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Prompts

1. How do web APIs work? Why are they useful?

Web APIs (or Web Application Programming Interfaces) work as the 'middle-man' between an application and a web server. By doing so, it allows an application to access to the web server to fulfill a request that the user makes of it. This makes Web APIs useful, since it ensures the process of communicating between softwares and/or online web servers, and keeps a necessary separation between entities, so that messages can be properly delivered (such as if the request is invalid [400], not able to be found [404], something went wrong [500] or if everything went smoothly [200]).

2. What does REST stand for and what are some of the key concepts that identify it?

REST stands for Representational State Transfer, and it is a set of guidelines that software that utilize it can communicate across the internet to make integrations simple and scaleable. As an API, it'll transfer back the current state of the resource being called upon into a standardized representation. The key concepts that identify a REST API is the use of stateless interactions, communicating over HTTP, utilizing HTTP Status codes, manipulating resources, and providing a hypermedia-driven API.

Sources

- <https://tray.io/blog/how-do-apis-work>
- <https://blog.hubspot.com/website/what-is-rest-api>
- https://platform.relativity.com/RelativityOne/Content/REST_API/REST_API_concepts/REST_API_and_RESTful_concepts.htm