In this thread I will describe and discuss how to organize an API’s data, feedback, and goals. It is important for us as developer to consider that less is more. The more complicated an API, the more overwhelming or disorganized it could appear to the user. This is not what we want. We want an API that meet will the users needs and goals with ease so that the user will continue to use our API and tell others about it. So, how we do we organize an API’s data?

According to our textbook for this course “To design usable data, you must organize it by creating data groups – moving related properties closer together, using common prefixes, or creating substructures and sorting the data in those groups and the groups themselves from more important to less important.” (Lauret, 2019). The example below of an overdraft system for a bank account is from the textbook and shows this progression of organizing data in the most optimal format:

Diagram

Description automatically generated

(Lauret, 2019).

When considering the design of an API, feedback must be organized in such a way that is easy to understand the underlying protocol’s feedback type, designing our own organization of feedback, and sorting each error we come across from the most critical, which should be listed at the top, to the least critical in descending order. The book once again has a an excellent visual of how what this progression looks like and how it works:

Text

Description automatically generated

(Lauret, 2019).

It is important to remember that organizing an API’s goals either physically or virtually will lead to them being easily readable and understood. This can be accomplished by “sorting the goals in the definition document and taking advantage of the API specification format.” (Lauret, 2019). As well, as designers we can even add organizational levels for the API meaning we can include a level in the path for the POST HTPP method for example. (Lauret, 2019).

References:

Lauret, A. (2019). *The Design of Web APIs* (1st ed.). Manning.