(req, res) {
  const style = req.body.style;
  const message = req.body.message;
  const doc = {
    style: style,
    message: message
  };

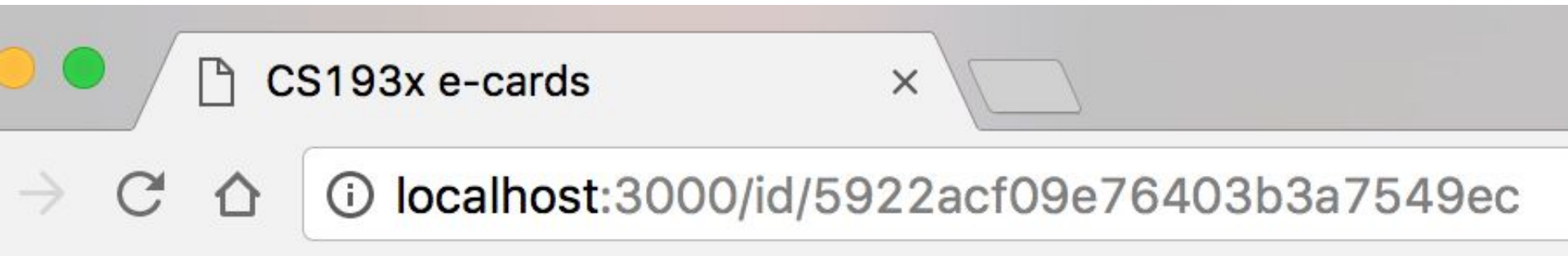
  const collection = db.collection('card');
  const response = await collection.insertOne(doc);

  res.json({ cardId: response.insertedId });
}
app.post('/save', bodyParser, onSaveCard);
```

Step 2: Loading a card

When the user has created an e-card, we want it accessible via URL of this form:

`/id/<ecard_id>`

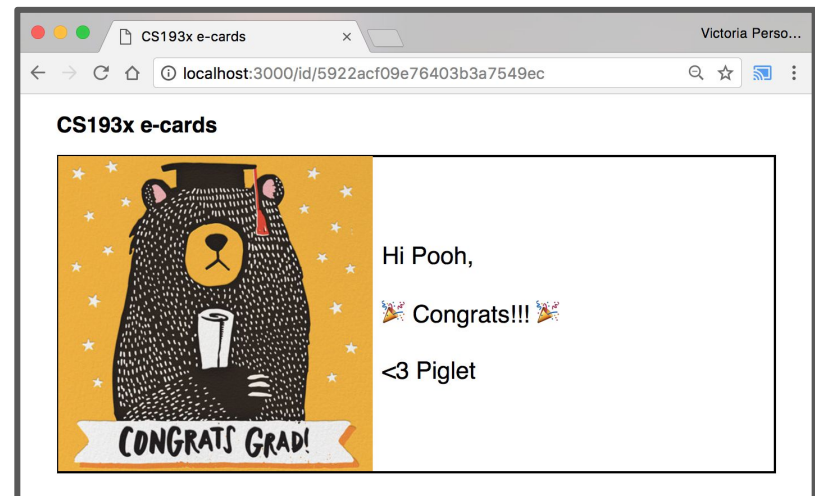


Web app architecture

How do we implement an app so that to show a different view depending on the URL path?



Create-a-card:
localhost:3000/



View card:
localhost:3000/id/<card_id>

Web app architectures

Structuring a web app

There are roughly 4 strategies for architecting a web application:

1. **Server-side rendering:**

Server sends a new HTML page for each unique path

2. **Single-page application:**

Server sends the exact same web page for every unique path (and the page runs JS to change what it look like)

3. Combination of 1 and 2 ("**Isomorphic**" / "**Universal**")

4. **Progressive Loading**

(Short take on these)

1. Server-side rendering:

- **CS193X:** We will show you how to do this

2. Single-page application:

- **CS193X:** We will show you how to do this

3. Combination of 1 and 2 ("**Isomorphic**" / "**Universal**")

- This is probably the most common technique
- **CS193X:** We will talk about this but won't show you how to code it

4. Progressive Loading

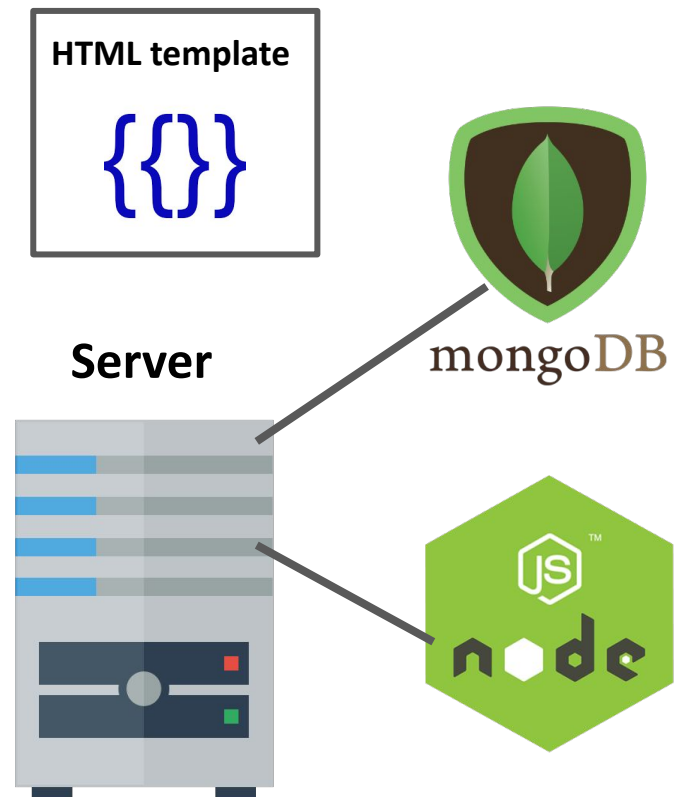
- This is probably the future (but it's complex)
- **CS193X:** We will talk about this but won't show you how to code it

Server-side rendering

Server-side rendering

Multi-page web app:

- The server generates a different web page
- Usually involves filling out and returning an HTML template in response to a request
 - This is done by a **templating engine**: Jade, Handlebars, etc



Handlebars: Template engine

We will be showing the [Handlebars](#) template engine:

- Handlebars lets you write templates in HTML
- You can embed `{{ placeholders }}` within the HTML that get filled in.
- Your templates are saved in `.handlebars` files

```
<div class="entry">
  <h1>{{title}}</h1>
  <div class="body">
    {{body}}
  </div>
</div>
```

Handlebars and NodeJS

You can setup Handlebars and NodeJS using the `express-handlebars` NodeJS library:

```
const exphbs = require('express-handlebars');
```

```
...
```

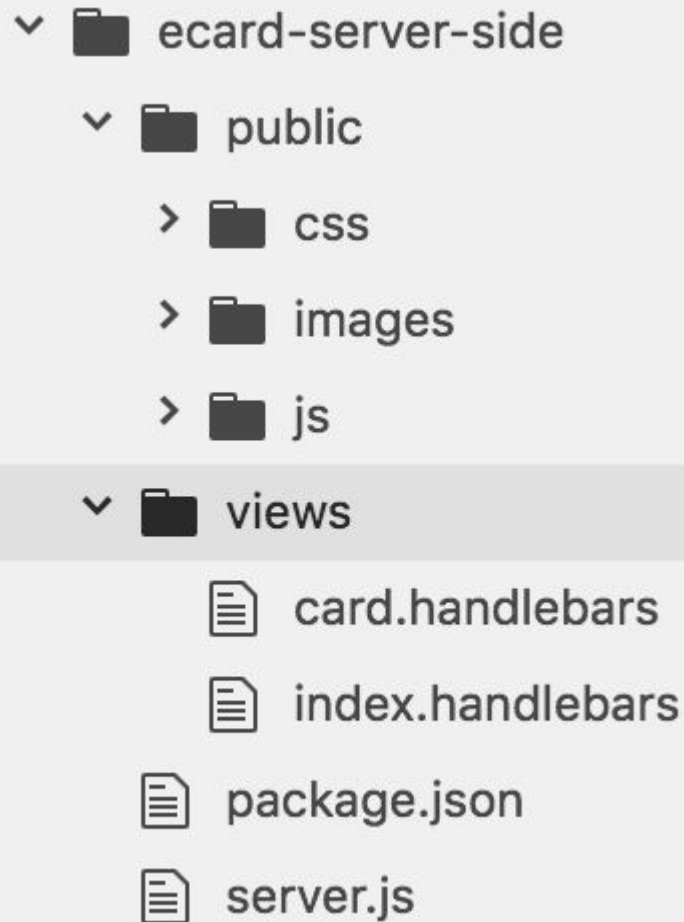
```
const app = express();
```

```
const hbs = exphbs.create();
```

```
app.engine('handlebars', hbs.engine);
```

```
app.set('view engine', 'handlebars');
```

E-cards: Server-side rendering



We change our E-cards example to have 2 Handlebars templates:

- card.handlebars
- Index.handlebars

`views/` is the default directory in which Handlebars will look for templates.

Note that there are no longer any HTML files in our `public/` folder.

index.handlebars

This is the same contents of index.html with no placeholders, since there were no placeholders needed:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title>CS193x e-cards</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="/css/card-style.css">
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="/css/creator-style.css">
    <script src="/js/creator-view.js" defer></script>
    <script src="/js/main.js" defer></script>
  </head>
  <body>
    <section class="main" id="creator-view">
      <h1>CS193x e-cards</h1>
      <h2>Preview</h2>
      <section id="card-view">
        <div id="card-image"></div>
        <div id="card-message"></div>
      </section>
    </section>
  </body>
</html>
```

card.handlebars

But for the card-view, we want a different card style and message depending on the card:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title>CS193x e-cards</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="/css/card-style.css">
  </head>
  <body>
    <section class="main">
      <h1>CS193x e-cards</h1>
      <section id="card-view">
        <div id="card-image" class="{{ style }}"></div>
        <div id="card-message">{{ message }}</div>
      </section>
    </section>
  </body>
</html>
```

card.handlebars

But for the card-view, we want a different card style and message depending on the card:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta charset="utf-8">
    <title>CS193x e-cards</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="/css/card-style.css">
  </head>
  <body>
    <section class="main">
      <h1>CS193x e-cards</h1>
      <section id="card-view">
        <div id="card-image" class="{{ style }}"></div>
        <div id="card-message">{{ message }}</div>
      </section>
    </section>
  </body>
</html>
```

E-cards: Server-side rendering

Setting up NodeJS to use Handlebars and adding templates does nothing on its own. To use the templates, we need to call [res.render](#):

```
function onGetMain(req, res) {  
  res.render('index');  
}  
app.get('/', onGetMain);
```

`res.render(viewName, placeholderDefs)`

- Returns the HTML stored in "`views/viewName.handlebars`" after replacing the placeholders, if they exist

E-cards: Server-side rendering

For retrieving the card, we have placeholders we need to fill in, so we define the placeholder values in the second parameter:

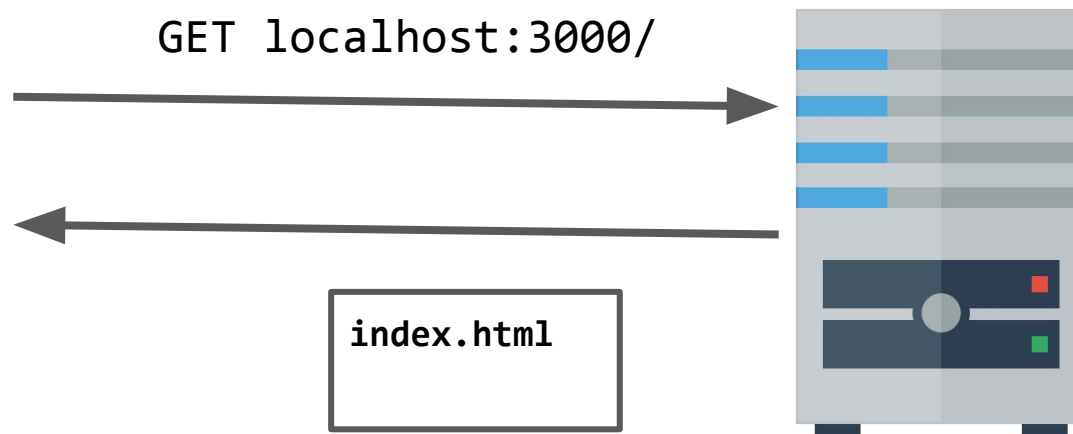
```
async function onGetCard(req, res) {
  const cardId = req.params.cardId;
  const collection = db.collection('card');
  const doc = await collection.findOne({ _id: ObjectID(cardId) });

  res.render('card', { message: doc.message, style: doc.style });
}
app.get('/id/:cardId', onGetCard);
```


Single-page web app

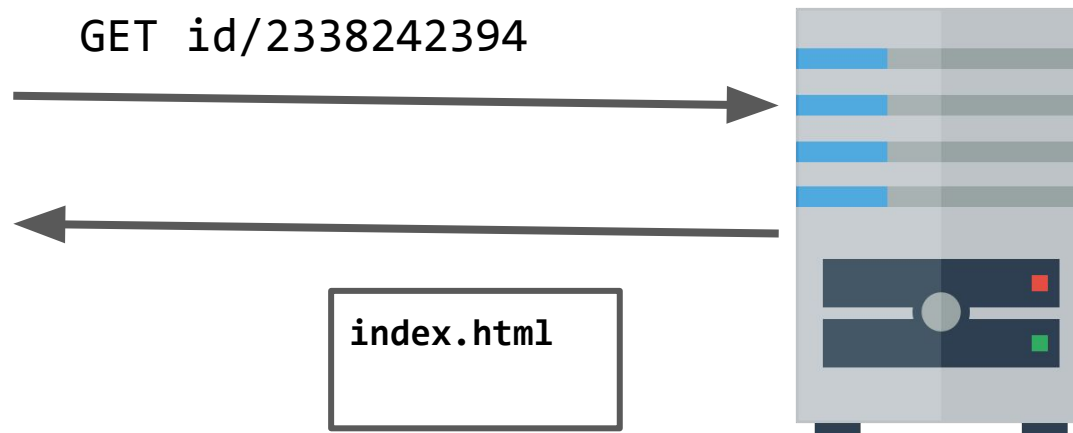
Single page web app

- The server always sends the **same one HTML file** for all requests to the web server.
- The server is configured so that requests to `/id/<card_id>` would still return e.g. `index.html`.
- The client JavaScript parses the URL to get the route parameters and initialize the app.



Single page web app

- The server always sends the **same one HTML file** for all requests to the web server.
- The server is configured so that requests to `/id/<card_id>` would still return e.g. `index.html`.
- The client JavaScript parses the URL to get the route parameters and initialize the app.



Single page web app

Another way to think of it:

- You configure several JSON routes for your server
- You embed all your view into index.html
- You use JavaScript to switch between the views

