

Some websites are about **more
than just serving pages**

e.g. accept user feedback submission,
newsletter signups, ...

What Is An API?

Application Programming Interface

REST API = Representational State Transfer (*a specific form / structure for web APIs*)

URL / Path

my-domain.com/some-path

Http Method

POST, GET, ...

Action

Server-side code executes – possibly different code for different Http methods

Data is typically transferred in JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) format

{ "some-field": "some-value" }

Client
(Browser, Mobile App, Shell, ...)

Request with Data

Response with Data

Server
(REST API)

What are API Routes?

URLs that don't return pages (HTML) but instead provide a (REST) API

/api/feedback

POST

Send request to store feedback

/api/feedback

GET

Send request to get feedback

/api/feedback/f1

GET

Send request to get feedback by id

Requests are typically not sent by entering URL in browser but via JavaScript code (Ajax)

API Routes & CORS

CORS = Cross-Origin Resource Sharing

A security concept (kind of) that control who's able to send requests to an API

Don't rely on it, it's only enforced by browsers!

my-page.com/api/my-route

POST

Request sent from page on my-page.com → Allowed

Request sent from page on other-page.com → Denied