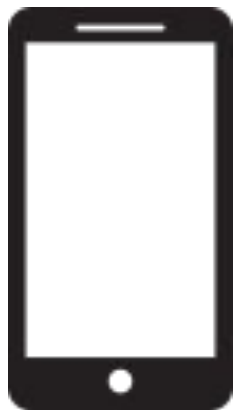# What is a REST API ?

Client

Company's server
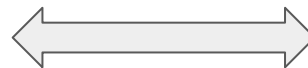
Request

Response

API

An API is code which allows two programs to communicate.

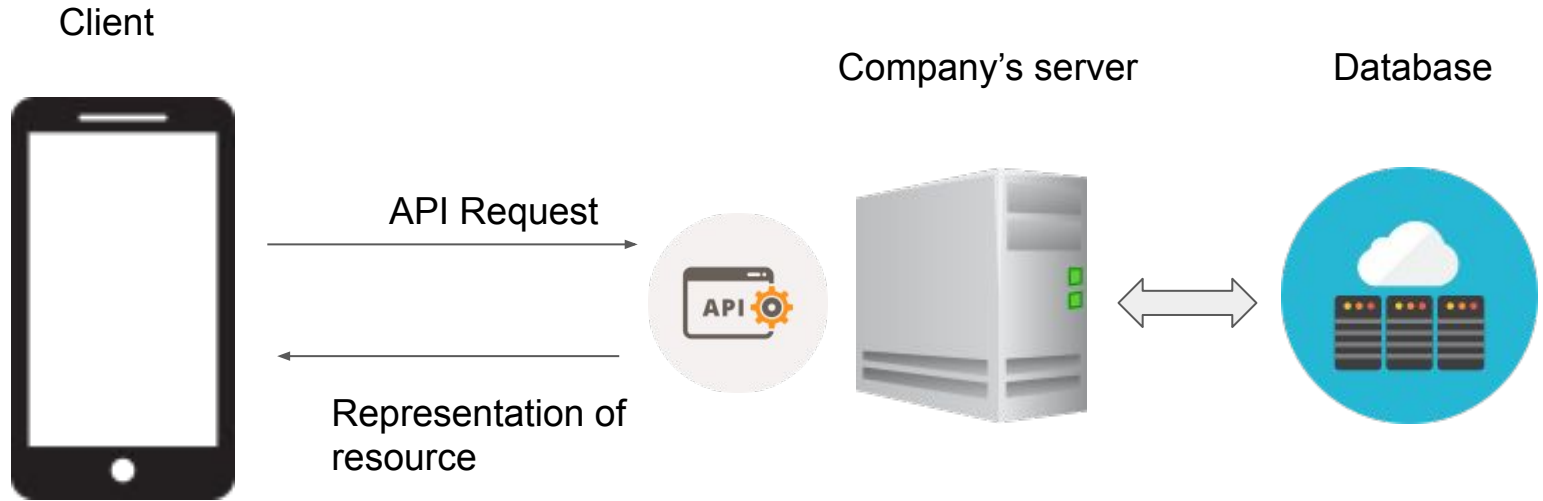A developer can write a program which can communicate with an API.

A RESTful API is an API that uses HTTP requests to GET, PUT, POST and DELETE data.

REST stands for REpresentational State Transfer.

REST is an architectural style for developing web services.

REST is prefered over SOAP due to the less REST leverages less bandwidth.

REpresentational State Transfer

Client

Company's server

Database

API Request

Representation of
resource

Types Of API Requests

HTTP GET: Used to retrieve resource representation i.e getting data.

HTTP POST: Used to create new resources i.e Posting data.

HTTP PUT: Used to updating existing resources. i.e Editing data.

HTTP DELETE: Used to delete resources. i.e Deleting data.

How an API request looks like

site-address/movies

site-address/movies/spiderman

How API response looks like

```
{
  "name": "spiderman",
  "duration": 1.6,
  "releaseDate": "2014-06-25T00:00:00.000Z",
  "rating": 4.5
}
```
The above is a JSON format.

How to create our own API?