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In a REST API, **endpoints are specific URLs that define the network location of resources**, and the communication across all endpoints is standardized using HTTP methods (like GET, POST, PUT, DELETE) to perform actions on those resources. The API's functionality is exposed through a collection of these distinct, resource-oriented endpoints, as opposed to a single, catch-all endpoint. 🔗

How REST API Endpoints Work

The interaction with a REST API follows a request-response cycle over HTTP. 🔗

1. **Client Initiates Request**: A client (e.g., a web or mobile application) sends an HTTP request to a specific API endpoint URL. This request specifies:

   1. **The Endpoint URL**: A unique Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) that points to a specific resource or collection of resources (e.g., `/users` or `/users/123`).

   2. **The HTTP Method**: This indicates the desired action on the resource:

      - `GET` : Retrieves data.

      - `POST` : Creates a new resource.

      - `PUT` / `PATCH` : Updates an existing resource (PUT updates the entire resource, PATCH applies partial modifications).

      - `DELETE` : Removes a resource.

   3. **Headers**: Provide metadata, such as authentication credentials or content type preferences.

   4. **Request Body (optional)**: Contains data needed for `POST` , `PUT` , or `PATCH` requests, typically in JSON format.

2. **Server Processes Request**: The server receives the request, authenticates the client, processes the logic (which may involve database operations), and generates a response.

3. **Server Returns Response**: The server sends an HTTP response back to the client, which includes:

   1. **Status Code**: An HTTP status code (e.g., `200 OK`, `404 Not Found`, `500 Internal Server Error`) indicating the outcome of the request.

   2. **Response Body**: The requested data or the status of the operation, usually in JSON format.

   3. **Headers**: Additional information about the response. 🔗

Example Endpoints

A well-designed REST API organizes its endpoints around **nouns** (resources), not **verbs** (actions in the URL path). 🔗

HTTP Method 🔗	Endpoint Path	Action
`GET`	`/users`	Get all users
`GET`	`/users/{id}`	Get a specific user by ID
`POST`	`/users`	Create a new user
`PUT`	`/users/{id}`	Update a specific user by ID
`DELETE`	`/users/{id}`	Delete a specific user by ID

The client uses the API documentation to understand which endpoints are available and how to format requests correctly. Tools like [Postman](#) can be used to interact with and test these endpoints. 🔗

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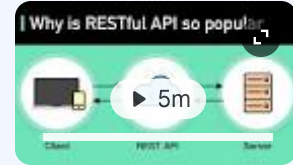### What is RESTful API? - AWS

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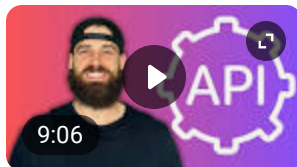**What Is an API Endpoint?**   ⋮

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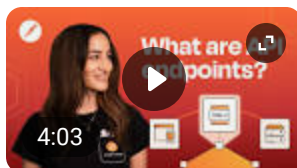| How do API endpoints work? | | How API endpoints work | | Testing API endpoints in... |

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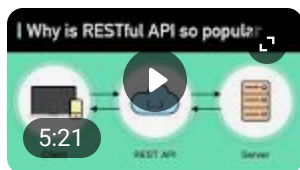

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