

Application Program Interfaces

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# What is an API?

API stands for Application Programming Interface and is used to allow for two applications to talk to each other, small examples of using an API include Facebook, instant messaging and checking the weather.

A real-life example of an API is by comparing it to a restaurant, within a restaurant you have a menu, on this menu there is a list of meals that you can order, once you pick a meal the kitchen will create the meal for you and then provide you with the food. With this you don’t know how the API has prepared the food and this is similar to an API, you don’t know exactly how it gets the result it gets. This is a way for developers to take advantage by saving time as they are using an API which does the job they require, such as displaying a location on a map, Google maps can do this.

When a developer wants to create an app for a phone they don’t need to do all the programming thanks to the API, an example is an app that takes pictures, for example there are apps such as Instagram or Snapchat which have their own camera interface but for smaller companies the developers could use the phones API for the camera interface so they don’t need to create one themselves. Also, when the cameras API is improved by the phone’s developers, the app created will automatically take advantage of the updates.

APIs are also useful as they control access to resources, examples being hardware devices and software functions. An application may not have permission to utilize these whilst an API may have permission, this is why APIs are a big role in application security. An example of this is Google Maps, when visiting some sites you may receive a message asking if Google can know your location, these sites are using Googles geolocation API

# Different Types of APIs and the Platforms they are used on.

# Security Issues surrounding APIs

# References

<https://www.howtogeek.com/343877/what-is-an-api/>