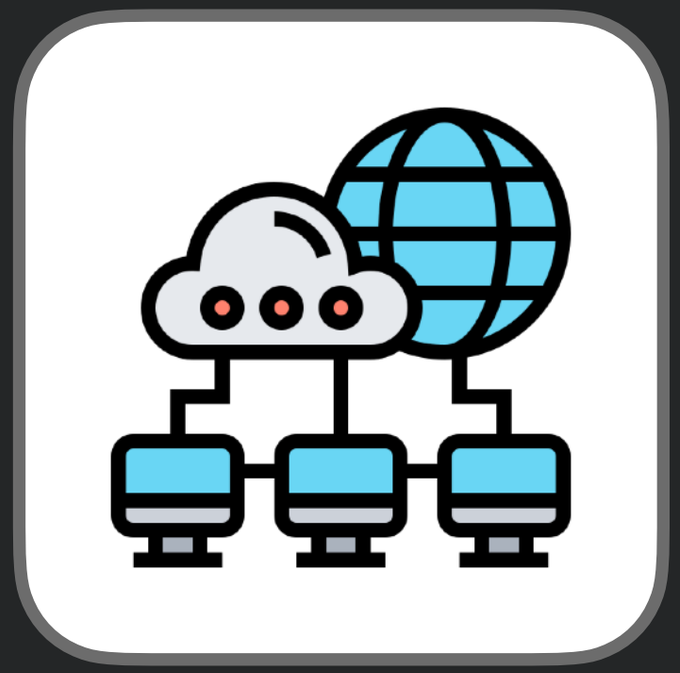
SWE 432 -Web Application Development

Fall 2022

George Mason University

Dr. Kevin Moran

Week 5: HTTP Requests



Administrivia

- *HW Assignment 2* - Due October 4th Before Class

HW Assignment #2

HW Assignment 2 - Backend Development

Possible Points	Due Date
50 pts	October 4th - Before Class

Overview

In this homework, you will create a simple microservice that fetches a dataset from a third-party API and offers endpoints for manipulating a local copy of this dataset.

HW Assignment #2

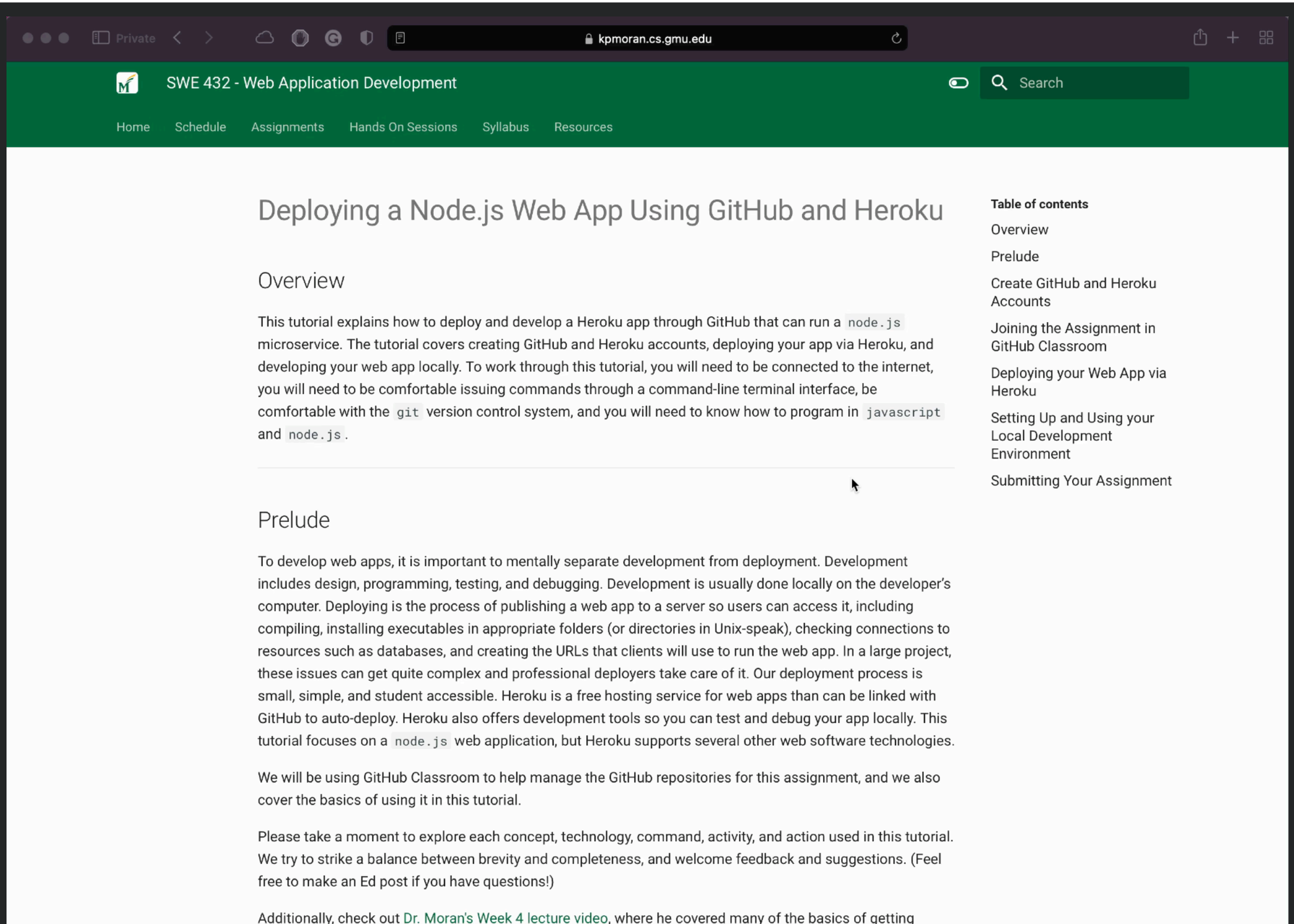
Assignment Instructions

Step 1: Following the Tutorial for Setting up GitHub and Heroku

Please follow the instructions for setting up this homework assignment in GitHub Classroom and deployment of your project via Heroku.

Click Here to View HW 2 Tutorial

HW Assignment #2



HW Assignment #2

Step 2: Describe 7 User Scenarios

In this step, you will identify 7 scenarios that your microservice will support. Each scenario should correspond to a separate endpoint your microservice offers. At least 3 endpoints should involve information that is computed from your initial dataset (e.g., may not entirely consist of information from a 3rd party API). Imagine your microservice is offering city statistics. It might expose the following endpoints

- Retrieve a city
  - GET /city/:cityID
- Add a new city
  - POST /city
- Retrieve data on a city's average characteristics
  - GET: /city/:cityID/averages
- Retrieve the list of top cities
  - GET: /topCities
- Get the current weather on a city
  - GET: /city/:cityID/weather
- Get the list of mass transit providers and links to their websites
  - GET /city/:cityID/transitProvders
- Add a new transit provider
  - POST /city/:cityID/transitProvders

HW Assignment #2

Step 3: Implement your 7 defined User Scenarios

In this step, you will implement the seven user scenarios you identified in Step 2. You should ensure that requests made by your code to the third-party API are correctly sequenced. For example, requests that require data from previous request(s) should only occur after the previous request(s) have succeeded. If a request fails, you should retry the request, if appropriate, based on the HTTP status code returned. To ensure that potentially long running computation does not block your microservice and cause it to become nonresponsive, you should decompose long running computations into separate events. To ensure that you load data from your data provider at a rate that does not exceed the provider's rate limit, you may decide to use a timer to fetch data at specified time intervals.

HW Assignment #2

Requirements:

- Use fetch to retrieve a dataset from a remote web service.
  - Data should be cached so that the same data is only retrieved from the remote web service once during the lifetime of your microservice.
  - You should handle at least one potential error generated by the third-party API.
  - Ensure all fetch requests are correctly sequenced.
- Declare at least 2 classes to process and store data and include some of your application logic.
- Endpoints
  - At least 4 endpoints with route parameters (e.g. /:userId)
  - At least 5 GET endpoints
  - At least 2 POST endpoints.
  - All invalid requests to your service should return an appropriate error message and status code.
- Decompose at least one potentially long running computation into separate events. It is not required that the computation you choose to decompose execute for any minimum amount of time. But you should choose to decompose a computation whose length will vary with the data returned by your data provider (e.g., the number of records returned).
- Use await at least once when working with a promise.
- Use JEST to write at least 12 unit tests to ensure that your code works correctly

HW Assignment #2

Submission instructions

In order for your assignment to be considered for grading, you must be sure that you fill out the following information at the top of your README file and ensure that this is up to date in your GitHub repo.

- **Student Name**
- **Student G-number**
- **Heroku Deployment URL**
- **Description of your 7 API endpoints**

> ⚠ **Warning**
>
> Failure to include this information in your submission is likely to result in a zero for the assignment!

There is no formal submission process for this assignment. We will simply grade the last commit to the `main` branch of your repository before the deadline of 12:00pm on Tuesday, October 4th. If you make a commit after the deadline, we will grade the latest commit and your assignment will be considered late. Per our course policy, assignments submitted over 48 late will not be accepted.

HW Assignment #2

Grading Rubric

The grading for this project will be broken down as follows:

- **API Endpoints -** 4 points each (28 points total) We will take into account whether the requested Javascript features were used here.
- **Unit Tests -** 1 point each (12 points total)
- **Coding Style -** 10 points broken into the three categories below:
  - *Documentation & Comments* - 4 points
  - *Modularity/Maintainability* - 3 points
  - *Identifier Intelligibility* - 3 points

HW Assignment #2

It is important to note that coding style will be an important component of this project's overall grading. Below, I provide some tips on earning these points:

- *Documentation & Comments* - In order to earn these points, you should document all *non-obvious* functionality in your code. For example, if there is some complex computation that is not easily understood via identifiers, then this should be clearly documented in a comment. However, you should try to avoid documenting obvious information. For example, adding a comment to a variable named `citiesList` that states "This is the list that holds the cities" is not likely to be a valuable comment in the future. Part of this grade will also stem from your description of your endpoints in your README file.
- *Modularity* - Throughout the course of this semester, one topic that has come up repeatedly is the idea of *code maintainability*. One of the best ways to help make your code more maintainable in the long run is to make it modular, that is try your best to achieve *low coupling* and *high cohesion*. We expect that you will break your project down into logical modules, and where appropriate, files.
- *Identifier Intelligibility* - The final code style related item we will look at is the intelligibility of your identifiers. This should be pretty straightforward, use identifier names that correspond well with the concepts you are trying to represent. Try to avoid unnecessarily short (e.g., `i`) and unnecessarily long identifiers.

Class Overview

- *<u>Part 1 -Handling HTTP Requests:</u>*

  Exploring HTTP and REST

- *<u>Part 2 - In-Class Activity:</u>* Exploring

  Express

Handling HTTP Requests

Review: Express

```
var express = require('express');  // Import the module express

var app = express(); // Create a new instance of express

var port = process.env.port || 3000; // Decide what port we want express to listen on

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

// Create a callback for express to call when we have a "`get`" request to "`/`". That callback has access to the request (`req`) and response (`res`).

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

// Tell our new instance of express to listen on `port`, and print to the console once it starts successfully

Review: Route Parameters

- Named URL segments that capture values at specified location in URL
  - Stored into `req.params` object by name
- Example
  - Route path */users/**:userId**/books/**:bookId***
    - Request URL *http://localhost:3000/users/34/books/8989*
    - Resulting `req.params: { "userId": "34", "bookId": "8989" }`

```
app.get('/users/:userId/books/:bookId', function(req, res)
{
  res.send(req.params);
});
```

Review: Making HTTP Requests

- May want to request data from other servers from backend
- Fetch
  - Makes an HTTP request, returns a Promise for a response
  - Part of standard library in browser, but need to install library to use in backend
- Installing:

```
npm install node-fetch --save
```

- Use:

```
const fetch = require('node-fetch');

fetch('https://github.com/')
    .then(res => res.text())
    .then(body => console.log(body));

var res = await fetch('https://github.com/');
```

https://www.npmjs.com/package/node-fetch

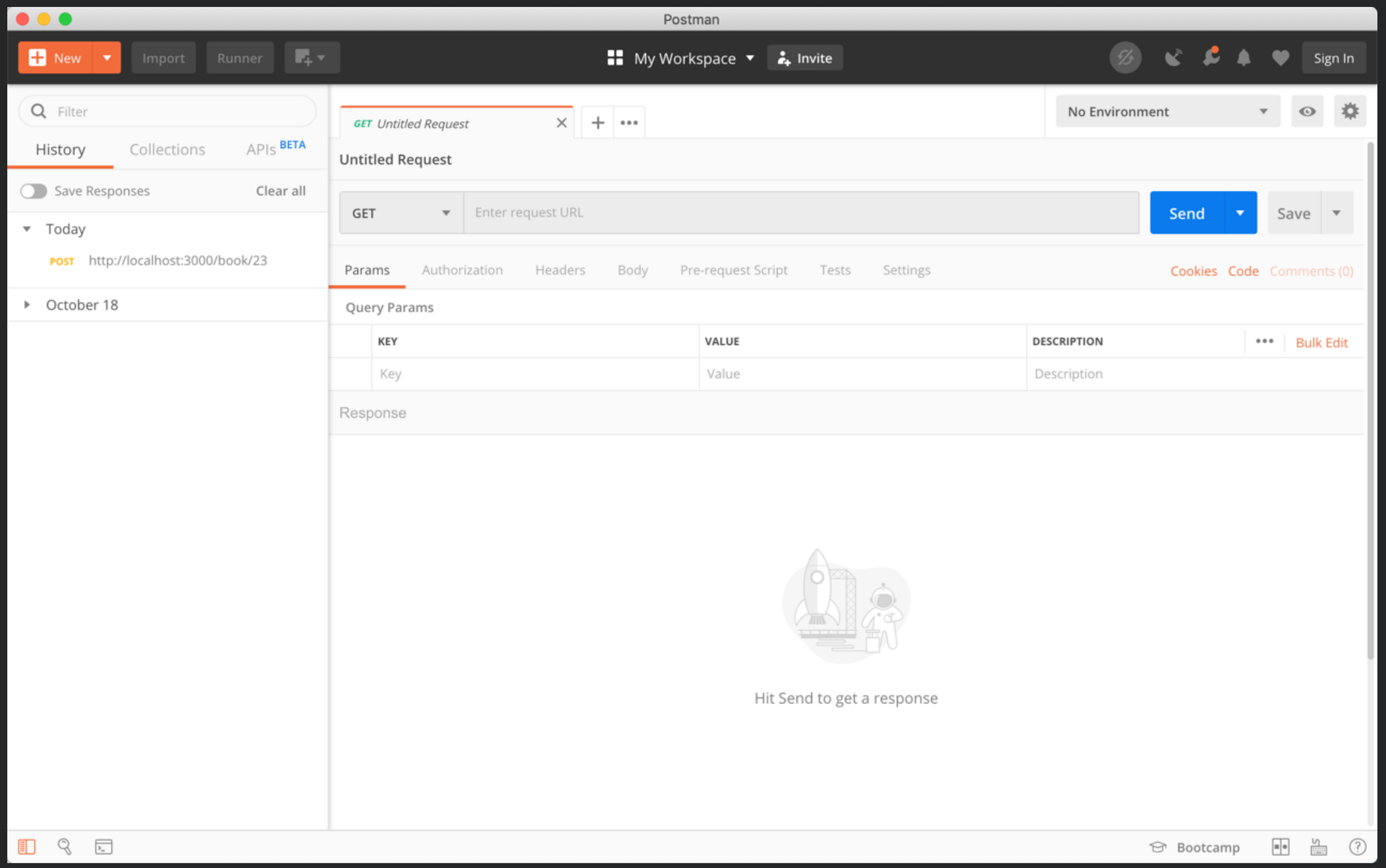
Using Fetch to Post Data

```
var express = require('express');
var app = express();
const fetch = require('node-fetch');

const body = { 'a': 1 };

fetch('http://localhost:3000/cities', {
    method: 'post',
    body:    JSON.stringify(body),
    headers: { 'Content-Type': 'application/json' },
})
    .then(res => res.json())
    .then(json => console.log(json));
```

Making HTTP Request with Postman



https://www.getpostman.com/

Demo: Building a Microservice w/ Express

cityinfo.org

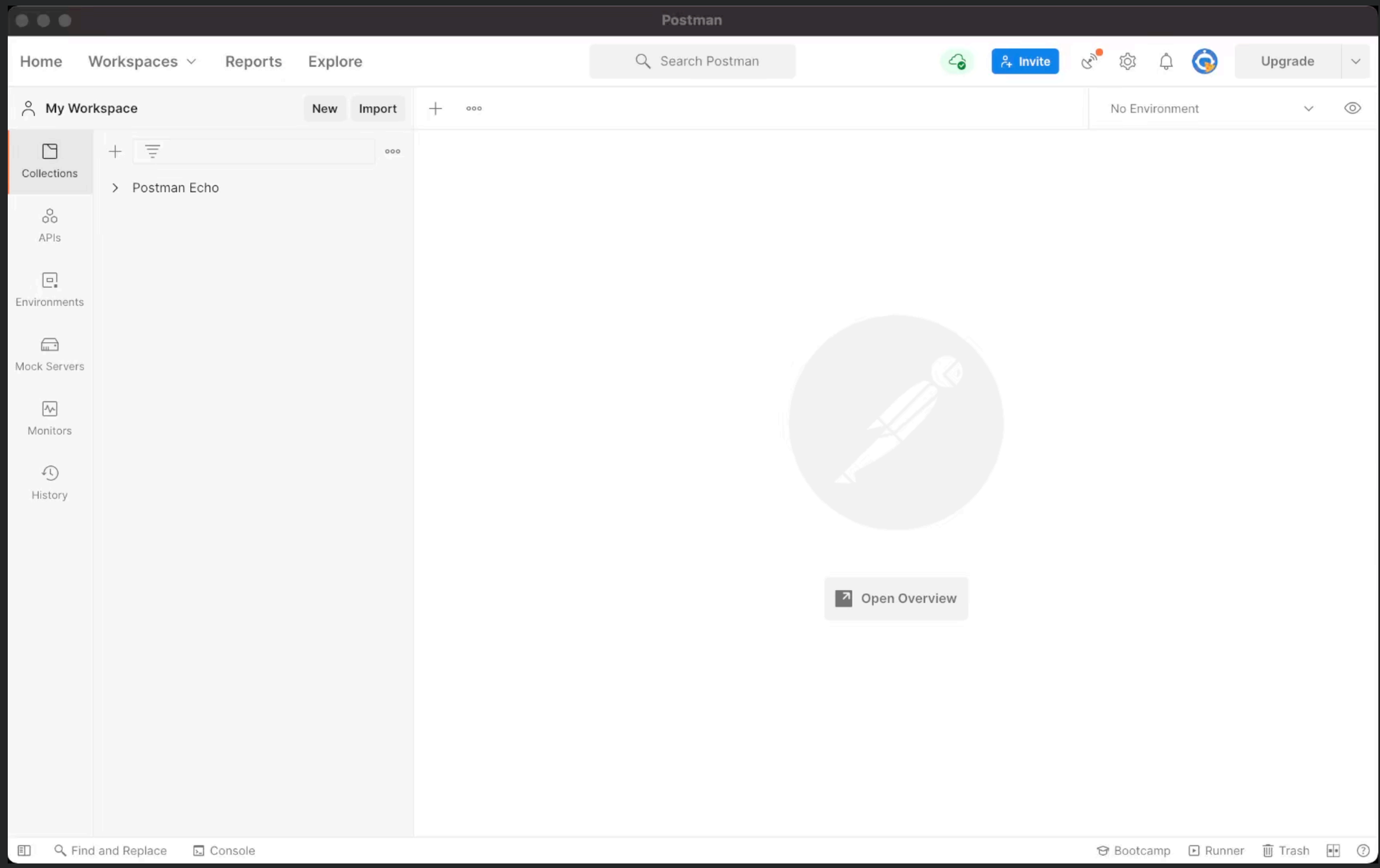
Microservice API

GET /cities

GET /populations

Demo: Building a Microservice w/ Express

Demo: Building a Microservice w/ Express



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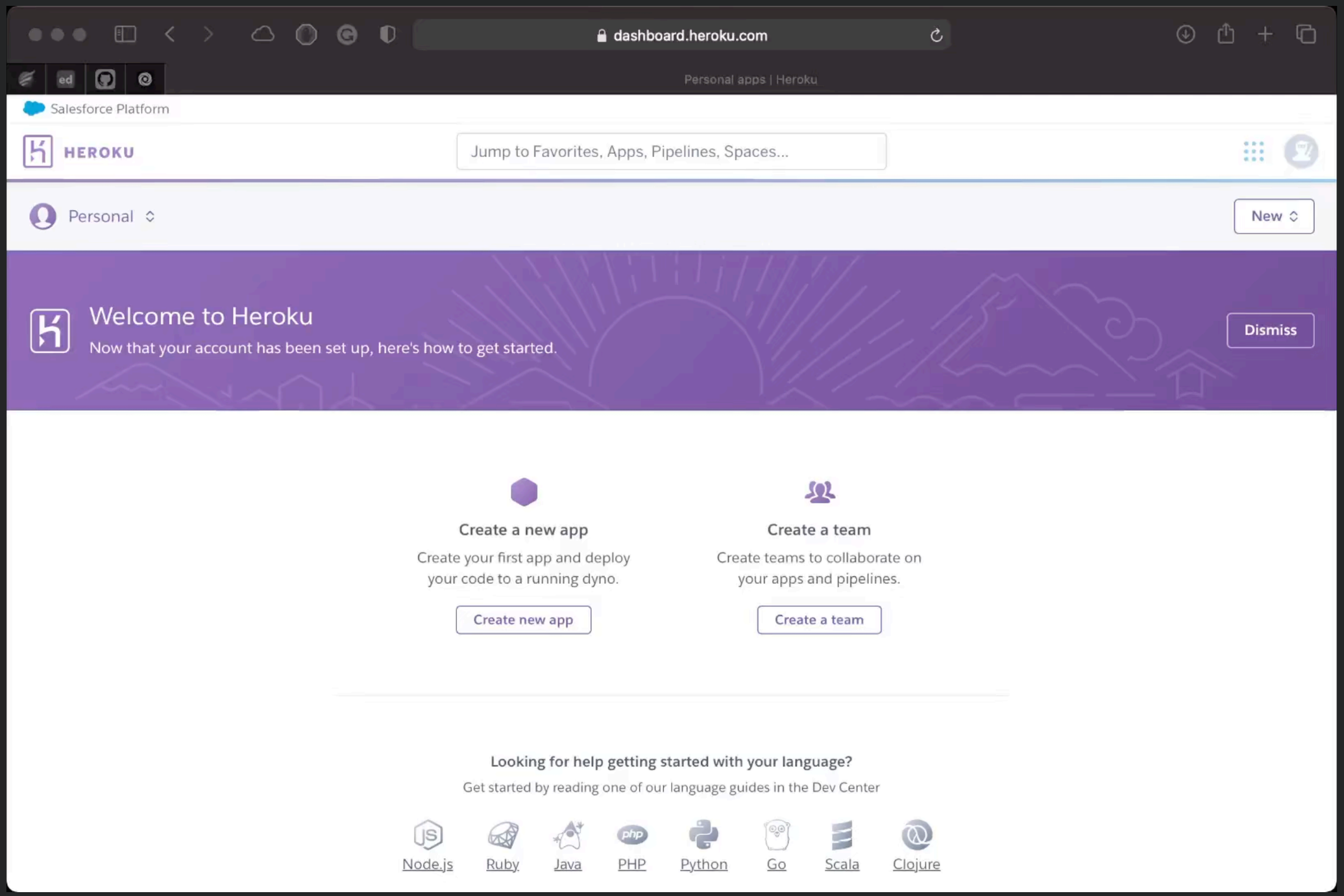

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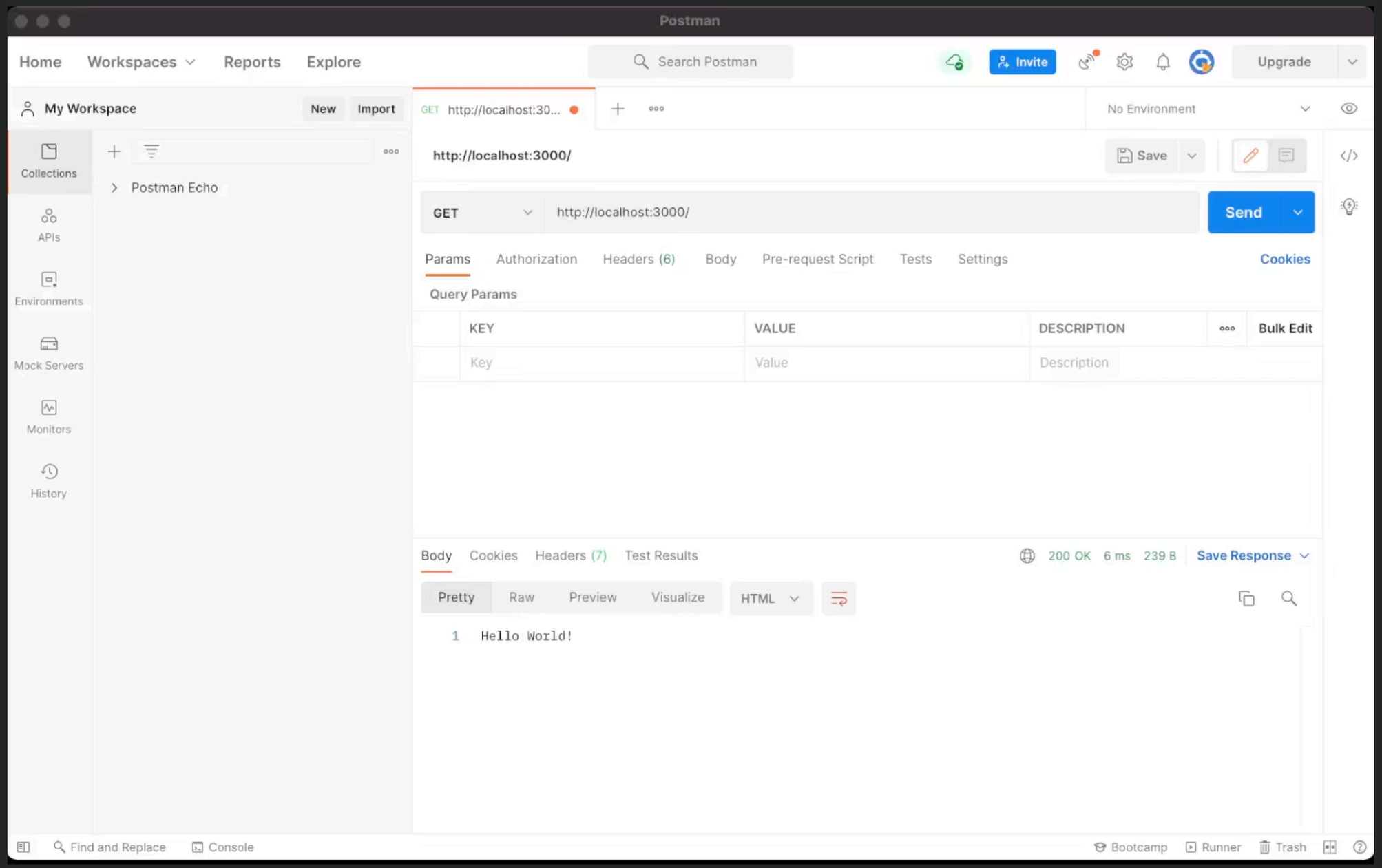


API: Application Programming Interface

cityinfo.org

Microservice API

GET /cities

GET /populations

- Microservice offers public **interface** for interacting with backend
  - Offers abstraction that hides implementation details
  - Set of endpoints exposed on micro service
- Users of API might include
  - Frontend of your app
  - Frontend of other apps using your backend
  - Other servers using your service

APIs for Functions and Classes

V1

```
function sort(elements)
{
    [sort algorithm A]
}
```

```
class Graph
{
    [rep of Graph A]
}
```

Implementation change

Consistent interface

V2

```
function sort(elements)
{
    [sort algorithm B]
}
```

```
class Graph
{
    [rep of Graph B]
}
```

Support Scaling

- Yesterday, cityinfo.org had 10 daily active users. Today, it was featured on several news sites and has 10,000 daily active users.
- Yesterday, you were running on a single server. Today, you need more than a single server.
- Can you just add more servers?
  - What should you have done yesterday to make sure you can scale quickly today?

Support Change

- Due to your popularity, your backend data provider just backed out of their contract and are now your competitor.
- The data you have is now in a different format.
- Also, you've decided to migrate your backend from PHP to node.js to enable better scaling.
- How do you update your backend without breaking all of your clients?

Support Reuse

- You have your own frontend for cityinfo.org. But everyone now wants to build their own sites on top of your city analytics.

- Can they do that?

Design Considerations for Microservice APIs

- API: What requests should be supported?
- Identifiers: How are requests described?
- Errors: What happens when a request fails?
- Heterogeneity: What happens when different clients make different requests?
- Caching: How can server requests be reduced by caching responses?
- Versioning: What happens when the supported requests change?

REST: REpresentational State Transfer

- Defined by Roy Fielding in his 2000 Ph.D. dissertation
  - Used by Fielding to design HTTP 1.1 that generalizes URLs to URIs
  - http://www.ics.uci.edu/~fielding/pubs/dissertation/fielding_dissertation.pdf
- *“Throughout the HTTP standardization process, I was called on to defend the design choices of the Web. That is an extremely difficult thing to do… I had comments from well over 500 developers, many of whom were distinguished engineers with decades of experience. That process honed my model down to a core set of principles, properties, and constraints that are now called REST.”*
- Interfaces that follow REST principles are called RESTful

Properties of REST

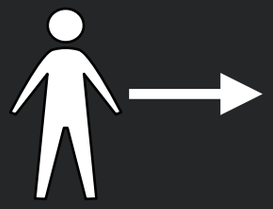
- Performance
- Scalability
- Simplicity of a Uniform Interface
- Modifiability of components (even at runtime)
- Visibility of communication between components by service agents
- Portability of components by moving program code with data
- Reliability

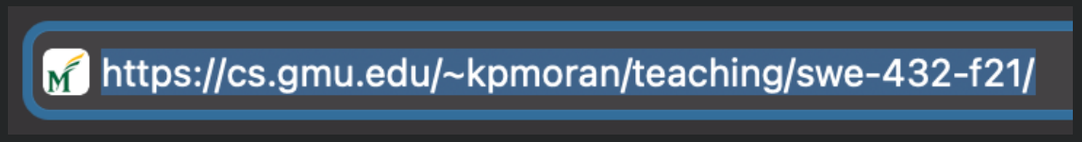
Principles of REST

- Client server: separation of concerns (reuse)
- Stateless: each client request contains all information necessary to service request (scaling)
- Cacheable: clients and intermediaries may cache responses. (scaling)
- Layered system: client cannot determine if it is connected to end server or intermediary along the way. (scaling)
- Uniform interface for resources: a single uniform interface (URIs) simplifies and decouples architecture (change & reuse)

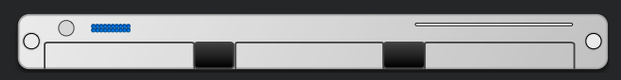
HTTP: HyperText Transfer Protocol

High-level protocol built on TCP/IP that defines how data is transferred on the web





web server



HTTP Request

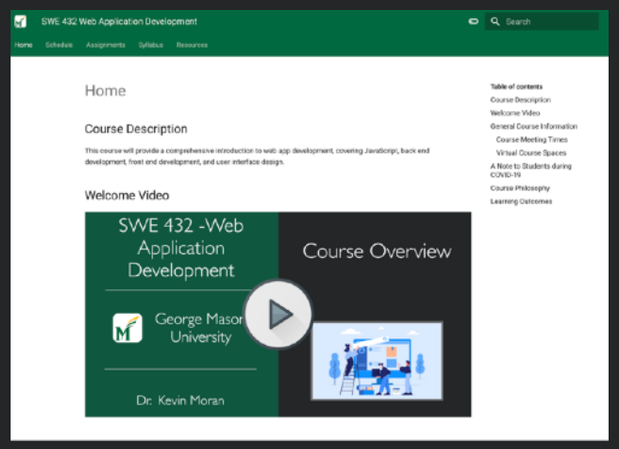
```
GET /~kpmoran/swe-432-f21.html HTTP/1.1
Host: cs.gmu.edu
Accept: text/html
```

Reads file from disk

HTTP Response

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8

<html><head>...
```



Uniform Interface for Resources

- Originally files on a web server
  - URL refers to directory path and file of a resource
- But… URIs might be used as an identity for any entity
  - A person, location, place, item, tweet, email, detail view, like
  - *Does not matter* if resource is a file, an entry in a database, retrieved from another server, or computed by the server on demand
  - Resources offer an *interface* to the server describing the resources with which clients can interact

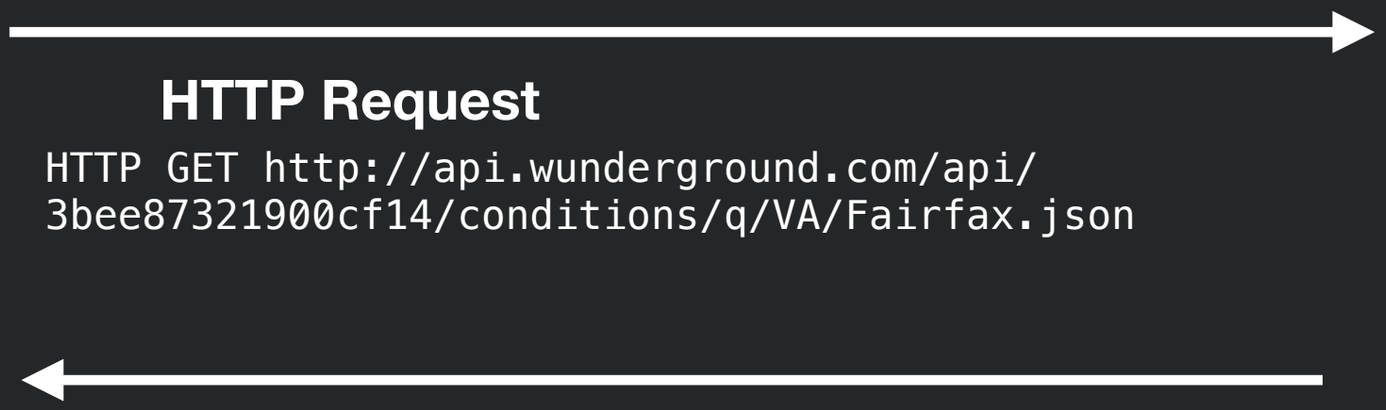
URI: Universal Resource Identifier

- Uniquely describes a resource
  - https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/157d5fb795159ac0
  - https://www.amazon.com/gp/yourstore/home/ref=nav_cs_ys
  - http://gotocon.com/dl/goto-amsterdam-2014/slides/StefanTilkov_RESTIDontThinkItMeansWhatYouThinkItDoes.pdf
  - Which is a file, external web service request, or stored in a database?
    - It does not matter
- As client, only matters what actions we can *do* with resource, not how resource is represented on server

Intermediaries

Web “Front End”

“Origin” server



HTTP Request

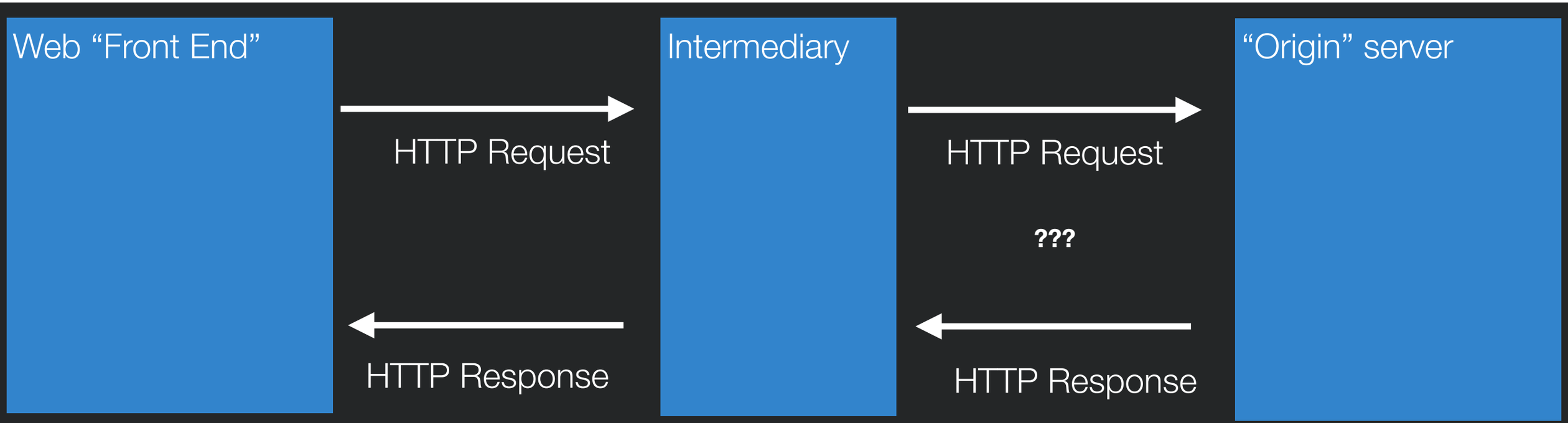
```
HTTP GET http://api.wunderground.com/api/
3bee87321900cf14/conditions/q/VA/Fairfax.json
```


HTTP Response

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Server: Apache/2.2.15 (CentOS)
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
Access-Control-Allow-Credentials: true
X-CreationTime: 0.134
Last-Modified: Mon, 19 Sep 2016 17:37:52 GMT
Content-Type: application/json; charset=UTF-8
Expires: Mon, 19 Sep 2016 17:38:42 GMT
Cache-Control: max-age=0, no-cache
Pragma: no-cache
Date: Mon, 19 Sep 2016 17:38:42 GMT
Content-Length: 2589
Connection: keep-alive


{
  "response": {
  "version":"0.1"
```

Intermediaries



- Client interacts with a resource identified by a URI
- But it never knows (or cares) whether it interacts with origin server or an unknown intermediary server
  - Might be randomly load balanced to one of many servers
  - Might be cache, so that large file can be stored locally
    - (e.g., GMU caching an OSX update)
  - Might be server checking security and rejecting requests

Challenges with intermediaries

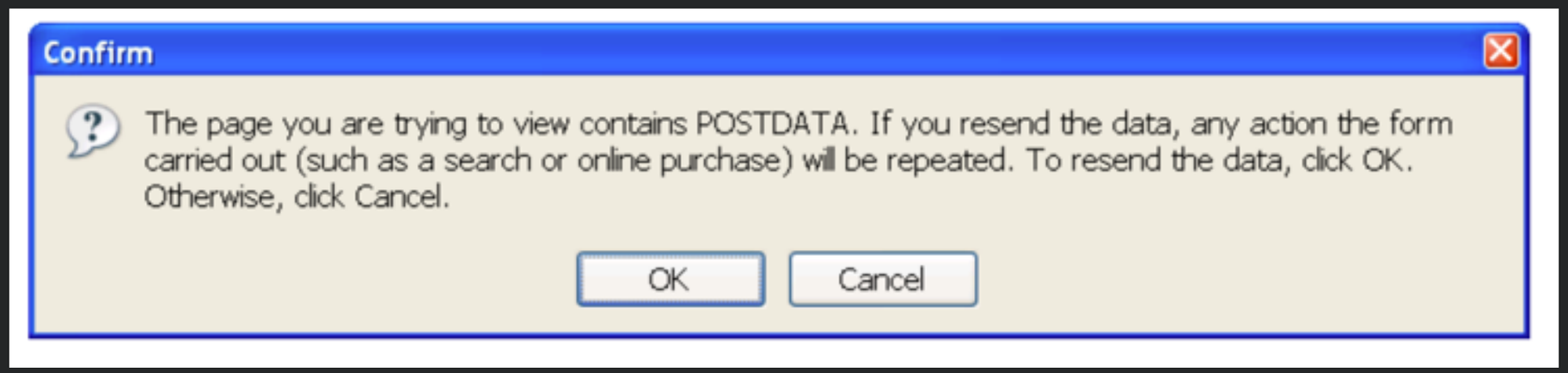
- But can all requests really be intercepted in the same way?
  - Some requests might produce a change to a resource
    - Can’t just cache a response… would not get updated!
  - Some requests might create a change every time they execute
    - Must be careful retrying failed requests or could create extra copies of resources

HTTP Actions

- How do intermediaries know what they can and cannot do with a request?
- Solution: HTTP Actions
  - Describes what will be done with resource
  - GET: retrieve the current state of the resource
  - PUT: modify the state of a resource
  - DELETE: clear a resource
  - POST: initialize the state of a new resource

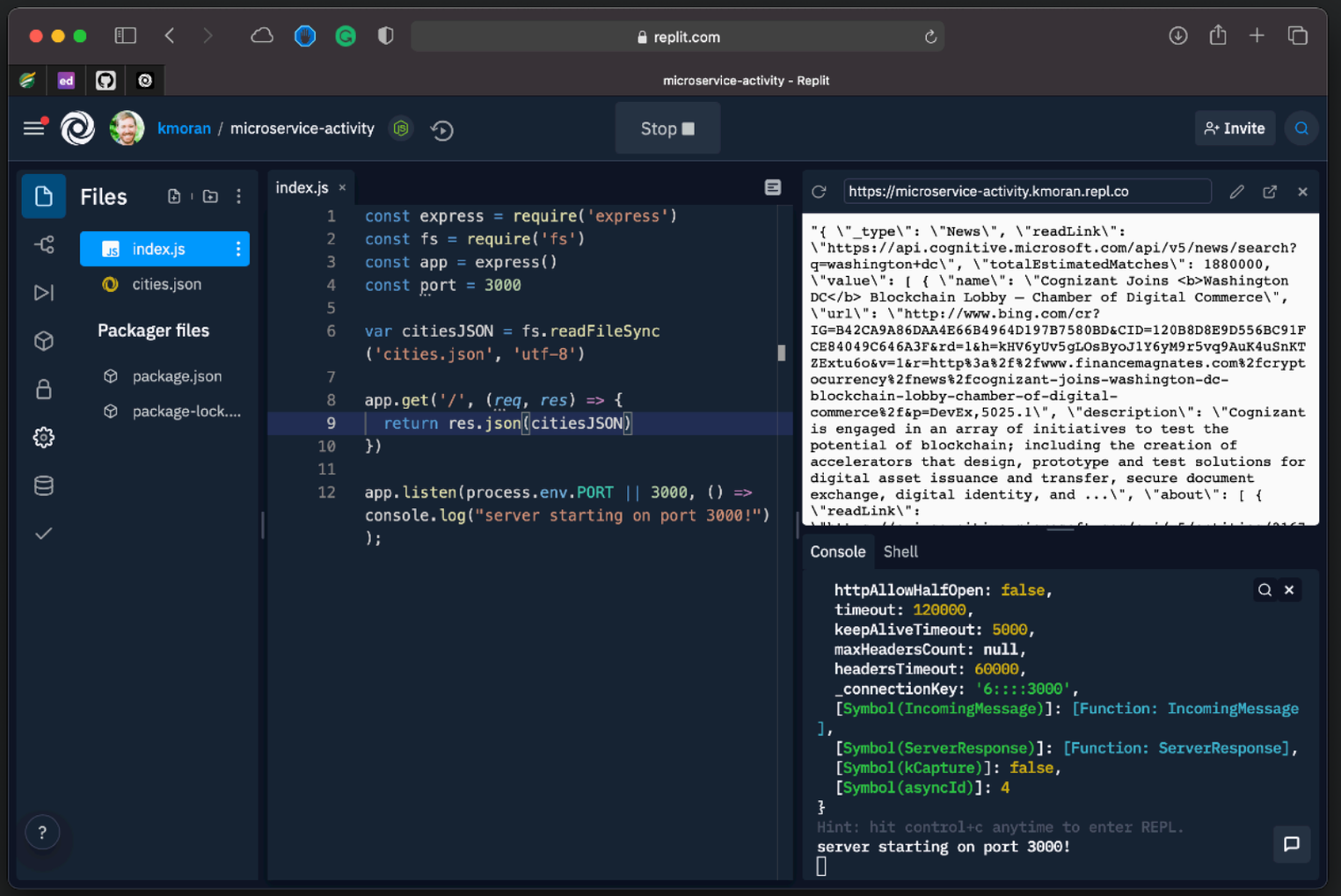
HTTP Actions

- GET: safe method with no side effects
  - Requests can be intercepted and replaced with cache response
- PUT, DELETE: idempotent method that can be repeated with same result
  - Requests that fail can be retried indefinitely till they succeed
- POST: creates new element
  - Retrying a failed request might create duplicate copies of new resource



In-Class Activity: Exploring Express

Try creating a few different endpoints with different response types!



https://replit.com/@kmoran/microservice-activity#index.js

This will also be posted to Ed

Acknowledgements

Slides adapted from Dr. Thomas LaToza's SWE 632 course