

# API pop up

Application Programming Interface: A software intermediary that allows for two applications to talk to each other. It provides a standardised way for other individuals to interact with a system, program or model you have built.

What is it though?:

## What is API ?

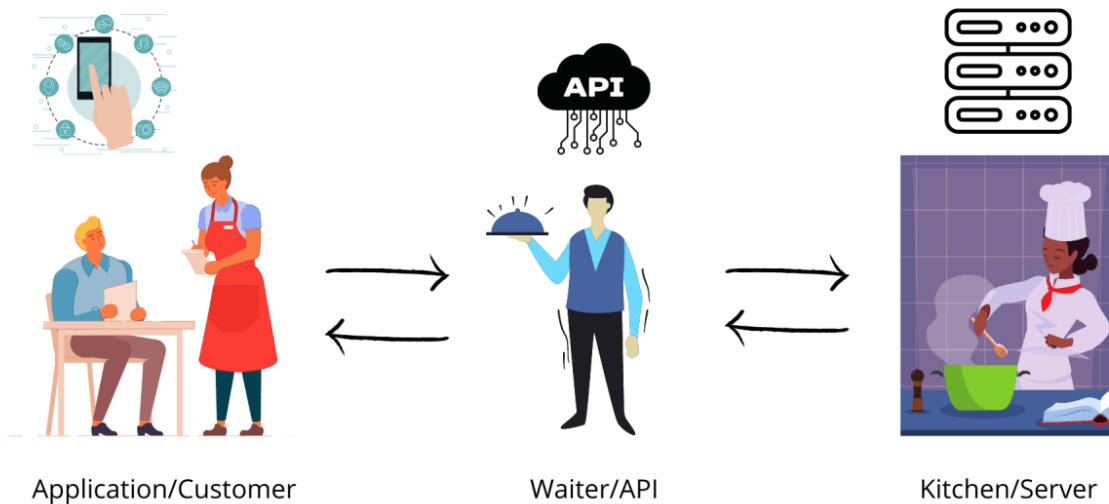


image found at: <https://dev.to/hackthisfall/what-is-api-explained-in-easy-way-5aih>

Easier to see when looking at an example:

In a restaurant there are 3 distinct parts which work together:

- Customers
- Kitchen
- Waiter

The customer has access to a menu of choices. If they, for example, want a steak this will only be possible if it is an available option on the menu.

The kitchen is the part of our system that will prepare the customers order. They make use of tested, streamlined procedures/systems to produce food of a high quality in decent time.

The waiter is the part which allows our customers and the kitchen to communicate/interact. Sure in theory we could just allow customers to walk up to the kitchen and tell the chefs directly what they want but in practice this is not so simple.

Typically customers will have no working knowledge of how a restaurant operates. There are specific steps that must be followed to ensure everything runs optimally. The waiter is able to take the customers order and communicate it to the kitchen in the correct format, while shielding the customer from the complexities of the kitchen.

Similarly when we want to share a model we have created, with friends/colleagues/customers, we need a way for them to use it without needing a working knowledge of how it works.

This means we cannot just share the Jupyter notebook as this requires a working knowledge of Python, having the relevant libraries installed and an idea of what type of data your model expects.

An API acts as the waiter which allows the client (the customer) to make requests (order from the menu) to the kitchen (the server) and then returns the response (customers food)