

Application Programming Interface

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APIs

Don't let the acronym scare you! API stands for Application Programming Interface. The important word here is "interface".

A common interface is a remote control for a TV. The interface gives you a way to interact with your TV, without needing to understand the circuit boards of the TV. You have a set of buttons that allow you to perform different operations, so a remote control is an interface between you and an electronic device, like a TV.

Websites and software need the same thing in order to communicate and exchange data. This is where the "AP" of API comes in: "Application Programming" Interface. An **API** is an interface for software applications. An API allows the connection of two software applications like puzzle pieces.

Imagine having a website for your online store. You've already built the site to show your inventory, but now you need to integrate a payment system. Building all the credit card processing code yourself from scratch would be too time consuming, so you decide instead to use a third-party system like PayPal API and integrate it with your website. That way, you don't have to build a whole payment system yourself!

The Application Programming Interface is one of the main elements of cloud services. In short, APIs are kind of like oxygen for cloud services; without correct APIs the cloud will not work as it is supposed to.

This is why it is important to choose a cloud service with an efficient API strategy or you may end up with the cloud service that cannot be integrated with other systems.

You can check out a detailed explanation of different APIs of the Google Cloud Platform Here: <https://cloud.google.com/apis>

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