Persistent state in Node.js

> This article was originally published at https://gist.github.com/joepie91/bf0813626e6568e8633b.

This is an extremely simple example of how you have 'persistent state' when writing an application in Node.js. The `i` variable is shared across all requests, so every time the `/increment` route is accessed, the number is incremented and returned.

This may seem obvious, but it works quite differently from eg. PHP, where each HTTP request is effectively a 'clean slate', and you don't have persistent state. Were this written in PHP, then every request would have returned `1`, rather than an incrementing number.

```
var i = 0;

// [...]

app.get("/increment", function(req, res) {
	i += 1;
	res.send("Current number: " + i);
})

// [...]
```

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