

Web APIs

CSSE6400

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Goals

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- Review existing networking knowledge.
- Understand *URLs*.
- Understand *HTTP* protocol and methods.
- Understand *RESTful* APIs.
- *Build* a basic RESTful API.

OSI Model



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OSI Model



TCP/UDP

Low-level with *minimal abstraction*.

TCP/UDP

Impractical for building web APIs.

OSI Model



OSI Model



HTTP/HTTPS (CSSE6400)

The anatomy of URLs

Hostname

http://example.com/hello-world

Protocol

Path

Hostname

Port

http://example.com:80/hello-world

Protocol

Path



HTTP

A *request-response* abstraction for networking.

HTTP Request

URL An endpoint to send request to.

Method Described later.

Headers Specify type of data, e.g. JSON, HTML, etc.

Body Optional extra data to include.

HTTP Response

Status Code A number between 100 and 599 giving details about the response.

Headers Specify type of response data, e.g. JSON, HTML, etc.

Body Content of the response.

Status Codes

200s Indicate the request was *successful*,
200 is most common.

300s *Redirects* the client to another location.

400s Indicates that the *request was wrong*

e.g. 404 meaning that the request was for something that doesn't exist.

500s Indicates that the *server had a problem*
fulfilling the request.

Types of HTTP communication

HTTP Methods

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GET *Query* for information.

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POST *Create* resource.

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GET *Query* for information.

POST *Create* resource.

PUT *Update* resource.

HTTP Methods

GET *Query* for information.

POST *Create* resource.

PUT *Update* resource.

DELETE *Delete* resource.

Examples

```
» cat app.py
```

```
1  from flask import Flask
3  app = Flask(__name__)
5  @app.route("/")
6  def hello_world():
7      return "Hello, World!"
9  if __name__ == "__main__":
10     app.run(port=6400)
```

Result



```
» cat app.js
```

```
1  const express = require('express')
2  const app = express()
3  const port = 6400

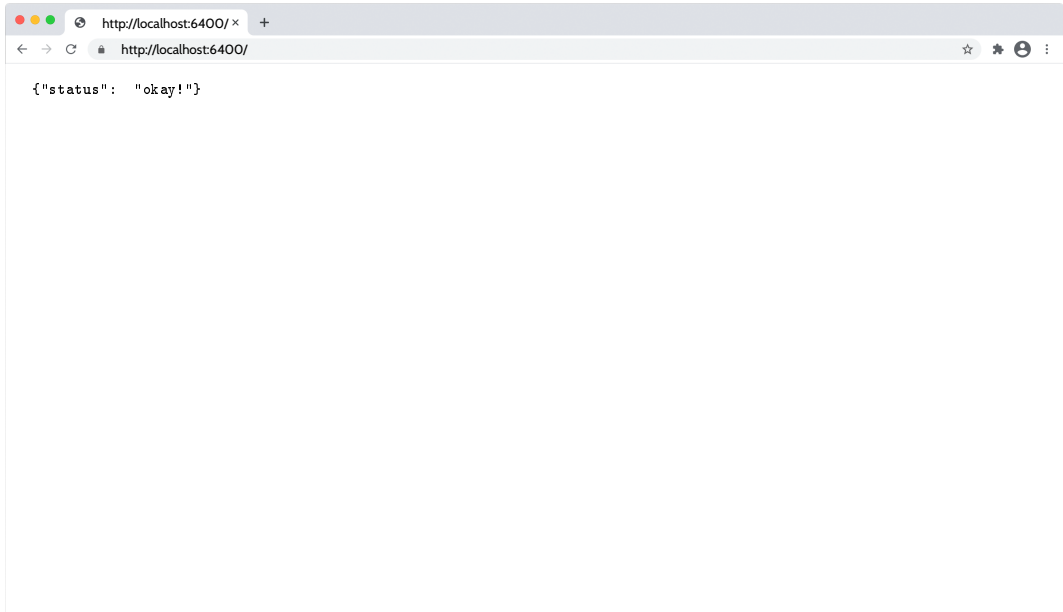
5  app.get('/', (req, res) => {
6      res.send('Hello, World!')
7  })

9  app.listen(port, () => {
10     console.log(`Example app listening on port ${port}`)
11 })
```

```
» cat app.py
```

```
1  from flask import Flask
3  app = Flask(__name__)
5  @app.route("/health")
6  def hello_world():
7      return {"status": "okay!"}
9  if __name__ == "__main__":
10     app.run(port=6400)
```

Result




```
» cat app.js
```

```
1  const express = require('express')
2  const app = express()
3  const port = 6400

5  app.get('/', (req, res) => {
6      res.send({"status": "okay!"})
7  })

9  app.listen(port, () => {
10     console.log(`Example app listening on port ${port}`)
11 })
```

```
» cat app.py
```

```
1 from flask import Flask
2 from flask import request

4 app = Flask(__name__)

6 @app.route("/echo", methods=["POST"])
7 def hello_world():
8     return request.json.say

10 if __name__ == "__main__":
11     app.run(port=6400)
```

```
1 >>> curl -X POST \  
2 -H "Accept: application/json" \  
3 -H "Content-Type: application/json" \  
4 "http://localhost:6400" \  
5 -d '{  
6     "say" : "Hello, World",  
7 }'  
8 Hello, World
```

```
» cat app.js
```

```
1  const express = require('express')
2  const app = express()
3  const port = 6400

5  app.post('/', express.json(), (req, res) => {
6      res.send(req.body.say)
7  })

9  app.listen(port, () => {
10     console.log(`Example app listening on port ${port}`)
11 })
```