

Web APIs and Authentication

This lesson gives an overview of open source APIs or APIs which are free to use by anyone.

We'll cover the following



- Open APIs

Web APIs can be classified into two categories:

- Open APIs that don't need any authentication to be used
- APIs requiring the consumer to authenticate himself through various methods

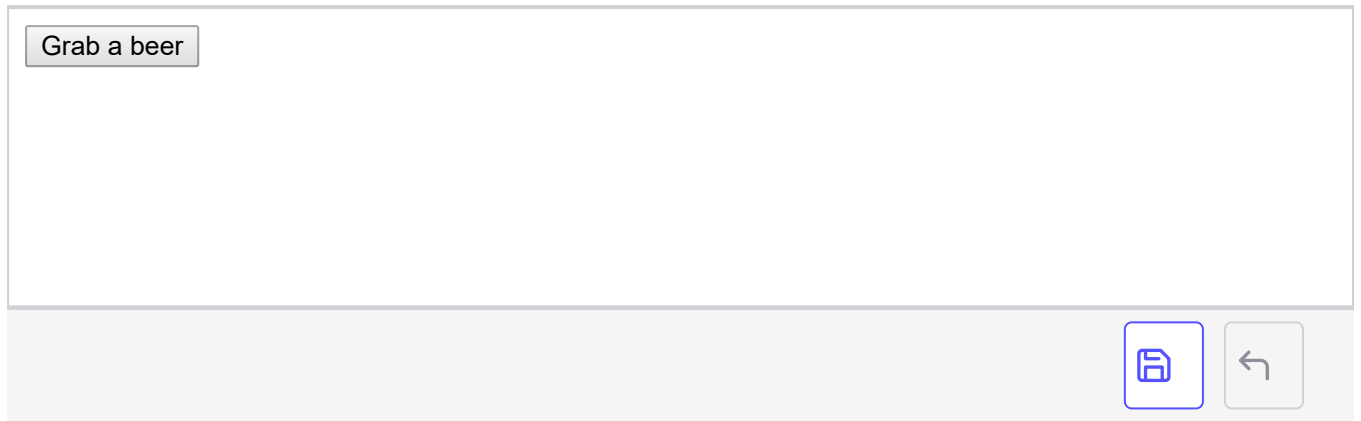
Open APIs

These APIs are free to use by anyone, anyhow. To prevent abuse, they often use rate limiting instead: the number of calls from one specific source (identified by its IP address) is capped.

Many public institutions like the [British Police](#) or the [French government](#) publish data to citizens using open APIs.

There is also a lot of fun little APIs out there. For example, the [Punk API](#) lets you search into a huge catalog of beers. Here's how to renew your drinking habits by getting a random one from this API.

Output
JavaScript
HTML



Each time the "Grab a beer" button is clicked on the web page, an anonymous function is called to retrieve and display a random beer.