

REST API Usage - Commentary

After testing the Github Gist API I have concluded that the API is in fact RESTful. All interactions with the database are through noun-type urls that represent a specific object. The what occurs due to that interaction is based solely on the type of request that is made, not a verb that is included in the URL. For example, the url (/gists/:gist_id/star) is the same to star a gist, unstar a gist, and check if a gist is starred. What occurs is solely dependent on if the request is a PUT, DELETE, and GET request respectively. This same type of pattern is seen throughout the API.

The URL for the API also shows a resource at each level, another key aspect of a RESTful API. For example, /gists/:gist_id/commits returns all of the commits, for a specific gist_id of all the gists, each layer represents a specific layer of the API. Another key aspect is that the API does not maintain a stateless. In order to get the gist information associated with my account, I have to sent my authentication information (which identifies what user I am) along with my account with each request. Without that information, the API will just return all the public gists.