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Assignment #3

Building a RESTful API

The link to my service is: https://cloudapp-assignment3.wl.r.appspot.com
I noticed in postman that if this link was entered in with a '/' at the end, it broke everything. So please be sure to enter in the URL as is, without an added '/'.

Modify a boat: (PATCH /boats/:boat_id)
I was a little confused why we utilize PATCH here instead of PUT. The requirements page requires all parameters to be filled out in the request. The PATCH endpoint is for updating specific parts of an object, instead of rewriting over the whole object. For this, the URL does follow principles for RESTful, since everything in the URL is referring to an item/thing, and it does not contain any verb usage.

A boat at a slip (PUT /slips/:slip_id/:boat_id)
I was also a little confused on why the boat at a slip endpoint is a PUT. I feel it would work better as a PATCH. PATCH is for modifying one aspect of an object, which is what we do when a boat arrives at a slip. The slip's "current_boat" variable is updated to hold the boat_id, but nothing else is touched. Replacing PUT with PATCH for this endpoint would be beneficial.
As for following RESTful principles, this URL seemingly does that. The URL does not contain any verb usage.

A boat departs from a slip (DELETE /slips/:slip_id/boat_id)
This method used could be replaced by PATCH, since we are not really deleting anything, just removing the association between the two objects. Using PATCH to update the "current_boat" field that slip has would work just as well here. The URL does follow the RESTful principles, as there is again no verb usage and everything in the URL is referring to an item/thing.