

Design Challenges:

The API we defined in part 1 defined a broad set of functions on our data types. Each data type had general creators, modifiers, and destroyers. There were also functions allowing different datatypes to be joined, e.g. a function allowing a user to join a group.

In this stage of the project all of our site's functionality can be expressed in terms of simple data relationships. This freed us from having to write any complex code. For later stages of the project we may have to make some more complex decisions about how to parse users calendars.

At a higher level we decided to implement more functions than we were sure we would need. This will probably make our lives easier later on but might have been some extra work.

We decided to implement a level of security built into our API. Most of our functions check that the current user session is valid before taking any action. This was accomplished easily with a utility function.

We decided to build a manual testing suite as this gave us greater control over the way tests were performed. Using a manual suite we could easily perform a variety of tests rather than hardcoding just a few.