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Part 4: Accessing the API

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Part 4: Accessing the API

Now you have built you API, you need to access it. There are several ways to do this, but the way that works on Windows, Mac, and Linux (and is probably easiest!) is to visit the url that your Flask application is serving.

First, be sure to start the Flask application. Then, when it is running, go to your browser and enter the following urls:

- 127.0.0.1:5002/employees
- 127.0.0.1:5002/tracks"
- 127.0.0.1:5002/employees/<employee_id> (substituting an employee number where shown).

At each of these urls you should see the JSON data your application is serving.

Note you can copy / paste the JSON in to a site like this one <https://jsonformatter.org/> (Links to an external site.) and you will see it in an easier to understand format.

Also, if you are running Mac or Linux, you can use the curl command as so:

```
curl http://127.0.0.1:5002/employees
curl http://127.0.0.1:5002/employees/8
curl http://127.0.0.1:5002/tracks
```

Errata

Calling *execute()* on a query that is a string, is no longer supported (i.e., it was deprecated). Instead, you need to import *text* from *sqlalchemy* and process the query through it, as shown in the example below:

```
from flask import Flask
from flask_restful import Resource, Api
from sqlalchemy import create_engine, text
from flask import jsonify

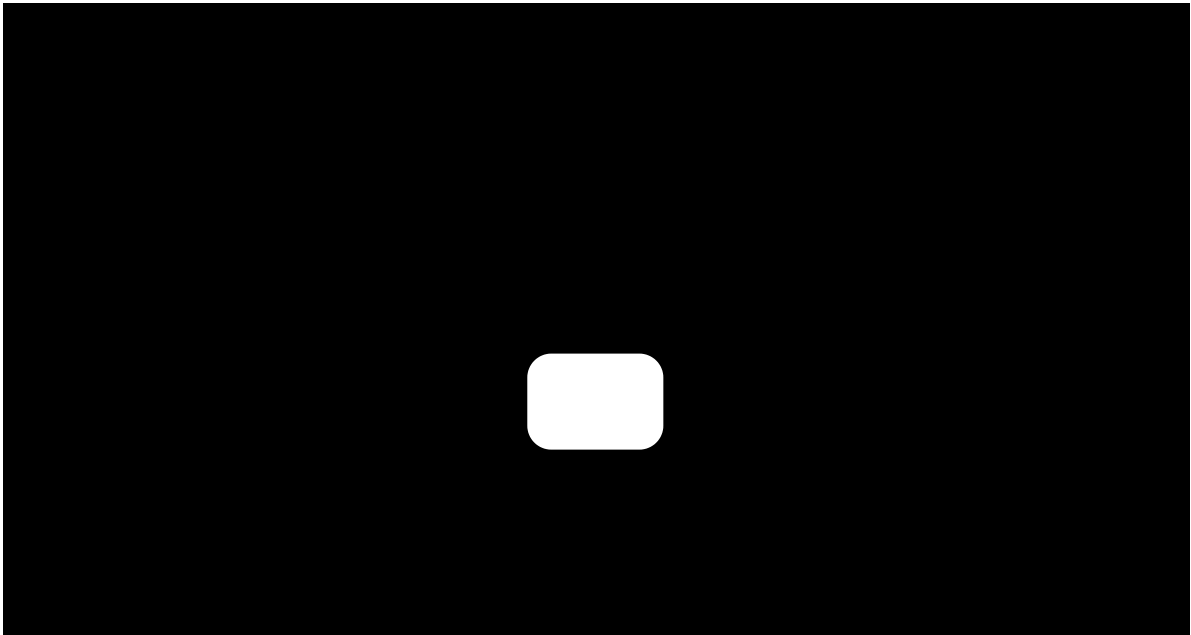
class Employees(Resource):
    def get(self):
        conn = db_connect.connect()
        query = conn.execute(text("select * from employees"))
        result = {"employees": [i[0] for i in query.cursor.fetchall()]}
        conn.close()
        return jsonify(result)
```

Otherwise, you will see an error like this one:

```
sqlalchemy.exc.ObjectNotExecutableError: Not an executable object: 'select * from employees'
```

API Conclusion

[Start of transcript. Skip to the end.](#)



So now you've seen web APIs in action. You've seen how really straightforward it is where flask to be able to retrieve data and see it in a browser.

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All you have to do then when you've got it in the browser is write some programs to format the JSON that's returned and display it in whatever format you want the user to see it.

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