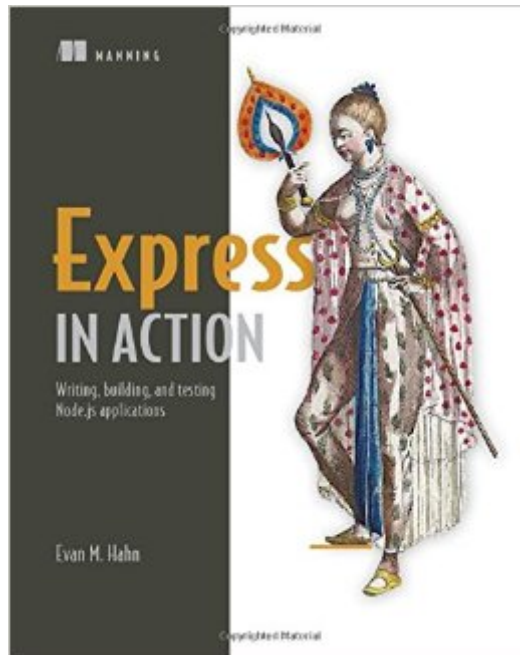# Express In Action: Writing, Building, And Testing Node.js Applications

Synopsis

Summary Express in Action is a carefully designed tutorial that teaches you how to build web applications using Node and Express. Purchase of the print book includes a free eBook in PDF, Kindle, and ePub formats from Manning Publications. About the Technology Express.js is a web application framework for Node.js. Express organizes your server-side JavaScript into testable, maintainable modules. It provides a powerful set of features to efficiently manage routes, requests, and views along with beautiful boilerplate for your web applications. Express helps you concentrate on what your application does instead of managing time-consuming technical details. About the Book Express in Action teaches you how to build web applications using Node and Express. It starts by introducing Node's powerful traits and shows you how they map to the features of Express. You'll explore key development techniques, meet the rich ecosystem of companion tools and libraries, and get a glimpse into its inner workings. By the end of the book, you'll be able to use Express to build a Node app and know how to test it, hook it up to a database, and automate the dev process. What's Inside Simplify Node app setup with ExpressTesting Express applicationsUse Express for easy access to Node featuresData storage with MongoDBCovers Express 4 and Express 5 alpha About the Reader To get the most out of this book, you'll need to know the basics of web application design and be proficient with JavaScript. About the Author Evan Hahn is an active member of the Node and Express community and contributes to many open source JavaScript projects. Table of Contents PART 1 INTROWhat is Express?The basics of Node.jsFoundations of ExpressPART 2 COREMiddlewareRoutingBuilding APIsViews and templates: Pug and EJSPART 3 EXPRESS IN CONTEXTPersisting your data with MongoDBTesting Express applicationsSecurityDeployment: assets and HerokuBest practices

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Customer Reviews

If you're pretty good at JavaScript, but maybe not quite as good at full stack development, this is your book. Seriously, stop looking, this is the one you want.The best thing about "Express in Action" is that it takes a very step-by-step approach to a Node stack, starting with Node itself. It shows how to make a small, simple web app using just Node, then brings in Express with a minimum of modules, along with more excellent explanations.This is important, because although the modular nature of Node and Express is a strength, it can also make things very confusing. A lot of online tutorials and even books throw a bunch of third-party modules into their code without really explaining how or why they work. Express in Action does not make that mistake. It goes into detail about how modules are incorporated, how Express's middleware stack works, etc.Obviously, this isn't a book for those completely new to programming or web development. In order to get the value of it, you'll want to have at least an intermediate knowledge of JavaScript. Ideas like callbacks, JSON, APIs and closures should not be new to you, and it would help if you've worked with a library or two, such as jQuery. It might also help to have a little exposure to the back end, either through writing some basic apps with Node and Express or even through something like Ruby on Rails or .Net MVC. You don't have to be an expert, but if you have even a little bit of experience with how web apps work on the server side you'll find that this book makes a lot more sense.This is the best introduction to Node and Express that I've seen, and I've been looking for some time. I 100% recommend this book.

It's short, it only really spends a few chapters on 'Express' proper...but to be honest that's all you need. Really good book for beginners to orient them to what they are actually doing (instead of just mindlessly following tutorials).

I'm fairly new to web development and only recently started writing server side javascript. I'm a student and purchased this book out of curiosity and to improve my overall web development knowledge.This book was an excellent read, provided me with knowledge on topics outside express directly, and was enjoyable to read. I don't view this as a reference book and I suspect that professional web developers, who use express daily, may find this book to be a bit too inclusive of

additional information beyond strict express examples. I feel this additional information and context makes the book appealing and accessible and don't think the express professional was the target audience anyway.The greatest strength in this book, for me, was the breadth of the information provided -- I recommend viewing the "look inside" available on this page to view the "brief contents" to see for yourself. At ~230 pages the book reads quickly (I easily finished and, more importantly, felt I understood the bulk of the information in only a couple days) and does not extensively cover every detail of the included topics. It does however provide a general overview, some relevant examples, and then information on where to find additional resources on the topics. I really appreciate this format.The section on testing, when compared to the other sections, felt a bit weak to me. I don't view this as a negative as I felt it did a nice job of covering why this is important topic, but I can't say I fully grasped the examples as well as I did in the other sections.

Very rarely am I actually able to finish a tech book. Usually I pull what I can out of it, get bored, and then move on. This book is the best intro to Express and Node hands down! The author has a great way of explaining things on a low level. My favorite part about his teaching is that he brings up a lot of the common vocabulary you will hear when developing express apps but he never just assumes you know it. Also if you thought you knew it he will most likely explain it so when that any confusion you had will be cleared.I know this seems like a overly glowing review but I mean it. There are probably only 2 programming books that I have read that I have liked as much as this one. I hope Evan keeps writing books because I will buy them for life.

A pleasure to read!!! Full of practical and useful real-world scenarios. The author transfers a good deal of knowledge combined with an unbelievable sense of anticipating reader's questions. All of above PLUS mixing in just enough humor to keep the book serious, but not put you to sleep AND at the same time not to overwhelm the beginner by going off into no-man's land.

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