If you're working with software systems or just want to understand how different websites and apps work together, it's important to understand the basics of REST APIs.

For those who may not know, a REST API (which stands for Representational State Transfer API) is a way for different software systems to communicate with each other through the internet.

It's a crucial component of modern software development, and something that every aspiring developer should understand.

Imagine you're trying to book a flight online. When you search for flights and enter your preferences, the website sends a request to the airline's computer system to find available flights that match your criteria. The airline's system then sends a response back to the website with the available flights, and you can choose one to book. This interaction between the website and the airline's system is made possible through a REST API.

There are five main methods used in a REST API:

GET - retrieves a specific resource or collection of resources

POST - creates a new resource

PUT - updates an existing resource

DELETE - removes a specific resource

PATCH - partially updates an existing resource

The response from a REST API can either be a success or an error. A success response typically includes the requested information or a message confirming that the requested action was completed. An error response includes a message explaining why the request could not be completed.

Overall, a REST API is a crucial tool for allowing different software systems to communicate with each other and exchange information seamlessly.

