Assignment 2: Use a Web API

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10/09/2021

After extensive testing of the GitHub API, I have concluded that it is a RESTful API. The module states that resources are at the heart of a REST implementation. This means that every URL in a REST endpoint represents a resource or a noun, a thing as opposed to a verb/action. Scanning through the GitHub documentation reveals a collection of URL endpoints with noun-based naming conventions such as: gists, public, users, comments, commits, forks, star, etc. Secondly, REST APIs are stateless, meaning that no data is stored on the server regarding the client or the client’s previous sessions. During testing, I frequently had to confirm my current gist id directly from the API’s response because I couldn’t rely on the API to know which gist id I was testing multiple times. The API simply sent a response with each request but did not store any information regarding my session history. Finally, the GitHub API follows RESTful practices with regards to HTTP requests. For example, multiple GET requests for my list of gists did not make changes to the state of the server. I received the same information each time. On the other hand, multiple POST requests with identical information created different gists, each with its own unique id numbers. Due to the appropriate responses from HTTP requests, URL endpoint naming conventions, and the statelessness of the GitHub API, I have concluded that it is in alignment with RESTful practices.