

Tech Winter GDG On-Campus VIT-AP

Backend HTTP Requests

Let's Start

VIT-AP

About Me

Name : Nikhil Tanneeru

Email : nikhiltanneeru4@gmail.com

LinkedIn : <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nikhil-tanneeru/>

GitHub : <https://github.com/NikhilTanneeru>

Portfolio : <https://nikhiltanneeru.github.io/My-Portfolio/>



Nikhil Tanneeru

Computer Science Student at Vellore
Institute of Technology, Amaravati | Pr.



nikhiltanneeru4@gmail.com

Contents

1	Introduction To API	3
2	Methods in API	8
3	Implementation of HTTP Requests	15
4	Uses and Advantages	16

The first documented use of the acronym “API” was in 1967 by computer programmer Carl Hewitt.

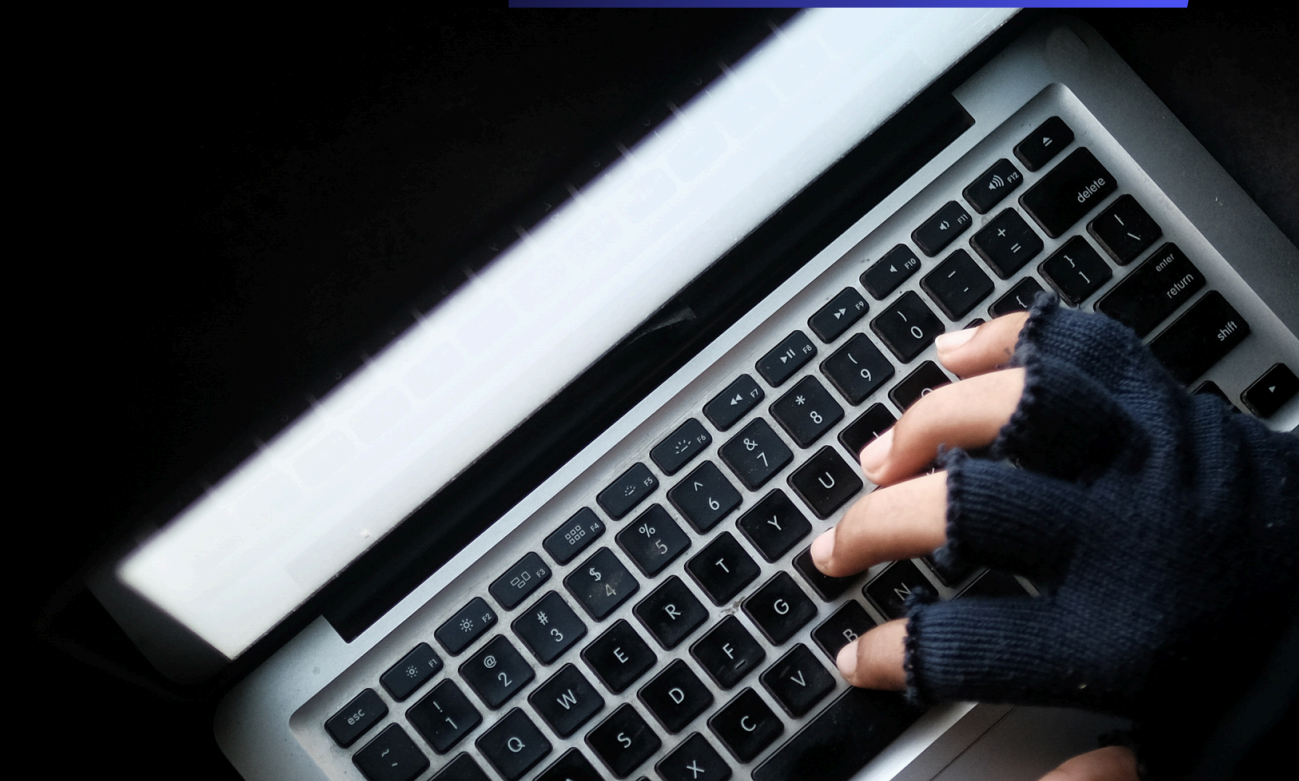
LET’S DIVE DEEP

Introduction to API



Introduction to API

- API stands for Application Programming Interface. It is a set of rules and protocols that allows different software applications to communicate with each other.
- APIs work like messengers: they take your request to a system, get the needed data or action, and deliver the response back to you
- APIs are used in web applications to connect user-facing front ends with back-end functionality and data.



Introduction to API - Types Of API(Based on Architecture)

Web APIs (HTTP APIs):

These APIs allow applications to communicate over the internet using the HTTP/HTTPS protocol.

- REST APIs (Representational State Transfer):Used for simple, lightweight communication.
 - Example: A weather app fetching the current temperature from a server.
- SOAP APIs (Simple Object Access Protocol):Used for more complex systems requiring high security and structure.
 - Example: Payment processing in banking systems.

Introduction to API - REST API

- REST is a lightweight, web-friendly architecture for building APIs. It uses standard HTTP methods (GET, POST, PUT, DELETE) and is often implemented with JSON or XML for data exchange.
- Key Features:
 - Stateless: Each request is independent and contains all the information needed.
 - Uses URLs to access resources.
 - Simple and scalable.
 - Commonly uses JSON for data transfer.

Example:

GET `https://api.example.com/users` -> Returns a list of users in JSON format.

Introduction to API - Types Of API(Based on Accessibility)

- Open API (Public):
External users can access services.
Example: OpenWeather API , Google Maps API.
- Internal API (Private):
Used by employees for internal tools.
Example: HR system API for employee management and payroll.
- Partner API:
Shared with specific external partners.
Example: PayPal API for e-commerce payment integration.
- Composite API:
Combines multiple API calls into one request.
Example: Fetching customer details and order history in one call.

HTTP Request Methods

- HTTP request methods are actions used to communicate with a server, such as retrieving, creating, updating, or deleting resources.
- Some of the major methods we use are:
- GET, POST, PUT, DELETE
- These methods are used for CRUD operations.

CREATE	POST
READ	GET
UPDATE	PUT
DELETE	DELETE

HTTP Request Methods - Data

Consider the JSON as a database

```
[  
  {  
    "id": 1,  
    "name": "Nikhil Tanneeru",  
    "email": "nikhiltanneeru4@gmail.com",  
    "age": 20,  
    "role": "admin"  
  },  
  {  
    "id": 2,  
    "name": "Rahul",  
    "email": "rahul@email.com",  
    "age": 21,  
    "role": "editor"  
  }  
]
```

HTTP Request Methods - GET

- The GET method is used to request data from a server without making any changes to the data. It's read-only and does not affect the resource.
- Example:
Fetch user data → GET /users/1
- This will retrieve the details of the user with ID 1.

HTTP Request Methods - POST

- The POST method is used to send new data to the server to create a resource. It is often used in forms where you submit data.
- Example:
Create a new user → POST /users with user details like name and email.
- This will add a new user to the database.

HTTP Request Methods - PUT

- The PUT method is used to update or replace an entire existing resource. If the resource doesn't exist, it can create it in some cases.
- Example:
- Update user info → PUT /users/1 with new details like name and age.
- This can replace the user's information completely.

HTTP Request Methods - DELETE

- The DELETE method is used to remove a resource from the server. Once deleted, the resource cannot be retrieved.

Example:

Delete a user → DELETE /users/1

- This will remove the user with ID 1 from the database.

HTTP Request Methods - Implementation

Let's explore these methods by practical hands-on implementation

Advantages of using HTTP Requests

1. Standardized Communication:

- Follow a universal protocol ensuring interoperability across platforms and systems.

2. Clear Intentions:

- Each method specifies its purpose (e.g., GET for retrieving, POST for sending data), simplifying server processing.

3. Efficient Resource Management:

- Different methods enable efficient handling of resources on the server, reducing unnecessary load (e.g., HEAD retrieves only headers without a full response).



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Thank You