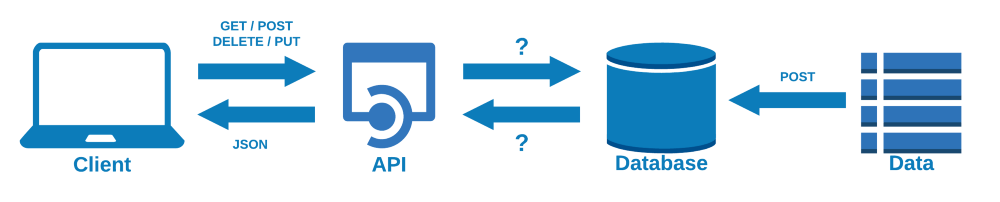
1. Introduction to REST API

An Application Programming Interface (API) is a set of rules to facilitate this communication between different programs. [1] APIs let the product or service communicate with other products and services without having to know how they are implemented.[2]

**Re**presentational **S**tate **T**ransfer (REST) is an architectural Style for designing networked applications (i.e apps that use some form a network to communicate). It is the most popular style for building web APIs. REST determines specifications of the API through a set of rules that are followed when a REST API is created.

REST treats any data (e.g. image, video, text, etc) as a *resource*that the client can fetch/edit/delete. REST mandates that a client should be able to perform the appropriate operation by accessing a specific URL and sending a *request*. The server then sends an appropriate *response*.

REST is stateless, which implies that each request from the client must have all the necessary information for the server to understand it. For example, the client cannot assume that the server remembers what they had asked for earlier. With REST APIs, we usually send HTTP requests (more on HTTP [here](https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/http-and-everything-you-need-to-know-about-it/)) such as GET , PUT or POST[1]



*Picture show the main framework of REST API in which the client-side of the API allows for data to be added and removed using GET, POST, DELETE and PUT methods.[3]*

[1] Introduction to REST APIs; <https://towardsdatascience.com/introduction-to-rest-apis-90b5d9676004>; Dec 13, 2020;

[2] What is an API?; <https://www.redhat.com/en/topics/api/what-are-application-programming-interfaces>

# [3] Launch your own REST API using Flask & Python in 7 minutes; <https://towardsdatascience.com/launch-your-own-rest-api-using-flask-python-in-7-minutes-c4373eb34239>; Jun 15, 2020