

EXPRESS.JS PAGE PROCESSING

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Topics

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- Data Encoding
- Form Processing

Rendering Pages

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- Remember when to HTML encode and when to URL encode
- Rule of thumb:
 - ▣ HTML encode most variables when they are inserted into page output
 - With Handlebars: Use `{{ varname }}` to HTML encode *varname* contents
 - ▣ URL encode when data is in a `` or `` attribute, or or redirect
 - Use JavaScript `encodeURIComponent()` function

Form Processing

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Define two routes for a page that contains a form:

- `app.get('/myform', ...)`
Displays form
- `app.post('/myform', ...)`
Handles form submission

Handling Form Submissions

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1. Get form input and sanitize

```
var username = req.body.username || "";  
username = username.trim(); // minimal sanitize
```

2. Validate input

```
if (username == "") {  
    errMsg = "Please enter username";  
}
```

3. Determine result

- ▣ Validations pass: Process submission
- ▣ Validations fail: Redisplay form

Redisplay Form

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- Render form with user's (bad) input and error messages
 - ▣ Basic Example: `webapps/register`
- Libraries can help reduce code required for validation and form rendering:
 - ▣ `express-validator`
 - ▣ `handlebars-form-helpers`
- Example: `webapps/register_validation`