

GRAPHQL



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# REST PROBLEMS

# Representational state transfer



OTTO THE BOT ▾



1 MINUTE AGO



STANKO

Hi



OTTO



STANKO

Cool!

17:56 · Delivered



OTTO



TYPE A MESSAGE



GIF



IN THEORY



1 MINUTE AGO



STANKO

Hi



OTTO



STANKO

Cool!

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/api/conversations/53

```
{  
  name: "Otto the bot",  
  participant_user_ids: [1, 1337],  
  last_message_sent_at: 1337002,  
  archived: false  
}
```



**/api/conversations/53/message/1**

```
{  
  message_type: "plain",  
  body: "Hi",  
  sender_id: "1337",  
  created_at: 1337001,  
  updated_at: 1337001,  
  previous_version_ids: [],  
  status: "delivered",  
  seen_by_participant_ids: [1]  
}
```

●○○○○ bonbon 17:57 84%



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STANKO

Hi



OTTO



STANKO

Cool!

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**/api/users/1337**

```
{  
  first_name: "Stanko",  
  last_name: "Krtalic Rusendic",  
  avatar_url: "https://...",  
  last_online_at: 1337001,  
  last_signin_ip: 133.10.45.99,  
  sex: "male",  
  timezone: "GMT+1",  
  last_known_location: "16.0E45.0N"  
}
```

●○○○○ bonbon

17:57

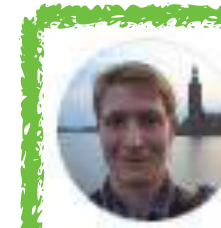
📶 84%



OTTO THE BOT ▾



1 MINUTE AGO



STANKO

Hi



OTTO



STANKO

Cool!

17:56 · Delivered

IN REALITY



1 MINUTE AGO



STANKO

Hi



OTTO



STANKO

Cool!

17:56 · Delivered

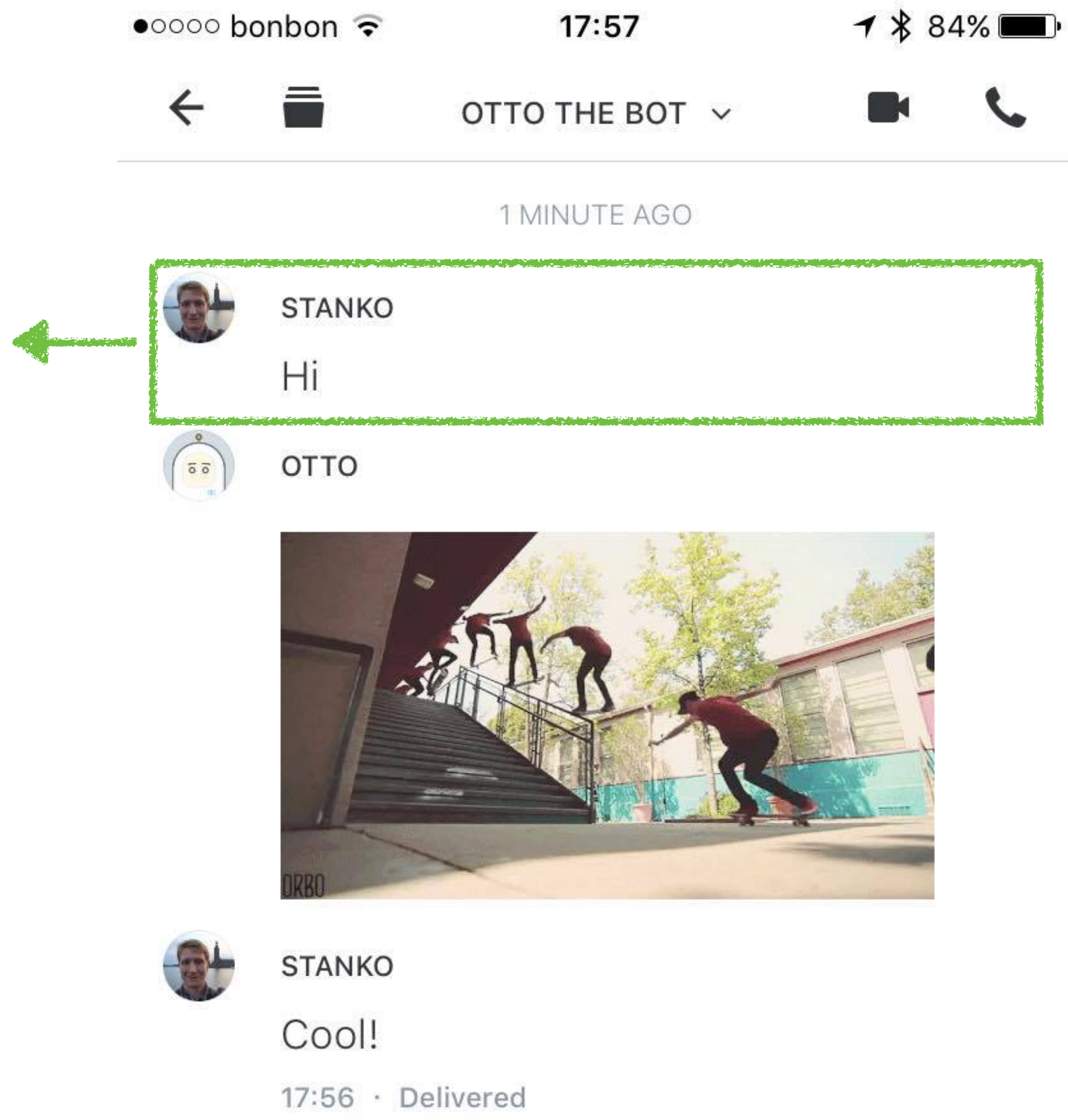
/api/conversations/53

```
{
  name: "Otto the bot",
  participant_user_ids: [1, 1337],
  last_message_sent_at: 1337002,
  last_message_sent_by: {
    first_name: "Stanko",
    last_name: "Krtalic Rusendic"
  }
  archived: false,
  last_message: {
    type: "plain",
    body: "Cool!",
    status: "delivered"
  }
}
```



## /api/conversations/53/message/1

```
{  
  message_type: "plain",  
  body: "Hi",  
  sender_id: "1337",  
  created_at: 1337001,  
  updated_at: 1337001,  
  previous_version_ids: [],  
  status: "delivered",  
  seen_by_participants: [  
    { first_name: "Otto" }  
  ],  
  sender: {  
    first_name: "Stanko",  
    avatar_url: "https://..."  
  }  
}
```





REST is pointless if your endpoints  
respond to a screen in your app

JSON::API

HAL

DOCUMENTATION

[< Messages](#)

John Doe

[Contact](#)

Today 8:32 AM

Hey! Is there a way to get all the messages an user hasn't read?

Yeah! Make a request to `http://localhost:3000/api/v2/users/1337/messages? status=unread`

Hm... I couldn't find this in the docs 🤔

Oh, I forgot to write that one down.



Text Message

Send

Documentation is boring.

Documentation will always be lacking,  
or at least lag behind the  
implementation



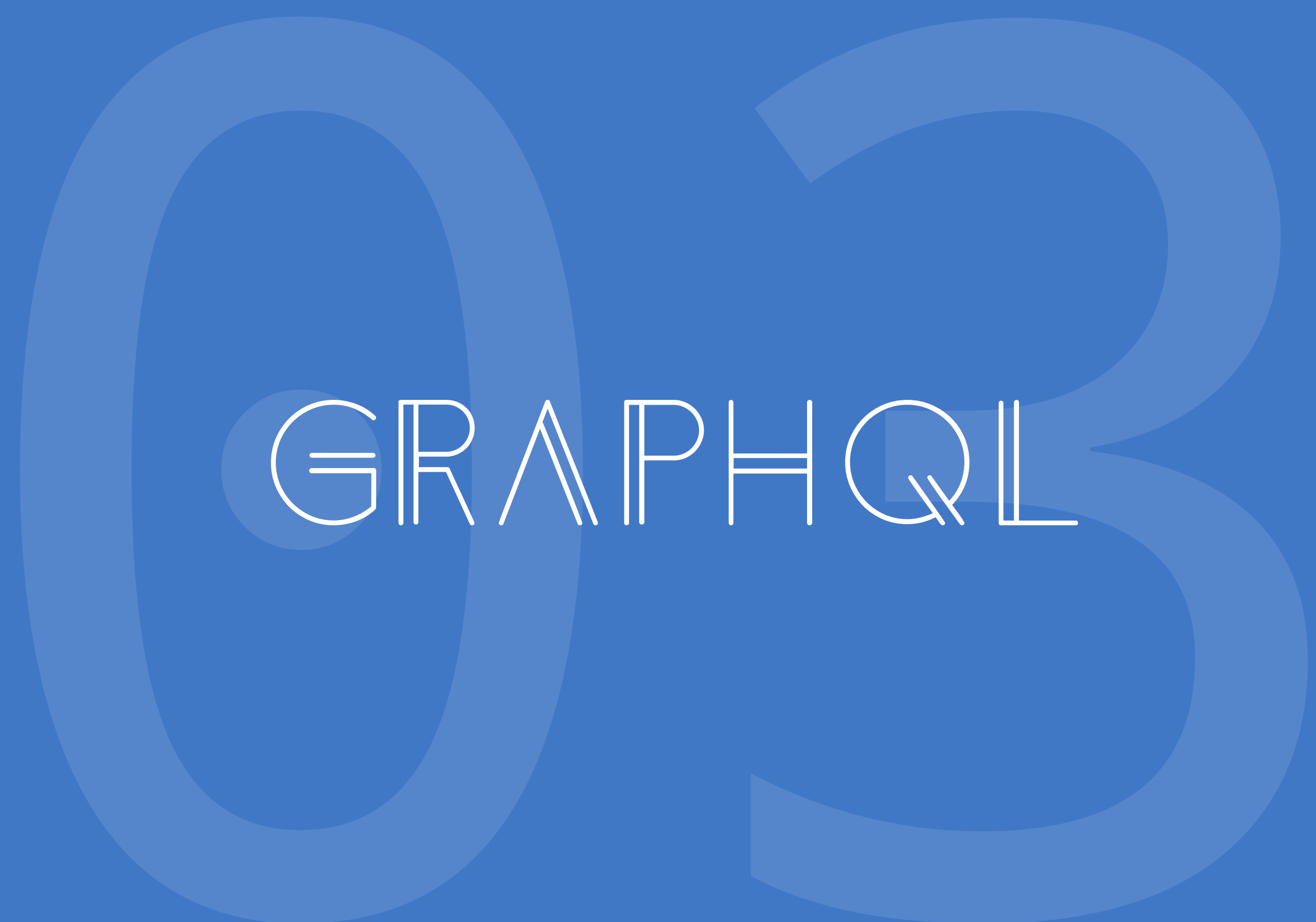
Swagger

Apiary

API Blueprint

(documentation derived from tests)

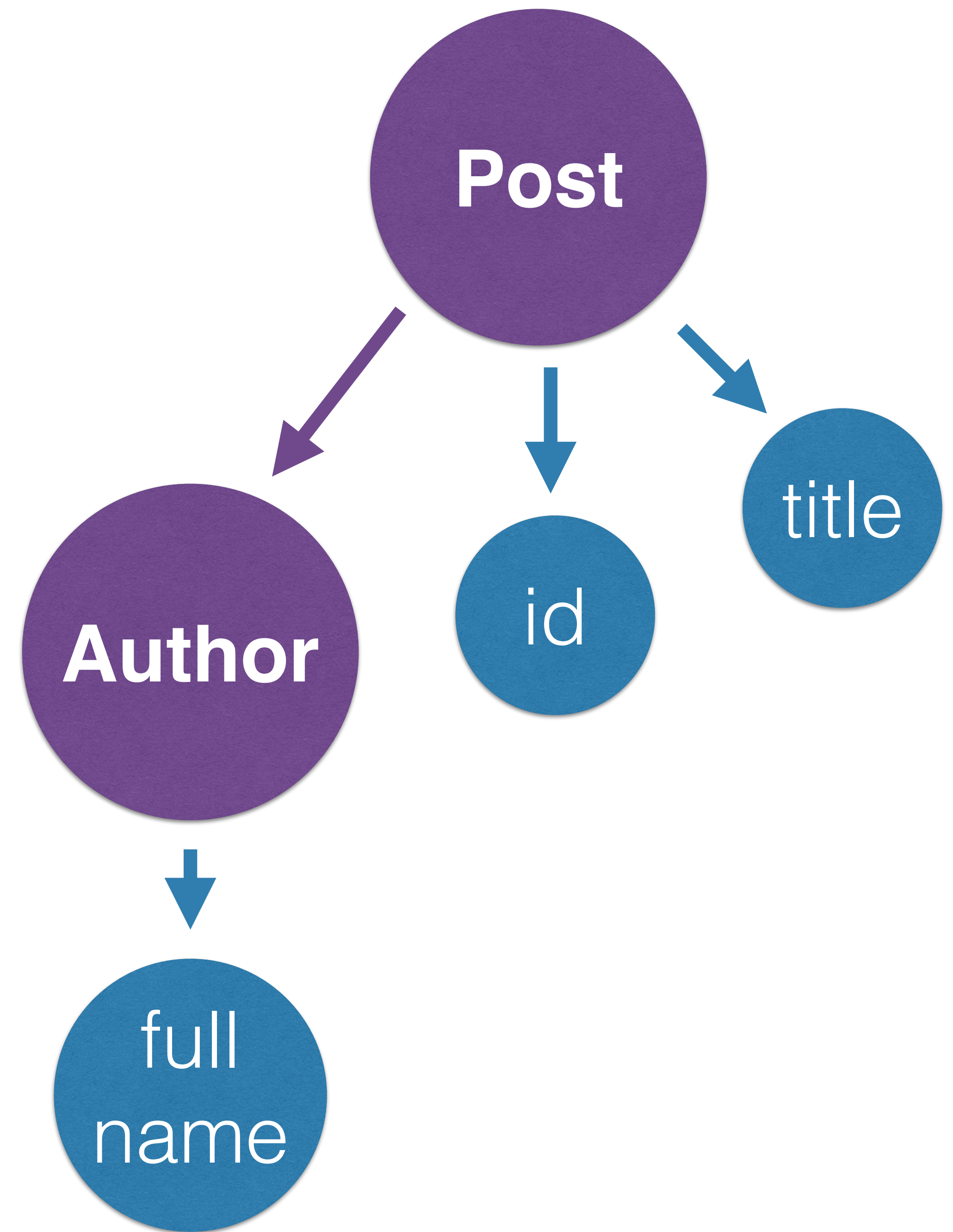
Require manual labor  
Laborious



GRAPHQL

Think of your resources as  
endpoints of a graph

```
query {  
  posts {  
    id  
    title  
    created_at  
    author {  
      full_name  
    }  
  }  
}
```





```
SELECT "posts".id, "posts".title, "posts".body, "posts".created_at  
FROM "posts"  
ORDER BY "posts".created_at DESC
```

```
query {  
  posts {  
    id  
    title  
    created_at  
    author {  
      full_name  
    }  
  }  
}
```

```
{  
  "data": {  
    "posts": [  
      {  
        "id": "1",  
        "title": "Lilies of the Field",  
        "created_at": "2017-02-25T18:45:29Z",  
        "author": {  
          "full_name": "Stanko Krtalic Rusendic"  
        }  
      },  
    ]  
  }  
}
```

String

Boolean

Int

Float

ID (String or Int)

< Author

Post



A blog post

### FIELDS

author: Author! ←

body: String!

comment\_count: Int!

comments: [Comment!] ←

created\_at: DateTime! ←

id: ID!

title: String!

Queries

Mutations

Query-Mutations



```
1 # Query method - given an id it returns the corresponding user
2 def get_user(id)
3 end
4
5 # Mutation method - given the inputs it creates a new user, but returns nothing
6 def create_user(first_name, last_name, email)
7 end
8
9 # Query-Mutation - given the inputs it returns the modified user object
10 def update_user(first_name, last_name, email)
11 end
12
```

Queries

~~Mutations~~

Query-Mutations

```
query {  
  post(id: 1){  
    id  
    title  
    created_at  
    author {  
      full_name  
    }  
    comments {  
      author {  
        first_name  
      }  
      body  
    }  
  }  
}
```

```
{
  "data": {
    "post": {
      "id": "1",
      "title": "Lilies of the Field",
      "created_at": "2017-02-25T18:45:29Z",
      "author": {
        "full_name": "Stanko Krtalic Rusendic"
      },
      "comments": [
        {
          "author": {
            "first_name": "Dario"
          },
          "body": "It was summer... and it was hot. Rachel was there... A lonely grey couch..."OH LOOK!" cried Ned, and then the kingdom was his forever. The End."
        },
        {
          "author": {
            "first_name": "Tomislav"
          },
          "body": "Raspberries? Good. Ladyfingers? Good. Beef? GOOD!"
        },
      ]
    }
  }
}
```

```
mutation {  
  createComment(input: {  
    postId: 1  
    authorId: 1  
    body: "This was created using GraphQL 🙌"  
  })  
  {  
    post {  
      comments {  
        body  
      }  
    }  
  }  
}
```

```
{
  "data": {
    "createComment": {
      "post": {
        "comments": [
          {
            "body": "This was created with GraphQL 🙌"
          }
        ]
      }
    }
  }
}
```



Back to the original example

1 MINUTE AGO



STANKO

Hi



OTTO



STANKO

Cool!

17:56 · Delivered



OTTO



TYPE A MESSAGE



GIF



```
query {  
  conversation(id: 53) {  
    name  
    messages {  
      author {  
        fullName  
        avatar {  
          url  
        }  
      }  
      body  
      createdAt  
      status  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Everything is served from  
one endpoint

<http://localhost/graphql>

```
query {  
  post_1: post(id: "1") {  
    ...postFields  
  },  
  post_2: post(id: "2") {  
    ...postFields  
  }  
  post_3: post(id: "3") {  
    ...postFields  
  }  
}
```

```
fragment postFields on Post {  
  title  
  author {  
    full_name  
  }  
  body  
  comment_count  
}
```



```
{
  "data": {
    "post_1": { ↔ },
    "post_2": { ↔ },
    "post_3": {
      "title": "I Sing the Body Electric",
      "author": {
        "full_name": "Stanko Krtalic Rusendic"
      },
      "body": "If we override the driver, we can get to the GB
application through the multi-byte XML alarm!\nWe need to index the 1080p
RAM interface!\nTry to transmit the AI bus, maybe it will connect the
digital interface!\nYou can't connect the interface without connecting
the solid state SQL driver!\nUse the optical EXE bus, then you can
compress the haptic alarm!\nThe PCI interface is down, input the open-
source capacitor so we can back up the SMTP feed!\nOverriding the pixel
won't do anything, we need to synthesize the virtual usb card!\nI'll
connect the 1080p RSS driver, that should bandwidth the GB array!",
      "comment_count": 5
    }
  }
}
```

```
query HeroNameAndFriends($episode: Episode) {  
  hero(episode: $episode) {  
    name  
    friends {  
      name  
    }  
  }  
}
```

#### VARIABLES

```
{  
  "episode": "JEDI"  
}
```

```
{  
  "data": {  
    "hero": {  
      "name": "R2-D2",  
      "friends": [  
        {  
          "name": "Luke Skywalker"  
        },  
        {  
          "name": "Han Solo"  
        },  
        {  
          "name": "Leia Organa"  
        }  
      ]  
    }  
  }  
}
```

```
query Hero($episode: Episode, $withFriends: Boolean!)  
  hero(episode: $episode) {  
    name  
    friends @include(if: $withFriends) {  
      name  
    }  
  }  
}
```

#### VARIABLES

```
{  
  "episode": "JEDI",  
  "withFriends": false  
}
```

```
{  
  "data": {  
    "hero": {  
      "name": "R2-D2"  
    }  
  }  
}
```



```
{
  search(text: "an") {
    __typename
    ... on Human {
      name
    }
    ... on Droid {
      name
    }
    ... on Starship {
      name
    }
  }
}
```

```
{
  "data": {
    "search": [
      {
        "__typename": "Human",
        "name": "Han Solo"
      },
      {
        "__typename": "Human",
        "name": "Leia Organa"
      },
      {
        "__typename": "Starship",
        "name": "TIE Advanced x1"
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

/localhost:3000/graphql

Method

POST

[Edit HTTP Headers](#)

Documentation Explorer

×

Search the schema ...

A GraphQL schema provides a root type for each kind of operation.

#### ROOT TYPES

query: **Query**

mutation: **Mutation**

```
{
  "data": {
    "post_1": {↔},
    "post_2": {↔},
    "post_3": {
      "title": "I Sing the Body Electric",
      "author": {
        "full_name": "Stanko Krtalic Rusendic"
      },
      "body": "If we override the driver, we can get to the GB
application through the multi-byte XML alarm!\nWe need to index the 1080p
RAM interface!\nTry to transmit the AI bus, maybe it will connect the
digital interface!\nYou can't connect the interface without connecting
the solid state SQL driver!\nUse the optical EXE bus, then you can
compress the haptic alarm!\nThe PCI interface is down, input the open-
source capacitor so we can back up the SMTP feed!\nOverriding the pixel
won't do anything, we need to synthesize the virtual usb card!\nI'll
connect the 1080p RSS driver, that should bandwidth the GB array!",
      "comment_count": 5
    }
  }
}
```

Schema definition language

```
type Character {  
    name: String!  
    appearsIn: [Episode]!  
}
```

```
type Query {  
    hero(episode: Episode): Character  
    droid(id: ID!): Droid  
}
```

```
enum Episode {  
    NEWHOPE  
    EMPIRE  
    JEDI  
}
```

```
union SearchResult = Human | Droid | Starship
```



```
type Human implements Character {  
  id: ID!  
  name: String!  
  friends: [Character]  
  appearsIn: [Episode]!  
  starships: [Starship]  
  totalCredits: Int  
}
```

```
type Droid implements Character {  
  id: ID!  
  name: String!  
  friends: [Character]  
  appearsIn: [Episode]!  
  primaryFunction: String  
}
```

```
interface Character {  
  id: ID!  
  name: String!  
  friends: [Character]  
  appearsIn: [Episode]!  
}
```

# GRAPHOL



Relay

*Absinthe*



This presentation is  
available at

[github.com/stankec/lectures](https://github.com/stankec/lectures)

Questions?