

# 08. Networking

This is where the fun starts

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- First part of the lecture
  - presentation
- Second part of the lecture
  - live coding - networking and maybe some navigation

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# Closures

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- Will be used extensively through the networking
-

# Closures

- self-contained blocks of functionality
- blocks of code that **can** be called later
  - **asynchronously**
  - **escaping closures**
- similar to lambdas in other languages
- capture and store references
  - constants and variables
  - context in which they're defined
- functions in Swift are special cases of closures

```
{ (parameters) -> return type in  
  statements  
}
```

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- definition of a closure
- input parameters
- statements
- and return value

```
let myClosure: (Int, Int) -> Void = { (int1: Int, int2: Int) -> Void in  
  print("\(int1) \(int2)")  
}
```

```
let myClosure: (Int, Int) -> Void = { (int1: Int, int2: Int) in  
  print("\(int1) \(int2)")  
}
```

```
let myClosure: (Int, Int) -> Void = { int1, int2 in  
  print("\(int1) \(int2)")  
}
```

```
let myClosure: (Int, Int) -> Void = {  
  print("\(0) \(1)")  
}
```

myClosure(1, 2)

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- multiple ways for writing the same closure

```
let names = ["Chris", "Alex", "Ewa", "Barry", "Daniella"]  
  
let reversedNames = names.sorted(by: { (s1: String, s2: String) -> Bool in  
    return s1 > s2  
})
```

```
let reversedNames = names.sorted(by: { s1, s2 in return s1 > s2 } )
```

```
let reversedNames = names.sorted(by: { $0 > $1 })
```

```
let reversedNames = names.sorted { $0 > $1 }
```

```
let reversedNames = names.sorted(by: >)
```

- synchronous closures (non-escaping)

## Trailing closure syntax

```
func someFunctionThatTakesAClosure(closure: (Int) -> Void) {  
    // function body goes here  
}  
  
// Here's how you call this function without using a trailing closure:  
someFunctionThatTakesAClosure(closure: { (int1: Int) in  
    // closure's body goes here  
})  
  
// Here's how you call this function with a trailing closure instead:  
someFunctionThatTakesAClosure() { int1 in  
    // trailing closure's body goes here  
}
```

- in case if a closure is the last argument in function definition

## Asynchronous execution

```
// This will be executed immediately
MBProgressHUD.showAdded(to: view, animated: true)

// Here we are scheduling some work which will be executed after 4 seconds.
// Scheduling will be executed immediately.
// Work is defined through closure - in our case, hiding the spinner.
// Closure will be executed asynchronously, after 4 seconds.

DispatchQueue.main.asyncAfter(deadline: .now() + 4, execute: {
    // This is a closure which will be executed after 4 seconds.
    // Here we are capturing current context (self) where we will
    // hide the spinner.
   MBProgressHUD.hide(for: self.view, animated: true)
})

// Or shortly, using trailing closure syntax
DispatchQueue.main.asyncAfter(deadline: .now() + 4) {
   MBProgressHUD.hide(for: self.view, animated: true)
}
```



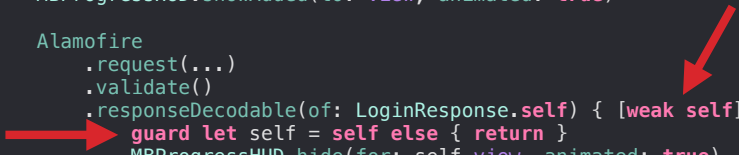
## Capture list

- closure captures reference to variables
  - **strong** by default
- helpful when dealing with retain cycles & memory leaks

## Example - API call

```
MBProgressHUD.showAdded(to: view, animated: true)

Alamofire
    .request(...)
    .validate()
    .responseDecodable(of: LoginResponse.self) { [weak self] response in
        → guard let self = self else { return }
       MBProgressHUD.hide(for: self.view, animated: true)
        ...
    }
```



# Threading/Concurrency

- available through closures and Grand Central Dispatch (**GCD**)
- you don't work directly with threads, rather queues
- **DispatchQueue**
- schedule work (**closure**) on some of queues (**DispatchQueue** instances)
- **main queue**
  - queue used for UI updates
  - only one thread - always the same one
  - **main thread**

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```
// Start the image download on global queue. Everything UI related
// runs on the main queue. You don't want to block the main queue,
// otherwise users will experience jitter in your app.
DispatchQueue.global().async { [weak self] in
    let url = URL(string: "https://www.apple.com/apple.jpg")!
    // Fetch the image from internet
    let data = try? Data(contentsOf: url)
    // Check if data exists, if not return
    guard let data = data else {
        return
    }
    // Return back to main queue since all UI updates
    // should happen only on main queue (main thread).
    // Otherwise you'll get into an undefined state or even a crash.
    DispatchQueue.main.async { [weak self] in
        let image = UIImage(data: data)
        self?.myImageView.image = image
    }
}
```

**01**

# Backend API

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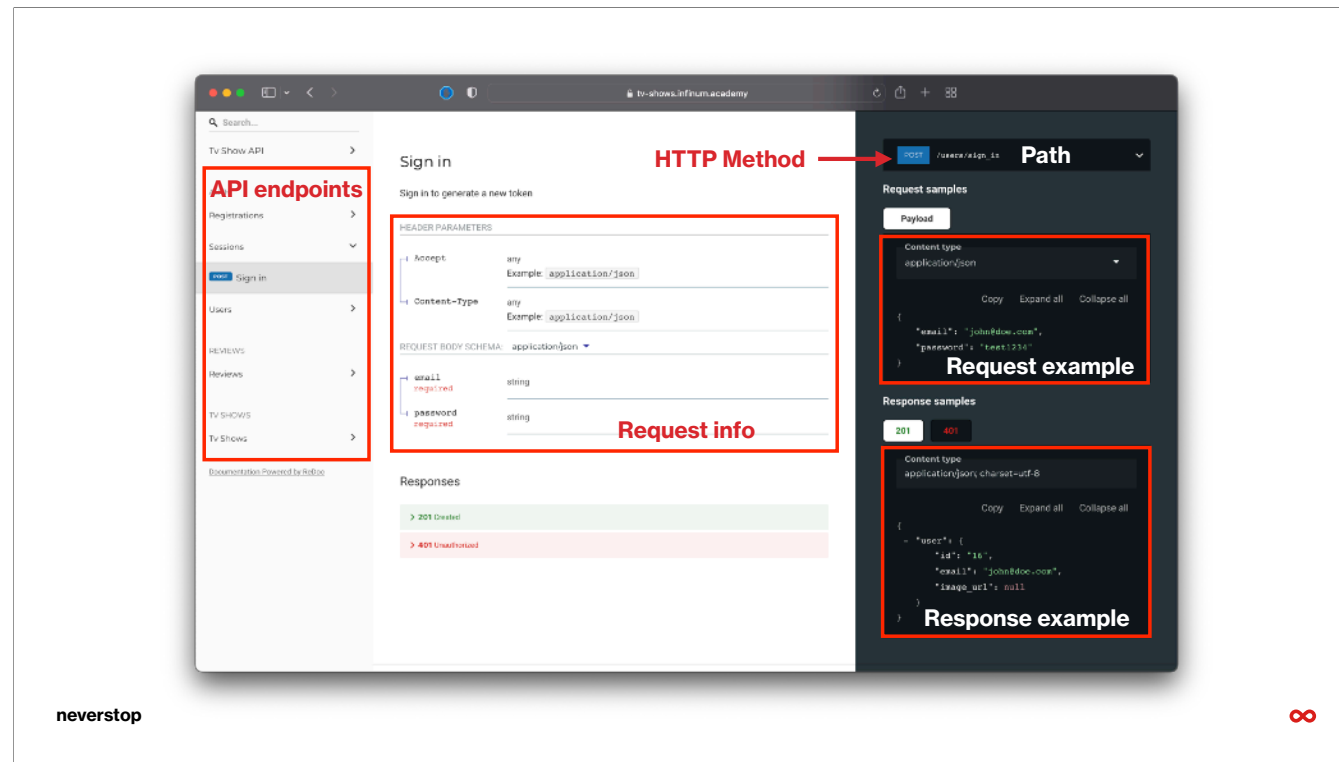
## TV Shows API Documentation

- <https://tv-shows.infinum.academy/api/v1/docs/index.html>
- documentation above has much more stuff than what we need for the app
- link on top of the materials repository as well
- **an interface between database and your app**

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- accompanying backend for our app
- holds all data about shows and users
- an interface between database and your app



- go over documentation
- HTTP method
- path
- JSON
- sign in and access token, stay signed in, cookies

**02**

# Debugging

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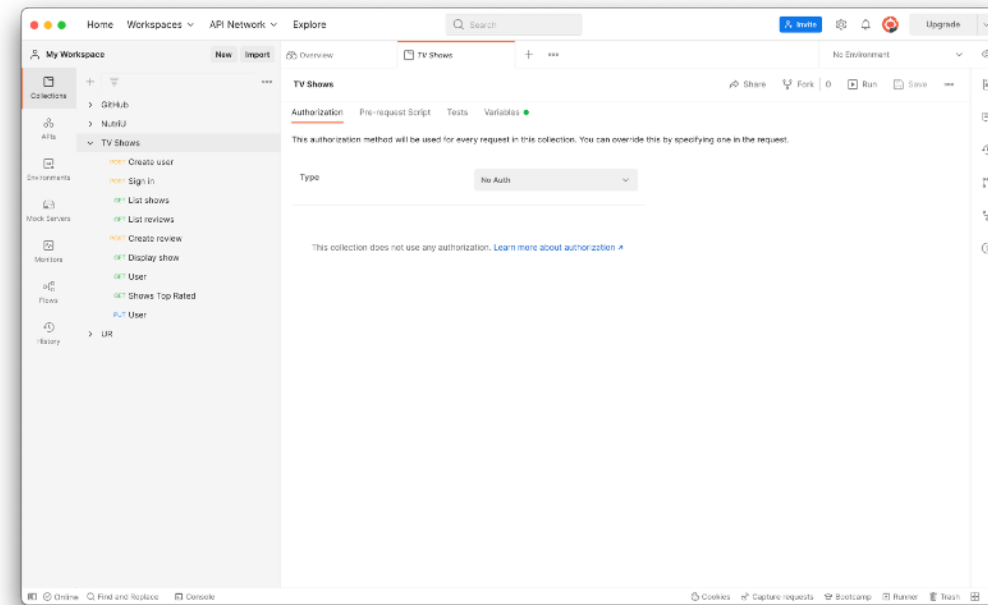
## Debugging the API

- **Postman**
  - <https://www.postman.com/downloads/>
  - select Mac Intel Chip
- **Paw**

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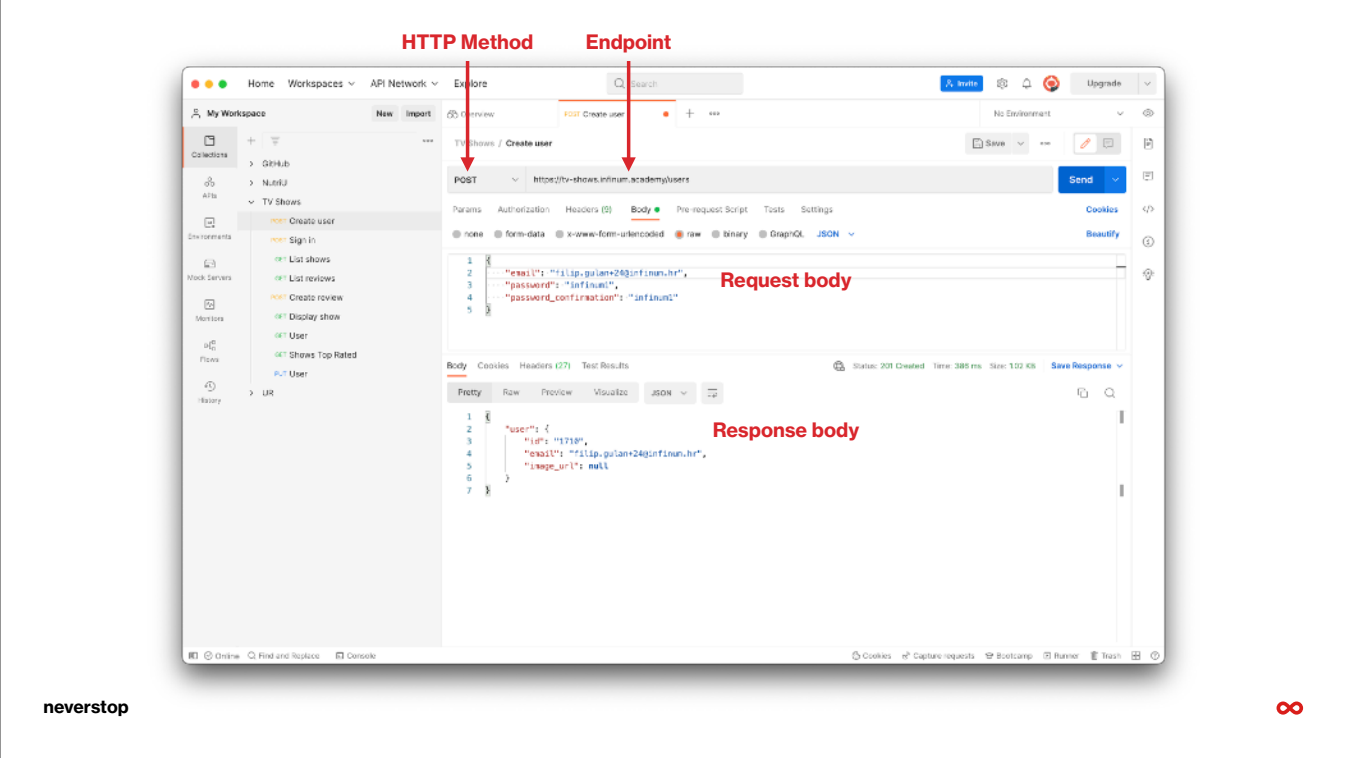
- Postman - free, standalone version or Chrome extension
- Paw - paid, much better, native GUI



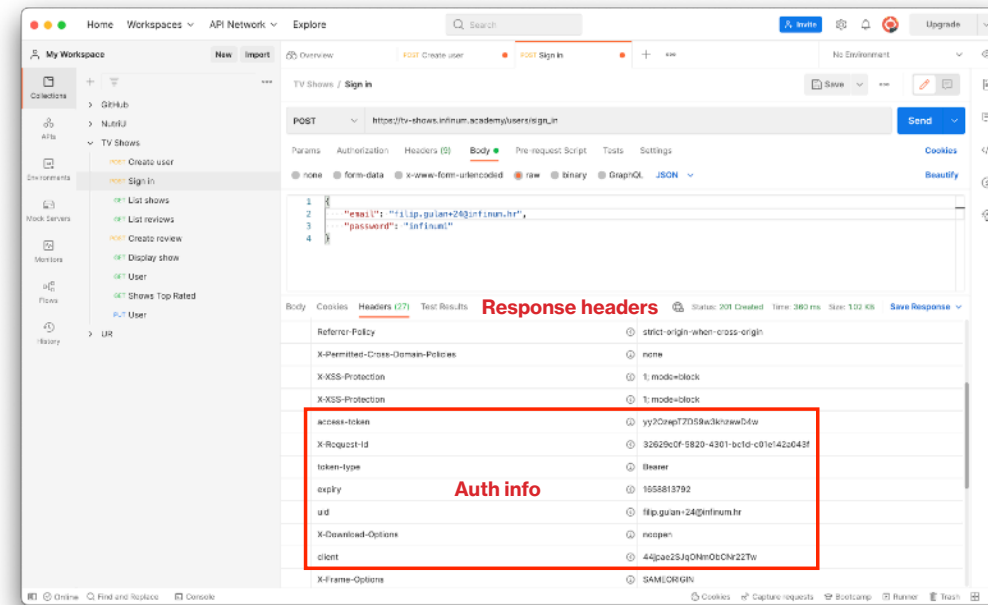
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- Postman demo time



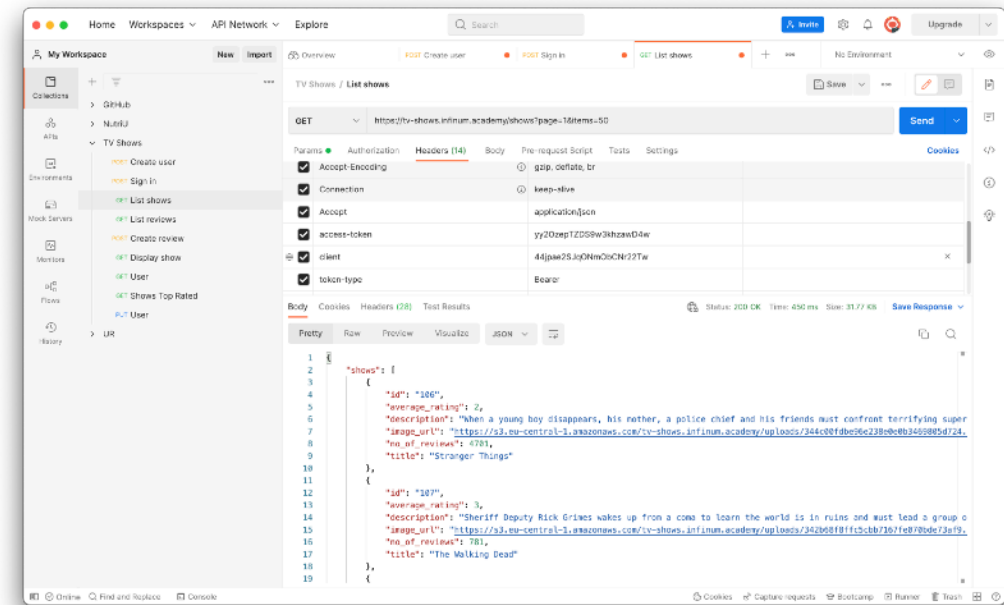
- Create User



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- Sign In



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- Get all Shows

**03**

**JSON**

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# JSON

- JavaScript Object Notation
- request, response
- commonly used for APIs worldwide
  - easy to read
  - easy to parse
  - supported by a bunch of libraries

```
{  
  "data": {  
    "username": "myName",  
    "email": "email@test.com",  
    "password": "myPassword"  
  }  
}
```



# Reading JSON

- "key": "value"
  - "firstName": "John"
- {}
  - marks a dictionary, hash-map or how you want to call it
- []
  - marks an array

## JSON in Swift

- JSON in Swift is represented as a dictionary of dictionaries
- in other languages known as a hash-map
- dictionary and arrays are represented with the same braces
  - [key: value]
  - [value, value, value,...n]

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- Array and Dictionary in Swift usually homogeneous
  - contains single type
- Array and Dictionary in ObjC heterogeneous
  - can contain multiple types
- [String: Any]
  - because we can't know the type in advanced, we need to tell types

## Dictionary - single type

```
// A simple `[String: String]` dictionary
let dictionary = [
    "milk"      : "cow",
    "egg"       : "chicken",
    "cheese"    : "hooman"
]

// Iterate through keys and values
dictionary.forEach { (key: String, value: String) in
    print("KEY: \(key), VALUE: \(value)")
}
```

## Dictionary - heterogeneous

```
// Create a bit more complex dictionary
let complexDictionary: [String: Any] = [
    "products"      : dictionary,
    "author"         : "Ivan",
    "random_numbers" : [1, 4, 166]
]

// Iterate through keys and values
complexDictionary.forEach { (key: String, value: Any) in
    print("KEY: \(key), VALUE: \(value)")
}
```

**04**

# Networking in iOS

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# URLSession

- the base class for iOS networking
- used in combination with a few different classes
- **URLSession tutorial**
  - <https://www.raywenderlich.com/3244963-urlsession-tutorial-getting-started>
- abstracted through **Alamofire**

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- we won't cover it here now, we will use higher level abstraction called Alamofire

**05**

# Alamofire

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# Alamofire

- <https://github.com/Alamofire/Alamofire>
- **HTTP** networking library for Swift
- probably the most popular third-party lib for iOS
- very easy JSON request/response
- **pod "Alamofire"**

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- we won't cover it here now, we will use higher level abstraction called Alamofire



```
let parameters: [String: String] = [
    "email": userNameField.text!,
    "password": passwordField.text!,
    "confirm_password": passwordField.text!
]

MBProgressHUD.showAdded(to: view, animated: true)

AF.request(
    "https://tv-shows.infinum.academy/users",
    method: .post,
    parameters: parameters,
    encoder: JSONParameterEncoder.default
)
.validate() // Status code in 200 ..< 300 range
.responseJSON { dataResponse in
   MBProgressHUD.hide(for: view, animated: true)
    switch dataResponse.result {
    case .success(let response):
        print("Success: \(response)")
    case .failure(let error):
        print("Failure: \(error)")
    }
}
```

06

# JSON deserialization Codable

## APIs suck - deserialization

- pretty much mostly
- dictionaries suck too (string based, loosely typed)
- we need to convert the JSON from the API into something we can easily read and interact with
- something = **struct** , **enum** or **class**

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- [String: Any] -> a bit of an issue ;)

## Codable

- <https://developer.apple.com/documentation/swift/codable>
- a type that can convert itself into and out of an external representation (**JSON**, **plist**...)
- used when parsing JSON into our custom models, and vice versa

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- we can use this to convert JSON string based API to our custom models, and back again when sending something to the API

```
{
  "user": {
    "id": "1713",
    "email": "filip.gulan+26@infinum.hr",
    "image_url": null
  }
}
```



```
struct LoginResponse: Codable {
  let user: LoginUser
}

struct LoginUser: Codable {
  let email: String
  let imageUrl: String?
  let id: String

  enum CodingKeys: String, CodingKey {
    case email
    case imageUrl = "image_url"
    case id
  }
}
```

```
let parameters: [String: String] = [
    "email": "filip.gulan@infinum.hr",
    "password": "infinum1"
]

MBProgressHUD.showAdded(to: view, animated: true)

AF.request(
    "https://tv-shows.infinum.academy/users/sign_in",
    method: .post,
    parameters: parameters,
    encoder: JSONParameterEncoder.default
)
.validate() // Status code in 200 ..< 300 range
.responseDecodable(of: LoginResponse.self) { [weak self] response in
    guard let self = self else { return }
   MBProgressHUD.hide(for: self.view, animated: true)
    switch response.result {
    case .success(let response):
        print("Success: \(response)")
    case .failure(let error):
        print("Failure: \(error)")
    }
}
```

**07**

# **User/Session API request**

## Things to consider

- **Register**
  - **POST**
  - <https://tv-shows.infinum.academy/users>
- **Login**
  - **POST**
  - [https://tv-shows.infinum.academy/users/sign\\_in](https://tv-shows.infinum.academy/users/sign_in)



**08**

# Callback hell

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## Callback hell

- closure inside closure inside closure inside closure
- unreadable
- error propagation
- maintenance
- impossible to test
- very hard to debug

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- IMPORTANT:
- How to combat that?
  - well we have couple of levels of abstraction that we can use
    - Future/Promise
    - Rx
  - We want to achieve some sort of function composition
  - We want to minimise “code indentation” to the right
- Both \*Futures\* and \*Rx\* will allow us to write code that looks like synchronous code, but will actually be asynchronous
  - In let's say C# we have async/await, a concurrency model to help, Swift still doesn't have that, yet

## Problem

```
// First API call with closure a.k.a callback
registerUserAPI(parameters) { [weak self] registerResponse in
    guard let self = self else { return }

    switch registerResponse.result {
    case .success(let registerData):

        // Second API call with closure a.k.a callback
        loginUserAPI(registerData) { [weak self] loginResponse in
            guard let self = self else { return }

            switch loginResponse.result {
            case .success(let user):
                self.navigateToHomeScreen(user)
            case .failure(let error):
                self.handleError(error)
            }
        }

    case .failure(let error):
        self.handleError(error)
    }
}

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```

**\*\*PROBLEM\*\***

## Solution

```
func registerUserAPI() -> Observable<RegisterData> {  
    ...  
}  
  
func loginUserAPI() -> Observable<User> {  
    ...  
}  
  
registerButtonEvent  
    .withLatestFrom(emailAndPasswordEvent)  
    .flatMap(registerUserAPI())  
    .flatMap(loginUserAPI())  
    .subscribe(  
        onNext: { [weak self] user in  
            self?.navigateToHomeScreen()  
        },  
        onError: { [weak self] error in  
            self?.handleError(error)  
        }  
    )  
    .disposed(by: disposeBag)
```

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- **\*\*POSSIBLE SOLUTION\*\***
- So this is written using Rx, we will not explain it now, but trust me when I say that you want to write code like that ;)

09

# Appendix

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# Links

- **TV Shows API documentation**
  - <https://tv-shows.infinum.academy/api/v1/docs/index.html>
- **Alamofire**
  - <https://github.com/Alamofire/Alamofire>
- **Codable**
  - <https://developer.apple.com/documentation/swift/codable>
- **Multithreading and DispatchQueue**
  - <https://fluffy.es/help-my-app-freezes/>

# Thank you!

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