**Application Programming Interface (API)**

**What is an API?**  
API stands for “Application Programming Interface”. It is a set of commands, functions, protocols, and objects that programmers can use to create software or interact with an external system.

API is like a contract between a data provider and a developer.

1. **Endpoints**

When an API interacts with another system, the touchpoints of this communication are considered endpoints. For APIs, an endpoint can include **a URL of a server or service**.

1. **Paths**

A Path is **a unit of a REST API that you can call**. A Path comprises an HTTP verb and a URL path that, when exposed, is combined with the base path of the API. By configuring the Path, you define how the API is exposed to your developers.

1. **Parameters**

API parameters are **the variable parts of a resource**. They determine the type of action you want to take on the resource. Each parameter has a name, value type ad optional description. Whenever you want to build a REST API, you must decide which parameters should be present in the API endpoint.

1. **Authentication**

The API authentication process validates the identity of the client attempting to make a connection by using an authentication protocol. The protocol sends the credentials from the remote client requesting the connection to the remote access server in either plain text or encrypted form.

**What is JSON?**

JSON stands for “JavaScript Object Notation”.

