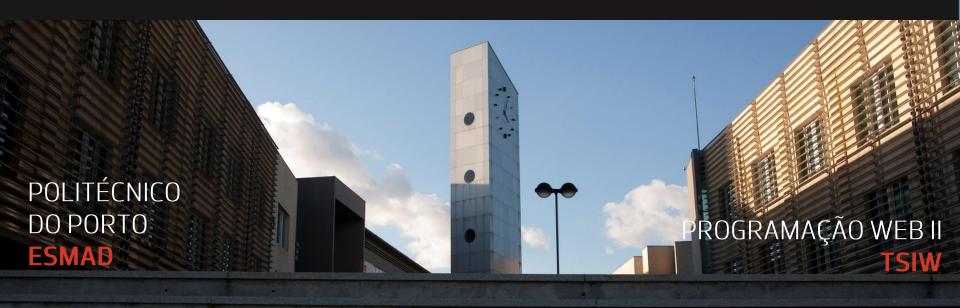
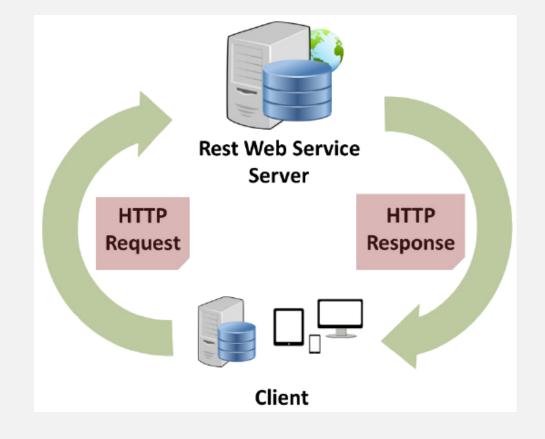
P.PORTO



SUMMARY

- Web Services
- REST APIs



Web Services

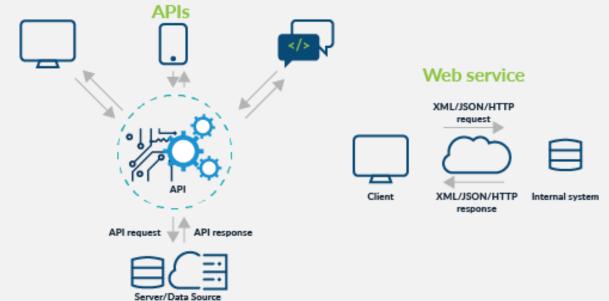
- Up to late 90's, the dominant method for delivering web applications was for web servers to send HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and multimedia assets in response to every request
 - ➤ Browsers mitigated some of this huge overhead cost by caching assets, but the pace of innovation in web applications was straining this model
- Web 2.0 arose, people were expected rich web experiences, so developers realized that not every change in an application required information from the server, and not every change that required information from the server needed the entire application just to deliver a small change
 - the page itself might change in response to user interaction, and instead of asking the server for a whole new application, JavaScript would change the DOM directly

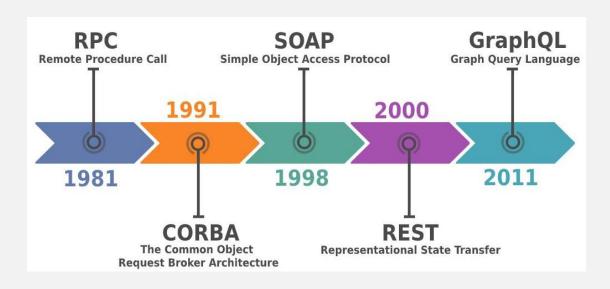
Web Services

- By 2012, it was common practice to try to send as little information as possible over the network, and do as much as possible in the browser, providing the conditions for the SPA's (Single-Page Application techniques)
 - ➢ for any given web application, the HTML, JS, and CSS (if any) are shipped exactly once; then, it is up to the JS to make all changes to the DOM to make the user feel that they are navigating to a different page
 - > of course, the server is still involved: it's still responsible for providing up-to-date data, and being the "single source of truth" in a multiuser application
- So, most modern web applications rely on receiving unstructured data (like JSON or XML), communicating directly using HTTP requests to a Web Service or API

Web Services / APIs

- They are around for several years, and can be defined as a service offered by an electronic device to another, communicating with each other via the WWW
 - ➤ Meaning, it is a Web-based interface to a database server, that uses HTTP protocol to communicate using machine-readable file formats such as XML and JSON





- Before REST, protocols like RPC or SOAP were a standard when developing Web APIs
- Look at this <u>video</u>, that compares the 4 most common API types: RPC, SOAP, REST and GraphQL

API ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

	RPC	SOAP	REST	GraphQL
Organized in terms of	local procedure calling	procedure calling enveloped message structure		schema & type system
Format	JSON, XML, Protobuf, Thrift, FlatBuffers XML only		XML, JSON, HTML, plain text,	JSON
Learning curve	Easy	Difficult	Easy	Medium
Community	Large		Large	Growing
Use cases	Command and action- oriented APIs; internal high performance communication in massive micro-services systems	Payment gateways, identity management CRM solutions financial and telecommunication services, legacy system support	Public APIs simple resource- driven apps	Mobile APIs, complex systems, micro-services



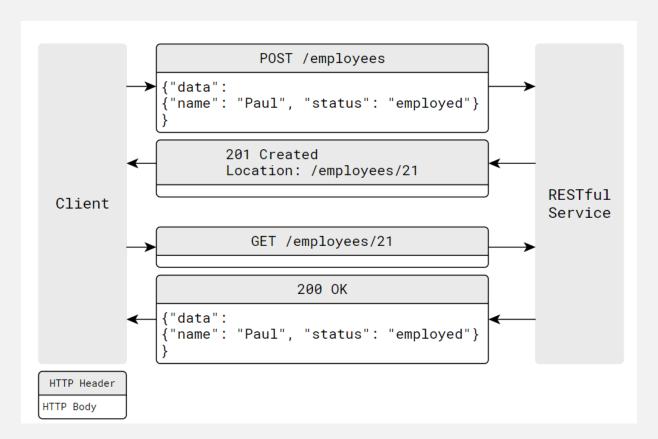
- REST stands for REpresentational State Transfer
 - When called, the server transfers to the client a representation of the state of the requested resource
- It is a set of architectural principles for distributed computer systems on the web



@fielding
Senior Principal Scientist at Adobe
Systems Inc. Co-founder Apache,
author HTTP and URI standards, defined
REST architectural style

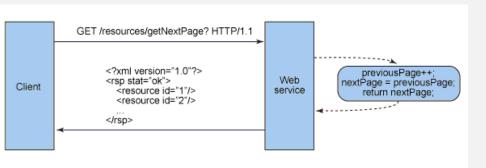
- Roy Fielding first presented it in 2000 in his famous dissertation
- It revolves around resources (data the API wants to expose) where resources are accessed by endpoints (URIs used in the HTTP requests)
 - ➤ **Resources** in REST is like objects in Object Oriented Programming or entities in a Database
 - In Instagram's API, for example, a resource can be a user, a photo, a hashtag
 - > URIs are used to access those resources
 - > HTTP verbs are used to perform actions on those resources

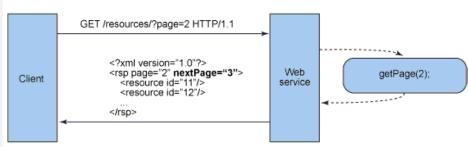
 A Web API conforming to the REST architectural style can be named as RESTfull



REST principles

- Client-server: clear boundaries between roles of the two systems;
 one must function as the server that is being called, and the other is the one making the requests
- **Stateless**: each request is self-descriptive, and has enough context for the server to process that message
 - meaning no client content is stored on the server between requests





Not stateless – client state stored on the server

Stateless – client state stored on the client

REST principles

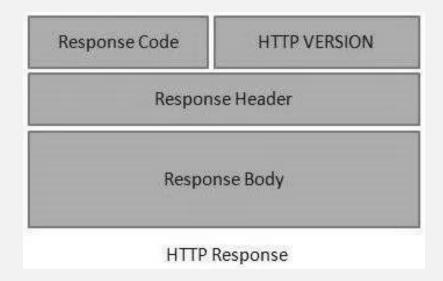
- **Uniform interface**: information is transferred in a standardized form instead of specific to an application's needs; the following 4 constraints can achieve a uniform REST interface:
 - 1. Identification of resources a unique identifier (URI) assigned to each resource
 - **2. Manipulation of resources through representations** the response the server returns include enough information so the client can modify the resource
 - **3. Self-descriptive messages** each request contains all the information the server needs to perform the request, and each response contains all the information the client needs to understand it
 - **4. Hypermedia as the engine of application state** the server can inform the client, in a response, of the ways to change the state of the application; the client application should dynamically drive all other resources and interactions with the use of hyperlinks

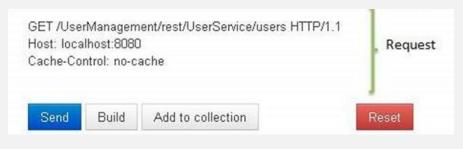
REST principles

- Cacheable: unless denoted, a client can cache any representation
 - REST APIs allow clients to store frequently accessed data on their side instead of requesting them again and again
 - this is possible thanks to the statelessness, since every representation is selfdescriptive
- Layered system: client-server interactions can be mediated by hierarchical layers
 - For example, one can keep the API in a server, the database in another server and authentication system in separate server
 - Client does not know the numbers of servers that responses come through
- Code on demand: (optional) the server may return a piece of executable code on the client's demand

REST messages









REST resources

- REST does not impose any restriction on the **format** of a resource representation
 - ➤ A client can ask for JSON representation whereas another client may ask for XML representation of the same resource to the server
 - ➤ It is the responsibility of the REST server to pass the client the resource in the format that the client understands
- At present most of the web services are representing resources using either XML or JSON format; there are plenty of libraries and tools available to understand, parse, and modify XML and JSON data

```
<user>
     <id>1</id>
     <name>Mahesh</name>

Resource
user in XML
and JSON
format
```

```
{
    "id":1,
    "name":"Mahesh",
    "profession":"Teacher"
}
```



REST API designers should create URIs that convey a REST API's resource model to its potential client developers

 RULE #1: forward slash separator (/) must be used to indicate a hierarchical relationship between resources

http://api.example.com/shapes/polygons/quadrilaterals/squares

- RULE #2: a trailing forward slash (/) should not be included in URIs
 - ➤ as the last character within a URI's path, a forward slash (/) adds no semantic value and may cause confusion

http://api.example.com/shapes/ NOT http://api.example.com/shapes

- RULE #3: hyphens (-) should be used to improve the readability of URIs
 - use the hyphen (-) character to improve the readability of names in long path segments
 - underscores (_) should not be used in URIs

```
http://api.example.com/blogs/guy-levin/posts/this_is_my_first_post NOT http://api.example.com/blogs/guy-levin/posts/this-is-my-first-post
```

RULE #4: lowercase letters should be preferred in URI paths

```
http://api.example.com/my-folder/my-doc (1)
HTTP://API.EXAMPLE.COM/my-folder/my-doc (2)
http://api.example.com/My-Folder/my-doc (3)
```

(1) and (2) can be considered equal; (3) is not the same as (1) or (2)

- RULE #5: file extensions should not be included in URIs
 - REST APIs should not include artificial file extensions in URIs to indicate the format of a message's entity body
 - Instead, they should rely on the media type, as communicated through the *Content-Type* header, to determine how to process the body's content
 - ➤ REST API clients should be encouraged to utilize HTTP's provided format selection mechanism, the *Accept* request header

http://api.college.com/students/3248234/transcripts/2005/**fall.json NOT** http://api.college.com/students/3248234/transcripts/2005/**fall**

- RULE #6: use consistent subdomain names
 - > full domain name of an API should add a subdomain named api
 - many REST APIs have an associated website, known as a developer portal, to help onboard new clients with documentation, forums, and self-service provisioning of secure API access keys; if an API provides a developer portal, by convention it should have a subdomain labeled developer

PRODUCTION API DEVELOPER PORTAL TEST API http://api.fakecompany.com http://developer.fakecompany.com http://api.sandbox.fakecompany.com



- RULE #7: document versus collection
 - > a document resource is a singular concept that is akin to an object instance or database record
 - a collection resource is a server-managed directory of resources; <u>always use plural</u> <u>names</u> when referring to a collection resource

http://api.example.com/**students/**http://api.example.com/**students/mary**COLLECTION
DOCUMENT

http://api.example.com/users/ COLLECTION http://api.example.com/users/007 DOCUMENT

http://api.example.com/user/007 NOT

- RULE #8: a controller resource models a procedural concept
 - > controller resources are like executable functions, with parameters and return values, inputs and outputs
 - ➤ a REST API relies on controller resources to perform application-specific actions that cannot be logically mapped to one of the standard methods (create, retrieve, update, and delete)
 - controller names are verbs and typically appear as the last segment in a URI path, with no child resources to follow them in the hierarchy

POST /alerts/245743/resend

controller resource that allows a client to resend an alert to user 245743

POST /students/login

URI to *login* a student (providing its credentials in the body request)

- RULE #9: variable path segments may be substituted with identity-based values
 - Static URI path segments: fixed names chosen by the REST API designer
 - ➤ Variable URI path segments: they are **automatically filled in with some identifier** that may help provide the URI with its uniqueness

http://api.soccer.com/leagues/{leagueId}/teams/{teamId}/players/{playerId} this URI template example below has three variables: leagueId, teamId, and playerId

Client URI example:

http://api.soccer.com/leagues/champions/teams/porto/players/27



- RULE #10: CRUD function names should not be used in URIs
 - CRUD: Create, Read, Update, Delete—the four standard, storage-oriented functions
 - Instead, HTTP request methods should be used to indicate which CRUD function is performed
 - > URIs should be used to uniquely identify resources

DELETE /users/1234

GET /deleteUser?id=1234 NOT
GET /deleteUser/1234 NOT
DELETE /deleteUser/1234 NOT

 RULE #11: the query component of a URI may be used to filter collections or get partial results

```
URI = "/" path [ "?" query ]
```

GET /users

The response message lists all the users in the collection

GET /users?role=admin

The response contains a filtered list of all the users with a "role" value of admin

GET /users/007?fields=firstname,name,address(street)
When performance is a strong concern, allow retrieval of only partial data

```
GET /orders?state=payed&id_user=007
GET /users/007/orders?state=payed
Multiple URIs can reference the same resource
```

 RULE #12: the query component of a URI should be used to paginate collection or order results

```
GET /users?limit=25&offset=2
the limit parameter specifies the maximum number of elements to return in the response (one page)
the offset parameter specifies the page offset (usually zero-based)
```

GET /restaurants?sort=rating

- Each HTTP method has specific, well-defined semantics within the context of a REST API's resource model:
 - GET: retrieves a representation of a resource's
 - PUT: updates a resource (can also create a resource if client specifies which resource it is to store)
 - POST: creates a new resource
 - DELETE: removes a resource
 - > PATCH: partially updates a resource
 - HEAD: retrieve the metadata associated with the resource
 - > OPTIONS: retrieve metadata that describes a resource's available interactions

HTTP verb	Collection: /orders	Document: /orders/{id}
GET	Read all orders	Read a specific order
POST	Creates a new order	-
PUT	-	Complete update Creates a specific order
PATCH	-	Partial update
DELETE	-	Deletes a specific order

REQUEST GET /orders

GET /orders/1234

200 OK

RESPONSE STATUS CODE 200 OK

RESPONSE BODY [{"id":"1234", "state":"paid"} {"id":"1234", "state":"paid"} {"id":"5678", "state":"running"}]

HTTP verb	Collection: /orders	Document: /orders/{id}
GET	Read all orders	Read a specific order
POST	Creates a new order	-
PUT	-	Complete update Creates a specific order
PATCH	-	Partial update
DELETE	-	Deletes a specific order

HTTP verb	Collection: /orders	Document: /orders/{id}
GET	Read all orders	Read a specific order
POST	Creates a new order	-
PUT	-	Complete update Creates a specific order
PATCH	-	Partial update
DELETE	-	Deletes a specific order

PATCH /orders/1234 {"state":"running"}

- HTTP defines forty standard status codes that can be used to convey the results of a client's request
- The status codes are divided into the five categories:

Category	Description
1xx: Informational	Communicates transfer protocol-level information.
2xx: Success	Indicates that the client's request was accepted successfully.
3xx: Redirection	Indicates that the client must take some additional action in order to complete their request.
4xx: Client Error	This category of error status codes points the finger at clients.
5xx: Server Error	The server takes responsibility for these error status codes.

Do not try to use all of them, use the principal 12

Category	HTTP status code	Description
	200 OK	Basic success code. Works for most cases. Especially used in the success of the first GET request, or update with PUT / PATCH.
	201 Created	Indicates that the resource has been created. Typical response to a PUT or POST request.
Success	202 Accepted	Indicates that the request has been accepted for processing. Typical response to a call for asynchronous processing (for better UX and good performance).
	204 No content	The request worked, but there is no content to return. Common response to a successful DELETE.
	206 Partial content	The returned resource is incomplete. Usually used in paged resources.

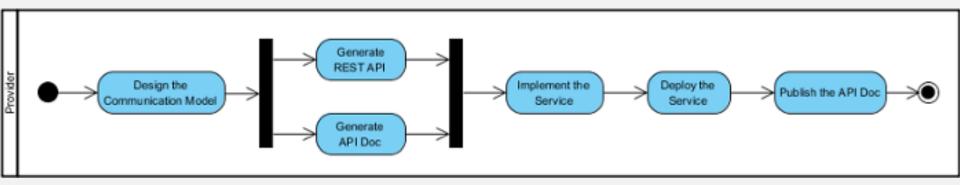


Do not try to use all of them, use the principal 12

Category	HTTP status code	Description	
	400 Bad request	General error for any request GET /users?payed=1 < 400 Bad Request < {"error": "invalid_request", "error_description": "There is no 'payed' property on users."}	
Client error	401 Unauthorized	Sent when the client either provided invalid credentials or forgot to send them GET /users/42/orders < 401 Unauthorized < {"error": "no_credentials", "error_description": "This resource is under permission, you must be authenticated with the right rights to have access to it"}	
	403 Forbidden	Sent to deny access to a protected resource GET /users/42/orders < 403 Forbidden < {"error": "not_allowed", "error_description": "You're not allowed to perform this request"}	

Category	HTTP status code	Description
	404 Not Found	Sent when the client tried to interact with a URI that the REST API could not map to a resource GET /users/999999 < 400 Not Found < {"error": "not_found", "error_description": "The user with the id '999999' doesn't exist"}
Client error	405 Method not allowed	Sent when the client tried to interact using an unsupported HTTP method (e.g., POST on read-only resource)
	406 Not Acceptable	Sent when the client tried to request data in an unsupported media type format GET /users
Server error	500 Internal server Error	Should be used to indicate API malfunction GET /users < 500 Internal server error < {"error":"server_error", "error_description":"Oops! Something went wrong "}

REST API – design



REST API – design

 Start by defining the resources and designing the URLs mapped with the business operations

RESTful URL	HTTP Action	Noun	Business Operation
/Accounts/Profiles/; < profileData>	POST	Profile	createAccountHolderProfile
/Accounts/Profiles/{profile_id}	GET	Profile	getAccountHolderProfile
/Accounts/Profiles/{profile_id};< profileData>	PUT	Profile	updateAccountHolderProfile
/Accounts/{acc_id}	GET	Account	getAccountSummary
/Accounts/Loans/	GET	Loan	getLoanAccounts
/Accounts/	GET	Account	getAllAccounts
/Accounts/Bills/; <billdata></billdata>	POST	BILL	billPayment
/Accounts/Payments/{paymentId}	DELETE	Payment	cancelPayment
/Accounts/Payees/ ; <payee data=""></payee>	POST	Payee	addPayee
/Accounts/Payees/{payee_id}; <payee data=""></payee>	PUT	Payee	updatePayee
/Accounts/Payee/{payee_id}	DELETE	Payee	deletePayee
/Accounts/fd; <fd data=""></fd>	POST	FD	createFixedDeposit
/Accounts/fd{fd_id}; <fd data=""></fd>	PUT	FD	preCloserFixedDeposit

Best Practices for Building RESTful Web services (infosys.com)

REST API – documentation

- Whether it's internal or external API consumers, they'll want to know about authentication, the endpoints, and what response data to expect
- Checklist:
 - > The root path for this version of your API
 - > The path to call each endpoint
 - ➤ Which HTTP methods can be used with each endpoint
 - Authentication and other headers required with each request
 - The request data fields and where each goes, such as path, query-string, or body
 - > Explanation of what request data is required and what is optional
 - Which HTTP status codes are possible for each endpoint/method pairing
 - What each status code means in the context of each call
 - The data to expect in each response, including which responses will always be present
 - Example request and response data

REST API – documentation

Title

<Additional information about your API call. Try to use verbs that match both request type (fetching vs modifying) and plurality (one vs multiple).>

- URL <The URL Structure (path only, no root url)>
- Method <The request type>
- Request Params: path, body, query, header <If URL params exist (path or query), specify them in
 accordance with name mentioned in URL section. If making a post request, what should the body payload
 look like? Header parameters are included in the request header; they are usually related to authorization.
 Separate into optional and required. Should document data constraints.>
- Response: success and error responses <Success: what should the status code be on success and is
 there any returned data? This is useful when people need to to know what their callbacks should expect!
 Error: most endpoints will have many ways they can fail. From unauthorized access, to wrongful parameters
 etc. All of those should be listed here. It might seem repetitive, but it helps prevent assumptions from being
 made where they should be>
- Sample call and sample responses < Just a sample call to your endpoint in a runnable format (\$.ajax call or a curl request) this makes life easier and more predictable.>
- Notes <This is where all uncertainties, commentary, discussion etc. can go>



REST API – documentation

Show user Returns JSON data about a single user. Accessible only by authenticated users.

- URL /users/:id
- Method GET
- Request Params: PATH id=[integer] (required)
 HEAD token=[string] (required)
- Response:

```
Success: Code: 200 OK

Content: { id : 12, name : "Michael Bloom" }

Error: Code: 404 NOT FOUND
```

Content: { error : "User doesn't exist" }

Error: Code: 401 UNAUTHORIZED

Content: { error : "You are unauthorized to make this request." }

Sample call

Consider an application to manage books in a library. Let's point out some possible requirements (feel free to add more!):

- The application provides some public and protected data. Users need to log in to have access to protected data. There are two types of users: regular users and the librarian (acts as a system administrator)
- New (regular) users can create an account to use the application
- The list of books is available publicly (searchable by author name, title,...)
- A regular user can:
 - see all information about himself
 - can modify its data
 - borrow a book / see all it's borrows (but cannot update or delete them)
 - see the borrow historic of a book
- A librarian has access to all data and can:
 - modify/delete books (only those without borrows)
 - see all borrows and modify borrows status (can not delete them)

What about the resources? First, it is necessary to define them, and then map the necessary actions to them:

- Users standard actions like create, get data and update
- Books standard actions like create, delete, update and search books by different criteria (through different fields of a book)
- Borrows regular users can make as many borrows as they want (cannot be deleted);
 librarians can read and update borrows



For each resource, define the routes for all actions:

USERS

Method	Endpoint	Description
POST	/users	Creates a new user (public route)
POST	/users/login	User authentication (public route) – if successfull, retrieves the user authentication <u>token</u>
GET	/users/current	Gets all logged user data (protected route)
GET	/users/current/ borrows	Gets all logged user borrows (protected route)
PATCH	/users/current	Updates logged user data (protected route)

For each resource, define the routes for all actions:

BOOKS

Method	Endpoint	Description
POST	/books	Creates a new book * only for librarians
GET	/books?title=,	Gets a list of books (public route)(can be filtered)
GET	/books/:id	Gets one book (more detailed information) (public route)
GET	/books/:id/borrows	Gets all borrows of a certain book (protected route)
PATCH	/books/:id	Updates one book * only for librarians
DELETE	/books/:id	Peletes one book * only for librarians

For each resource, define the routes for all actions:

BORROWS

Method	Endpoint	Description
GET	/borrows	Gets a list of all borrows (protected route) * only for librarians
POST	/borrows	Creates a new borrow (protected route - user and book ids in request body or user id — via token - in header and book id in request body)
PATCH	/borrows/:id	Updates a certain borrow (ex: mark the book as delivered) * only for librarians