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CS_493_400_F2018
Week 2 Assignment: Use Web API

Is the GitHub API RESTful?

A RESTful API has two main characteristics. First, it is stateless. This means that the server does not store data about the current state of the client. Every request is treated as a separate interaction between client and server. Therefore logs or histories are not maintained. I believe the GitHub API does maintain this characteristic. Each request requires an authorization. Each request must contain all information that is necessary for that call.

The second characteristic is the URL identify resources. Each URL is a noun that represents a resource. If you look at the GitHub Gist API's URLs you see a list of resource. Take for example, the call to get a users Gist https://api.github.com/users/dwwhite/gists. Each part of the URL is a noun, and each part of the URL represents a resource that could be manipulated by the verbs.

With these two characteristics, I feel that I could say that the GitHub API is RESTful API.