

# **My Rules of REST**

These match most common REST implementations

- URL represents a "resource" to interact with
- HTTP method is the interaction with the resource
- HTTP Status code is interaction result

# First Rule of REST

First Rule of REST:

- The URL represents a "resource" to interact with

Often a noun (the HTTP method is the verb)

- **Good** - /student/
- **Good** - /grades/
- **Good** - /locations/
- **Bad** - /addStudent/
- **Bad** - /updateGrade/
- **Bad** - /searchLocations/

# URL as resource

- Parameters: in query, body, or path
- Often different based on method
  - GET /students
  - GET /students?startsWith=Am
  - POST /students?given=Xiu&family=Li
  - POST /students/Li/Xui/
  - PATCH /stduents/34322/
  - DELETE /students?billingStatus=overdue
- **The path of the URL identifies the "thing"**
  - Params do NOT identify the "thing" (resource)

## **Second Rule of REST**

- HTTP method is the interaction with the resource

The URL is the "thing"

The method is what you "do" to it

# Examples of the Second Rule of REST

The method shows the kind of interaction:

- GET /students/ - read
- POST /students/ - create
- PUT /students/Naresh/Rajkumar - overwrite
- DELETE /students/Naresh/Rajkumar - remove
- PATCH /students/Naresh/Rajkumar - partial update

These have passed params, but

- Method and the URL alone say what is happening

# POST vs PUT vs PATCH

Common confusion: Create vs overwrite vs update

- POST (create)
  - No existing record
- PUT (replace)
  - Replace existing record
  - Save nothing from it
- PATCH (update)
  - Replace certain fields in the record
  - Unmentioned fields stay as-is

# What is passed/received?

- **POST /students/** - **create**
  - Send: (data for new student)
  - Get: (url or data to identify new record)
- **PUT /students/Naresh/Rajkumar** - **overwrite**
  - Send: (data to replace with)
  - Get: ?
- **PATCH /students/Naresh/Rajkumar** - **partial update**
  - Send: (fields with changed values)
  - Get: (? most often updated record)

# Third Rule of REST

- HTTP Status code is interaction result

There are many Status codes!

- With meaningful names
- Use them!
- but confirm the meaning (MDN)

Add details in body



# Status Codes

Some general "classes" of status codes

- 100-199 (1xx): Informational (very rare)
- 200-299 (**2xx**): Successful
- 300-399 (**3xx**): Redirection
- 400-499 (**4xx**): Error (client-caused)
- 500-599 (**5xx**): Error (server-side)

**<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Status>**

# REST Status Code Examples

Some common scenarios

- **200 (OK)** - Means real success
- **400 (Bad Request)** - bad input
  - Provide detail in body of response
- **404 (Not Found)**
- **500 (Internal Server Error)** - server had issue
  - Not user's fault
  - Not expected!

# REST Response

- Other than HTTP Status code
  - Not much direction given
- Common responses (Can vary!)
  - If server created a UUID/ID for new resource
    - Provide in response
    - Record or URL
  - If a record changed
    - Provide the new record
  - If an error code
    - Provide details in body
    - Details in same format as success

# **JSON is common**

JSON is common, even from non-JS services

Pro:

- Very portable
- Very readable

Con:

- No built-in schema validation
- No comments

# Basic REST Express Example

```
const cats = {};  
  
app.get('/cats', (req, res) => {  
  res.json(Object.keys(cats));  
});  
  
app.get('/cats/:name', (req, res) => {  
  const name = req.params.name;  
  if(cats[name]) {  
    res.json(cats[name]);  
    return;  
  }  
  res.status(404).json({ error: `Unknown cat: ${name}` });  
});
```

- `:name` syntax (express) sets the `req.params.name`
  - example: `GET /cats/Jorts`
- `.json()` does `JSON.stringify()`
  - AND sets the response `content-type` header

# More REST Express Example

```
app.post('/cats', express.json(), (req, res) => {  
  const name = req.body.name;  
  if(!name) {  
    res.status(400).json({ error: "'name' required" });  
  } else if(cats[name]) {  
    res.status(409).json({ error: `duplicate: ${name}`});  
  } else {  
    cats[name] = req.body;  
    res.sendStatus(200);  
  }  
});
```

`express.json()` middleware requires request `content-type` of `application/json`, populates `req.body`

No `content-type` === no `body` value.

# A REST service in express()

- Have a route URL that matches Rule 1
- Use a method that matches Rule 2
- Use correct status codes for Rule 3
- Parse incoming body data
  - `express.json()` for JSON
- Send JSON data in response
  - `res.json()`
- No HTML, No Redirects