Introduction to Morden Application Development Dr. Gaurav Raina Prof. Tanmai Gopal Department of Computer Science and Engineering Indian Institute of Technology, Madras

Lecture - 26 Module P11 Practical: Introduction to authentication, hashing, curl & sessions

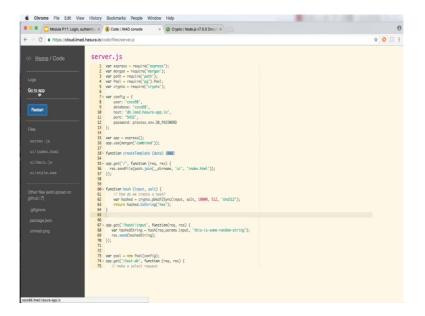
Hi all welcome to module P11. This will be perfect module that introduces us to the basic concepts of authentication password hashing, a command length tool called curl which is one of the most useful and work style tools for testing HTTP and API endpoints and the concept of sessions, then how to implement them. We will be looking at implementing a basic password hashing and storage mechanism.

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Contents Objective: 1. Implement a password storage system a. Password hashing b. Why salt? 2. Implement a login system a. API based b. User creation 3. Implement a session system a. Cookie based 4. Testing our APIs/endpoints using curl

We will also look at the concept of salting or password and why it is required, apart from implanting a login endpoint we will also have a user creation endpoint we will then implement cookie based session system, and then we will testing our APIS and endpoints using curl.

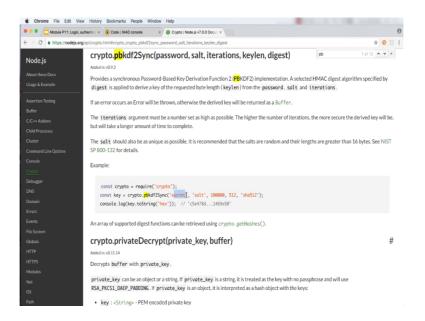
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Let us set to our coding console all right. So, in the last session we will left off at creating a test d b endpoint and then articles end point which was talking to the data base, we will first to start off will look at creating a password hashing endpoint. So, what you would like to do is create an endpoint that takes and input from the user as a part of the URL, and returns a hash string which is represents for the possibilities stored as. So, just to sort of a at a pseudo code what you want to do is well. We extract the input value and then we have a function called hash which we have not (Refer Time: 01:30) yet and if you have this function called hash and then we will return this string back to the user. So, this is kind of what you want to do of course, we need to have this function called hash.

So, let us write the function hash here, which takes is an input the input and what it should do here is it return the hash tag right. So, what we need to now figure out is, how do we create the hash. So, we will be using the default library called crypto that is a part of node you. So, if you had to the documentation for node j s you see library called crypto and there if you go to.

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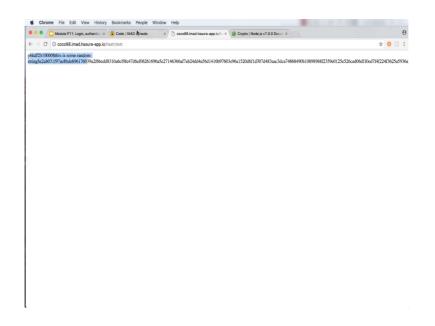
And this function provide us a way to create a hash of a particular input. So, for example, here a value for secret is taken and hash is returned. So, let us see what it looks like. So, this is kind of what we need to do copy the function name here.

Now, of course, we need to have crypto here. So, let us include crypto. So, we include crypto. So, now, we have the crypto library, now what we need to do when we hash this is that we need to give the input we need to give it something called a salt we will understand what is salt is in little bit, the next argument is a number of iterations. So, this number of times the hash functionality of light and again we will understand why we are doing a certain number of iterations. So, let us say we do 10,000 iterations up to which we will use the standard default values that you want a key length of 512 and we will you want to use the sho 512 digest.

Let us not worry about what these are just yet. So, this is what we will do and we will return hashed of course, what we need here is the salt value. So, let us take the input called salt from here and that means that we need to pass and input salt here. So, for now let us say we create temporary salt value let us just create the value called this is some random string. So, I just created a random string here, now when we hash this particular value the output that we get will be sequence of bytes. So, to convert that into something that we can read we are going to convert that to string and use the hexadecimal and coding to convert them into something that is readable and printable on our screen.

Now, let us first quickly see if all of this works and then we will come back and try to understand what this function is actually doing right. So, say this whole go to app and so I typed hash password and this is the output that I got right so; that means, that our hash is working let us try to hash this again. So, you can see there if called the endpoint here I refreshed it called the endpoint again you can see that the value of the hash does not change right, but if I change this.

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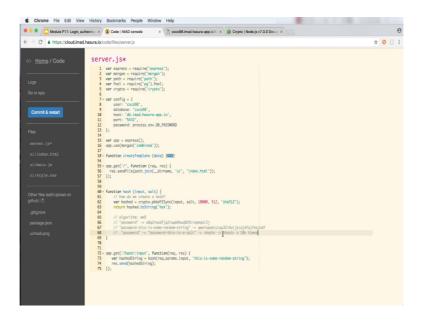
And I make a small change in the input and I make it say password 2 and I refresh it you can see that the entire value looks very different right so; that means, that what is happening is that it is converting this string into a 512 byte string right which is a random value right.

This is how we will store the users password right you want actually store users password as password two row means store it has the hash. So, let us just try out for the few more things let me example test right I refresh this it is the same grid. So, now, let us take a step back and come back to understand what we are doing when we call this function. So, what this function does is that, it converts it takes our input it appends the value of the salt right and then it applies the hash function 10,000 times right why do we do this why are we simply not just doing a hash of the input. For example, if you go to the crypto library you will see there is the function called create hash and what create

hash is doing is that it is taking a particular input and it is converting that into hash value right.

So, why are we just not using a hash right why are we using a special algorithm which is called the password paste key derivation function at why are we using this. The reason is that if we just save the hash without adding this random string the hash should always evaluate to the same value for the same algorithm.

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So, for example let us say that the algorithm is m d 5. So, m d 5 is a non hashing algorithm. Now let us see we are using their non hashing algorithm for hashing a value of password this algorithm will always hash the value of this string password into some value let us say right. So, let us say converted this into this value.

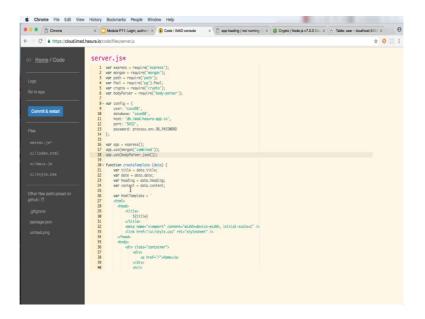
Now, every single time the same algorithms applied to this the same string this is the value of the hash that will be generated. This is good because given this value there is no way I can figure out which thing it came from, but what is a common practice amongst hackers is they maintain a set of tables which store the commonly hashed values right which store the commonly hashed values of common strings. So, that way they do not have to try to determine on reverse engineer where this hash came from, but instead what they do is they just look a particular table up and they find out that for what string is a a q 2 r a s t f a hash. So, they are able to do that and in the s e that this belongs to the string password. To protect a (Refer Time: 08:11) form that what we do is that we append a salt

value toward. So, now, the value that will be hashed is this, this value will of course, have some completely different hash value right and there is no table in the world that will have stored this particular hash value because if we choose our salt string randomly enough.

Then there is no way there somebody would have pre created tables that contain the hash values for all the commonly non strings and that way even if we users use strings that are very common words for passwords for example, password or common names even then by adding this random salt value, we can ensure that the values of the hash generated as you need and cannot be reverse engineer. Further to protect ourselves even more p hash the value 10,000 times which means that a particular value password is first taken this is then converted to a value that contains the salt, this is then converted into a hash and this is converted into another hash and so on 10,000 times right and. So, the final value that is obtained that the hash is certainly not going to be present in any kind of a lookup table or a hash table somewhere that will allow hackers to find out what the original string was right.

So, now that we have done this let us make our hash function return; return a slightly different string and we will understand why we will turning that string a little later. So, let us create an array of strings where I first store the name of the algorithm that I am using for doing the hashing, I then store the number for iterations.

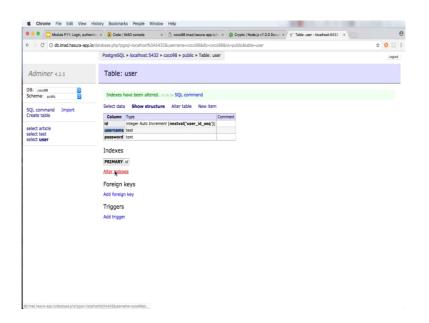
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So, that is 10,000 iterations, I will then store the salt value and after storing the salt value I stored the hashed value right and then once I have these values, I will join them with electro dollar right. So, let us say this to the string that we have turning contains the name of the algorithm, the number of iterations the random salt value and in the fine hashed value. What is important to know is that even if a hacker has access to this entire string which is the hash value the salt and the number of iterations and the hacker also knows that we are using the algorithm p b k d f 2; there is no way that the hacker will be able to figure out that this hash actually comes from the string called test and that is why this is the string that will actually store inside the database.

Let us go ahead now and create our database that we will store the username and password fields up. So, let us head to our database console let us create a user table. So, I will go to create table, I will create an id which should be my primary key create a username which is a text column.

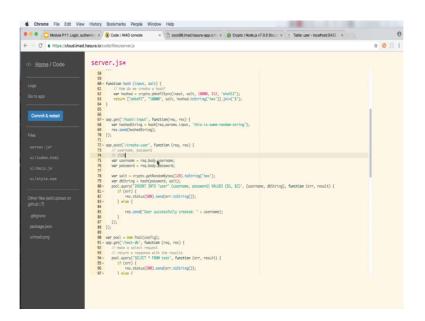
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And then I will create password which is also text column and then I said id to be the primary key and because we will be fetching data by the user name very often, I will make this a unique index now so to ensure that duplicate usernames will never rise. Now let us implement a function to create a new user. So, this function has an input we will take the username and the password and it will create an entry in the user table.

So, let us assume that we somehow have the username and password that was sent to us in the create user request and let us create the password.

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So, there d b string is equal to hash password comma salt; obviously, we need to generate a salt for this user. So, let us quickly generator a salt as well. So, you use the get random by it is function to generate the salt, now once you have this database string we want to save it in the database. So, we will do a pool dot query, you will make an insert query. So, insert into the user table that is important to use his double quotes here because for (Refer Time: 13:09) user is a bit for reserved keyword and we want to insert the columns username and password, and the values that we are inserting into it are dollar one and dollar two which represent two elements in an array, which are going to be username and d b string. So, d b string is the hashed password once we have. So, I will write the call back here and again we will handle the errors in the same way. So, for example, if you are obtaining an error and I am going to copy paste, I am going to copy the code that we have from earlier.

So, in case there is an error I will reply with error and otherwise we will send a response saying user successfully created with the username right. So, the first problem that we need to solve is where is username and password, where are these two values going to come from. We can do we can use the same method of making it a part of URL where we can have username and password right as a part of the URL, but that is not recommended

practice because ideally we should not be sending data in the get requests right especially because the password is raw and in case for example, let us say the logs will be printed and the logs will show and the logs will show what password is being printed and this is very dangerous because anybody who has access to the logs will have access to the password in which case it makes sense to make this a post request right and assume that we will be able to extract the username and the password from the request body.

So, let us say that where user name is equal to req dot body dot username and let us say where password is equal to req dot body dot password. So, now, we come to the next question which is where is this data coming in the req dot body and what is the format of the data that is coming in. So, we are going to assume that this is json request, and if this is the json request we have to tell our express framework to look for these keys inside the request body and this request body is going to be a json and the way if we do that is to you something called the body parser which is an express library, and we need to tell our express app that in case you see json content, load the json content in the req dot body variable.

So, we will be doing and this is the way of telling our express framework that for every incoming request in case it sees a content type json, it uses that and such req dot body we need to figure out how we are going to test this right because this is not a URL that we can for example, do this way. For example, if you make the request to create user such cannot get such create user because this is not a get request, but a post request. So, the question that we have to answer now is how do we make a post request and how do we test out this API end point that we have made. In our application ultimately when we use this create user API we will be writing code in main dot j s function right and side our request here and instead of making a get request that you making here when we are submitting to the name API we will actually changes to post request.

This is how we will do it in when we write the java script that will actually use this API, but when we just want to test this out we will use the tool called curl. So, to use curl because you might not have curl installed on your windows systems, let us go back to our s h console I will take my (Refer Time: 17:17) here. So, I am logged into my (Refer Time: 17:24) console I am going to zoom that up a little bit.

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</div>
         <h3>Professional</h3>
            I work at Hasura
         </div>
         <div_class="footer">
            This button <button id="counter">Click me!</button> has been click
ed <span id="count">0</span> times.
            <hr/>
            </div>
      </div>
      <script type="text/javascript" src="/ui/main.js">
      </script>
  </body>
/html>
     @imad-ssh-do:~$
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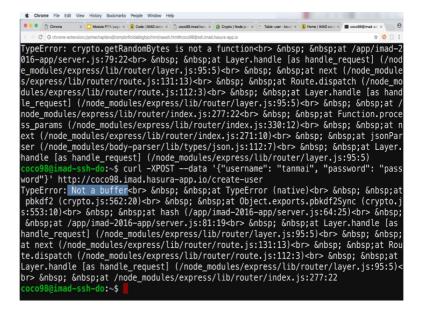
So, let us quickly check out what curled as. So, if I do curl this actually queries Google dot com and whatever is h t m l response of Google dot com it shows that in the terminal. This is exactly what the browser would have done, but the browser instead would have, but the browser instead would have displayed the h t m l, now instead of displaying the h t m l this is just going to display the h t m l string here.

So, what we are going to do is we are going to make a request to our app I made a mistake here, I did not put I m a d. So, let me add I m a d right and you can see that the h t m l has loaded right.

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So, what we now going to do straight to make a post requests. So, let us see what the post requests will look like I will have a username, and I will have a password, and let us say that just password right. So, this is a json I am going to expect this json object because this json objective will convert into the right username and password variables. So, let us go here we are making a post request. So, we will use minus x post. So, this is the way of making a post request I am going to send some data and my post request, and I open a single code to specify what data I have the password is let us just say password temporally right.

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And now let us enter the u r l. So, it should be. So, that is the request that we are making now if you see the error that I am getting it is saying that it sent me an error saying that crypto dot get random bytes is not a function. So, we have made a mistake in the code that I have wrote. So, let us go to the crypto documentation and save it. So, it is called random bytes the word get is wrong. So, let us remove this and changes to random bytes from it and restart this app and let us make the same request again. So, I press the (Refer Time: 19:27). So, the error that will making is that if you should read the error carefully and it says that the p b k d f two function is receiving a wrong value and it is saying that it is not receiving a buffer by a buffer it means a string buffer.

So, it is not receiving the right type of value and what; that means, is that somehow it is not able to access the username and password. Now why is it not able to access the username and password because the username and password is probably not coming in from this req dot body here right and why is this json object not being loaded? The reason why this json object is not being loaded or we are not able to extract the username and password from the update correctly is because express does not know that we sent it json. So, how do we tell express that we are sending it the content type json in the data that we are sending because only if we tell express that we are sending the json content type it will use the body (Refer Time: 20:20) and extract the json value and put it into req dot body. So, the way to do that is to add a http header right and called content type.

So, this is the content type header and we have submitting this content type header, I am going to use the minus v flag on curl to see the request in more detail that curl is making, let us you the request being made is. So, it is saying that it is making a post request to the create user end point it is sending the content type as application json.

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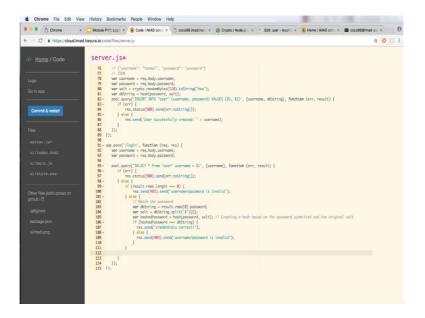
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The response that was received is HTTP 200 which means there are response a successful, and if you look at the response it says that the user has been successfully created and the user is tanmai. So, let us go and look at our data and so we see that this entry has been received. So, now, let us do the tricky bit of actually login this user in. Login is also going to be a post request because it is going to accept the same arguments username and password, but instead of inserting them into the database it is actually going to fetch the value from the database to check if the value is matching.

So, let us copy paste this code here we do not need to create a salt. So, let us remove this let us remove right; what we now want to do is actually select from the user table. So, let us do select start from right and we have selected using the username value.

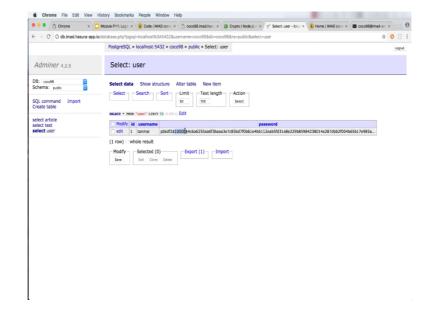
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So, selected where the user name is equal to dollar 1, and dollar 1 is the username value. So, what we are going to do is first search in our table to see this username exists. As this username exists and if the SQL response is successful we need to quickly check if no rows were received, which means that we will send the message saying we have send a four naught three which means that it is a forbidden request and we will say that username or password is invalid right. So, this is the responsible that we sent back and in case we do have a certain number of rows then we know that the user name is that the username exists.

Now, what we need to do is now we need to match the password. So, first let us extract the password that is stored in the database. So, let us call it d b string which is result dot rows the first element in the password field.

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Now, if you look at the password field we have store the number of iterations here, this value is the salt right and after that is the actual password data. So, we can use the split function to split by dollar. So, this will now return an array right the value of this thing we will be exactly go to use in the hash here. So, it will this array right and so what you want to do is extract the salt value. So, the salt value is the third element in the array right. So, we have the salt value now. So, now, let us create a hash using the salt value. So, we will say that hash is equal to. So, here we are creating a hash based on the password submitted and the original salt right and the test of testing whether this is a valid user is to test if this hashed password is exactly equal to the value that was originally stored in the database, and this is correct that makes the user is successfully logged in.

So, we will return a message saying credentials to the correct and if this is wrong you will return an error message thing that the username or password is invalid let us see this in action . So, now, instead of making a request to the create user endpoint let us make a request to the login endpoint right and we are going to use the same data username.

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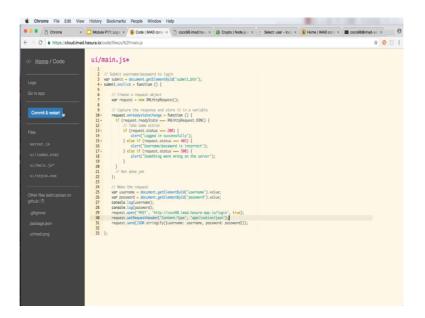
And password something of 500 internal error and it is saying this is syntax error that I have made right which is an error that I have made in writing the code. So, so you are returning an error here this is where we returning 500 error and so that means, says in error in our s q l query. So, if you look at the s q l query I say let us start from user and if forgot to put the where keyword. So, let us put the where keyword here let us make this more readable it let us save this let us make a query again great so; that means, that a credentials are matched.

Lets deliberately change our credentials here for example, let us send the wrong password and I get a response saying for bidden right which is a 403 right that is the response that I get; that means, that we have now implemented a login function which is not actually doing anything, but it is just testing that the credentials are valid what we ideally want to do here we want to set a session. So, that once the users logged in the users stays logged in, but before we add session let us actually implement the login on the u I so; that means, that what we will do is if I go to the home page then what I would like to do is replace all of this and change it will login from here. So, let us quickly make those changes let us go to index dot h t t m l let us remove all this right we do not want anything here let us instead change this to log in to unlock cause and features ok

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So, now what we are going to do is. So, what we are going to says you are going to click here input type element called type text and make this is the username field, here which is called password which is the input type password, we will give this element it h t m l element in idea of password of it is we want have a place hold of this right and then we will have a button and this is the submit button right. So, let us go to our min dot j s right and let us remove all this counter code that we had right and now instead of having the submit name we are going to this submit username password to login right.

So, now what we are going to do is we are going to be making a post request righ and in the post request we will be sending some data. So, instead sending null we will be actually sending data here, and the data that we want to send is json string. (Refer Slide Time: 28:01)



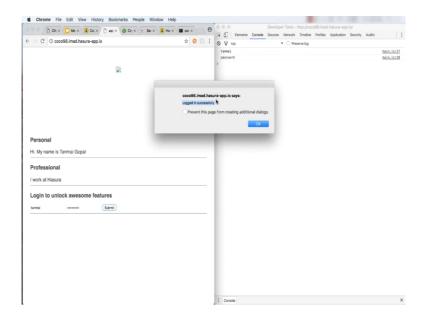
And. So, let us convert an object into a json string and so, the object that we will have is username let us assume we were able to extract the username value and password let us use that variable to extract the password value right. So, where is this username and password coming from as soon as the button is clicked we will extract it from the input element. So, let us change this to user name. So, username will be this start value and similarly password will be obtained from the password element right.

So, we will extract. So, every time the button is clicked we will figure this out part we will figure this part later, but every time is the button is clicked we will extract the username we will extract the password right. Just for debugging purposes let us print this out right we will be making a request to the URL slash login right that is the post request and once this request is sent right we will have to handle the end of the request. So, this request is successful we have to save the user is logged in. So, we will remove this and we will say right and what we can have in fact do to is we can print out in alert box saying that logged in successfully right and in case there was an error. So, let us say have the status was not 200, let us say if the status was 403 we will say that the password is incorrect right.

And the other possibility is that the error status is 500, in which case we will say that something went wrong on the server right we do not know what the error is some 100 error. So, let us make sure the these are else if conditions right and they should be string

if I the content type here. So, let us said the header here this is the same thing that we did not curl. So, it can save this. So, reload this page. So, we have page load here let us load upon stuck element, actually this is half the page that is the console here.

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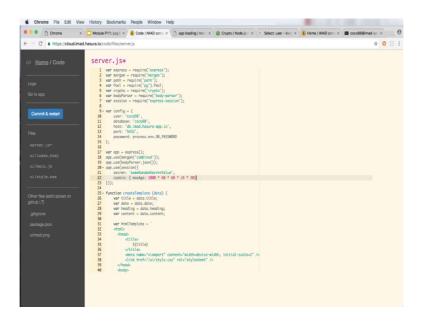
So, that we can see what is going on here the console let us make a request I click on submit and I get it this alert box saying logged in successfully right is printing out the debug things if you going to the network tab, you will see that the login request is made it is a post request right and saying a response credentials correct.

It sending json object right it sending the right content type previous in json. Let us change this (Refer Time: 31:38) something else and submit and you will see the username password is incorrect if you look at this request that is being sent it is responding to the 403 right exactly like how we were testing out to the curl. So, now, let us get two adding sessions. So, when we add a session what we mean by that is that once the users logged in, there is some way of telling the client that take this particular session id and if you have the session id and you ever make a request again with the same session id, then I will know that you were the same user who made the login request.

So; that means, we need to respond with a particular session id and the client needs to remember that session id and send that back to us next time. Since this is a very common functionality there is several libraries to this and we will be using the node session library to this to make it easy to send the session id to the web client and for the web

client to repeatedly send as the same session id again and again we will use cookies let us use the express session library it to this. Once again I have to tell express to use the session library, I we are going to use the session library there are two configurations that I need to give the session library one configuration is the secret which is the value that it will used to encrypt the cookies with.

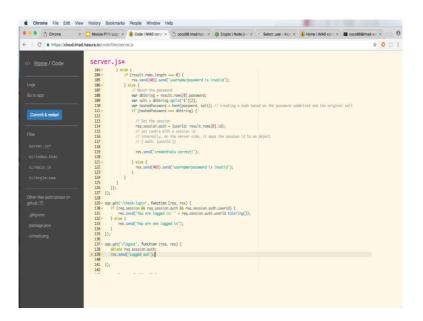
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So, I will just set this to some random value if now right and we have to tell the session library that when it creates cookies, the cookie should have a particular age.

So, we will say that the cookies and so, we will said the cookie can have a max age of. So, this this is value specified in milliseconds. So, you will say 1060, which is one minute and 260 which is one hour into 24 which is one day into 30. So, all are cookies are long lasting cookies they will last for a month once a cookies said it will be set for a month. So, now, we can come back and try to set the session value, we have to set the session value before we actually send the response. So, let us move this up here.

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So, let us set the session as req dot session dot of is equal to user id which will be result dot rows of 0 dot id right. So, what we have done here is that we have assume that there is a session object on the request right just like we assume that there was a body on the request which was created by body parts or they are assuming a there is a session object on request which is being created by the session library.

So, there is a req dot session, we have saying that there is going to be a key called auth inside that object and that key will map to this particular object. And what is this subject this subject says that there is a user id and the user id value is equal to the id of the user that I have got in the database. So, what is actually happening in the background? So, in the background what is happening is that the session library the session middleware to be technically correct is setting a cookie with a session id right that it is randomly generating by itself. Internally on the server side it maps the session id to an object what is this object contained? This object contains a value called auth and what does auth contain? Well auth intern contains another object which is our user id object right. So, this information is maintained in the server side all that the cookie contains is a section id right as soon as we do this here the express session library we will automatically make sure that this object is saved internally as soon as the response is sent.

So, how do we test that this session object is actually being created? Let us create another endpoint which we can use in the browser called check login and what this

endpoint we will do is that it will check that if there is a req session object, and if there is a session object it will check if this and auth object inside it and if there is an auth object it will check if there is a user id key inside their solve inside this auth object and if there is then we will return a response saying that you are logged in and the user id that you have is req dot session dot auth dot user id right and this is an integers let us convert that to string. So, this is the value here, in case this none of these objects are found we know that the user is not logged in. So, we will return as think you are not right. So, let us put this in action to see if sessions are working for us.

So, let us enter the username and password. So, we saying that you logged in successfully let us now go back to the check login and you can see that it is saying that I am logged in is one right. So, now, let us try to implement a logout function. So, let us say that there is a logout endpoint which is again a get request, because no data needs to be sent and if this happens what we will do is that we will remove the auth object right and so, this deletes the auth object from the session object right so that means, that we are not storing the session anymore right. So, let us send respond in that your logged out let us say this. So, I refresh check logged in and not logged in, every time I refresh the browser because the internet session objects are reset then the sessions are lost. So, I do not stay logged in because when I restart the server the session object that is maintained internally is lost. Let us go back to our login page and enter a value here I am logged in unsuccessfully.

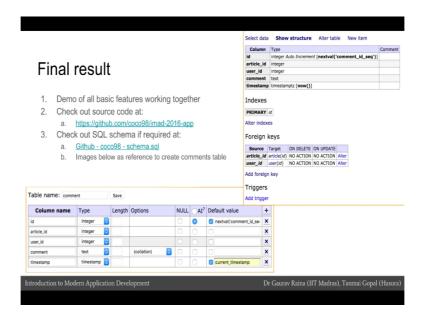
So, now let us go to check login and I can say there I am logged in is one in keep refreshing this, let us now call the logout endpoint logout end point says that I am logged out now let us go back toward check log in and it is say that you are not logged in right because this session object that we are maintaining has been deleted bias right. So, this is how we implemented a very simple login and logout functionality and we also maintained sessions.

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Todo 1. Add a registration page 2. Check if the user is logged in a. If the user is not logged in, show login/registration form b. If the user is logged in, show a welcome 'user' section c. If the user is logged in, show a welcome 'user' section d. If the user is logged in, allow button on the header 3. Add a comments section to all the article pages 4. If the user is logged in, allow the user to submit comments

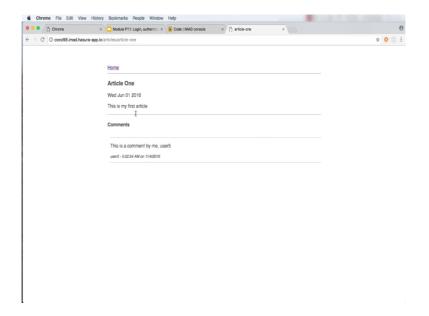
So, now let us put together all the knowledge that we have gained so far, and create a registration experience we should check is the user is logged in and we should use that we will shows there is a registration form then to show logout button we can then add a comment section to all the article pages and if the users logged in then we should a logged the user to submit comments, but even if the users not logged in we should be able to see all the comments. You should try to do this exercise by yourself to sort of really see you will your knowledge about how API is work, how sessions work, how login works, how the database works how frontend java script to works and how back and java script works.

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I have created this application myself. So, let us have a look at what this application looks like. So, I try to register the new users a user 5, users have been created successfully. So, now, I am registered. So, now, I am going to try to login with the same credentials. So, I will try to log in as soon as the login is done this area changes to a logout section. So, I can go to any particular article let us say got to article one there are no comments here. So, I can post a comment saying this is the comment by me user 5 and let us post this comment. Llet us comment is appeared let us go back to the home page let us logout and I have to go back to article one we will see with the comment remains there, but the box two insert the comment has disappeared right.

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All the source code for this is available on this github repository. So, you can use that for a reference the a new comment table was created to be able to stored comments and you can check the SQL for that again inside the github repository you can or you can also use the screenshots of adminer to see how this comment table was created.

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So, the important thing to remember as we bring this module to close is that the entire exercise is educational and you should try not to implement things like password hashing completely manual like we have done ourselves, I delete for example, if you using node j

s you should use a library like passport or j s to make life easy and almost all other languages and frameworks provide a kind of system to take care of authentication so that we can ensure that the implementation is secure and easy to do.