



Institute of
Data

2023



Data Science and AI

Module 3

Part 2:

APIs



Agenda: Module 3 Part 2

- What is an API?
- APIs for data services
- APIs for analytic services
- APIs for visualisation services
- APIs for cognitive services
- Creating an API



What is an API?

- Definition, examples
- Interfaces
- Authentication protocols
- Documentation



What is an API?

- What does “API” stand for?
 - Application Programming Interface
- Examples?
 - automation in Microsoft Office
 - e.g. generating a Word document or an Outlook reminder from another application
 - high-level database drivers
 - e.g. PyMongo
 - programming libraries for mobile & wearable devices
 - programmable web services
 - other?



Use Cases for APIs

- integrate remote data access
 - repetitive analyses of an **evolving dataset**
 - **up-to-the-moment** forecasting
- **integrate** familiar functionality
 - location sharing using Google Maps
 - simplified app login via Facebook
 - in-app purchases
 - in-app YouTube viewing





Some Popular Web Service APIs

Name	Nature	URL
Twitter	Networking, marketing, trending	https://developer.twitter.com/en.html
Facebook	Networking, marketing	https://developers.facebook.com/tools/
Amazon S3	Cloud storage, Big Data analytics	https://aws.amazon.com/s3/
LinkedIn	Networking	https://developer.linkedin.com/
eBay	E-commerce	https://developer.ebay.com/
Google API Console	Data access & analytics, e-commerce, etc.	https://developers.google.com/apis-explorer/#p/
New York Times	News	http://developer.nytimes.com/



Interfaces for Web Service APIs

- SOAP
 - *Simple Object Access Protocol*
 - early, widespread web service protocol
 - exposes components of application logic as services
 - XML
- REST
 - *Representational State Transfer*
 - now > 70% of public APIs
 - accesses data
 - variety of data formats, coupled with JSON
 - generally faster and uses less bandwidth
 - easier to integrate with existing websites

Overview of RESTful API

Description Languages:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overview_of_RESTful_API_Description_Languages

roll your own:

<https://www.restapitutorial.com/>
<https://aws.amazon.com/api-gateway>



HTTP

- HyperText Transfer Protocol
- underlies RESTful APIs
- 4 major methods
 - GET fetches data from web server
 - PUT edits data on web server
 - POST adds new data
 - DELETE removes data

- HTTP Status Codes

- 1xx informational
- 2xx success
- 3xx redirection
- 4xx client error
- 5xx server error

<https://www.restapitutorial.com/httpstatuscodes.html>



Elements of an API call

- **endpoint**
 - URL of a server page that provides data or functionality via **requests** and **responses**
- **protocol**
 - the communication standard for passing requests to an endpoint
- **authentication**
 - secure **identification** of user making request
 - if a developer creates an app for other users, the app needs to obtain **authorisation** from the owner of the API for both the developer's access *and* the user's access



Authentication Protocols

- HTTP Basic Access Authentication
 - username + password
 - transmitted in header of HTTP request
 - weakly encoded, no encryption
- OAuth 1.0
 - uses encrypted tokens
- OAuth 2.0
 - simpler, more robust than OAuth 1.0



OAuth 2.0

- token-based
 - e.g. *client_id* & *client_secret*
 - allows a 3rd-party app to access a user's/developer's account **without knowing the account password**
 - allows an end-user to access an API via *your* app, using *their* token
- redirect URL
 - **registered** when app created
 - OAuth 2.0 service **returns user to this URL** after authorising (and issuing a user token)
 - protects access token from **interception**

<https://www.oauth.com/oauth2-servers/background/>



Developer Access

- some API's have **a developer mode** that may allow access without requesting a user token
- options for connect/request include:
 - use developer's *user_id* and *password*
 - use *app_id*, developer's *client_id*, developer's *secret*
- access granted **may** include
 - read developer's posts, comments, profile, etc.
 - post to developer's account
 - read other users' posts, comments, profiles, etc.



Python Libraries: Utilities

requests

- HTTP library (“elegant and simple”)
- <http://www.python-requests.org/en/latest/>
- returns JSON-formatted byte strings

json

- JSON \leftrightarrow lists, dictionaries
- <https://docs.python.org/2/library/json.html>

untangle, xmltodict

- parses XML to Pythonic data structures

BeautifulSoup (bs4)

- parses HTML, XML to Pythonic data structures



Python Libraries: API Wrappers

- simplify usage of APIs by introducing a Python API into the loop
- use data types & structures familiar to Python developers

pyfacebook

linkedin

praw (Reddit)

bucketstore (Amazon S3)

python-forecastio (weather)

foursquare (location-based networking)

GooPyCharts (Google Charts)

indeed (indeed.com)

kiteconnect (stock trading)

pymaps (Google Maps)

pymed (PubMed)

pyspotify (Spotify)

newsapi

rottentomatoes (crowd-based movie reviews)

sportradar (sport APIs)

tesseractocr (OCR)

bowshock (NASA)

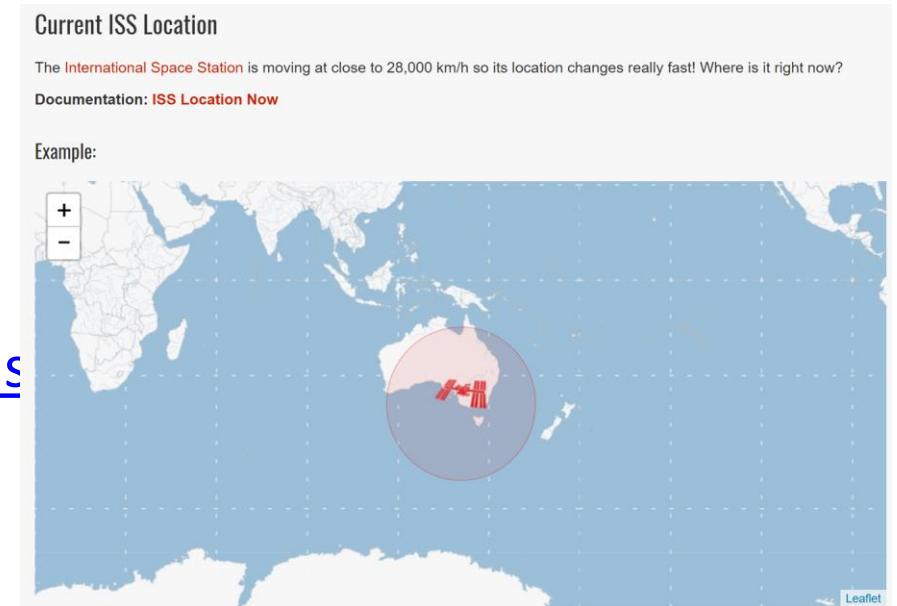
geopy (geocoding)

<https://github.com/realpython/list-of-python-api-wrappers>



Lab 3.2.1: Querying the ISS

- Purpose:
 - To become familiar with basic API requests and responses
- Resources:
 - API for the International Space Station:
OpenNotify
<http://open-notify.org/Open-Notify-API/>
 - HTTP response codes
<https://www.restapitutorial.com/httpstatus>
- Materials:
 - 'Lab 3.2.1.ipynb'





Extracting Data from APIs

- Reddit API
- Google Public Data and BigQuery API



Reddit API

- Introduction to Reddit
- API structure
- Developer access
- Reddit API: Using Python

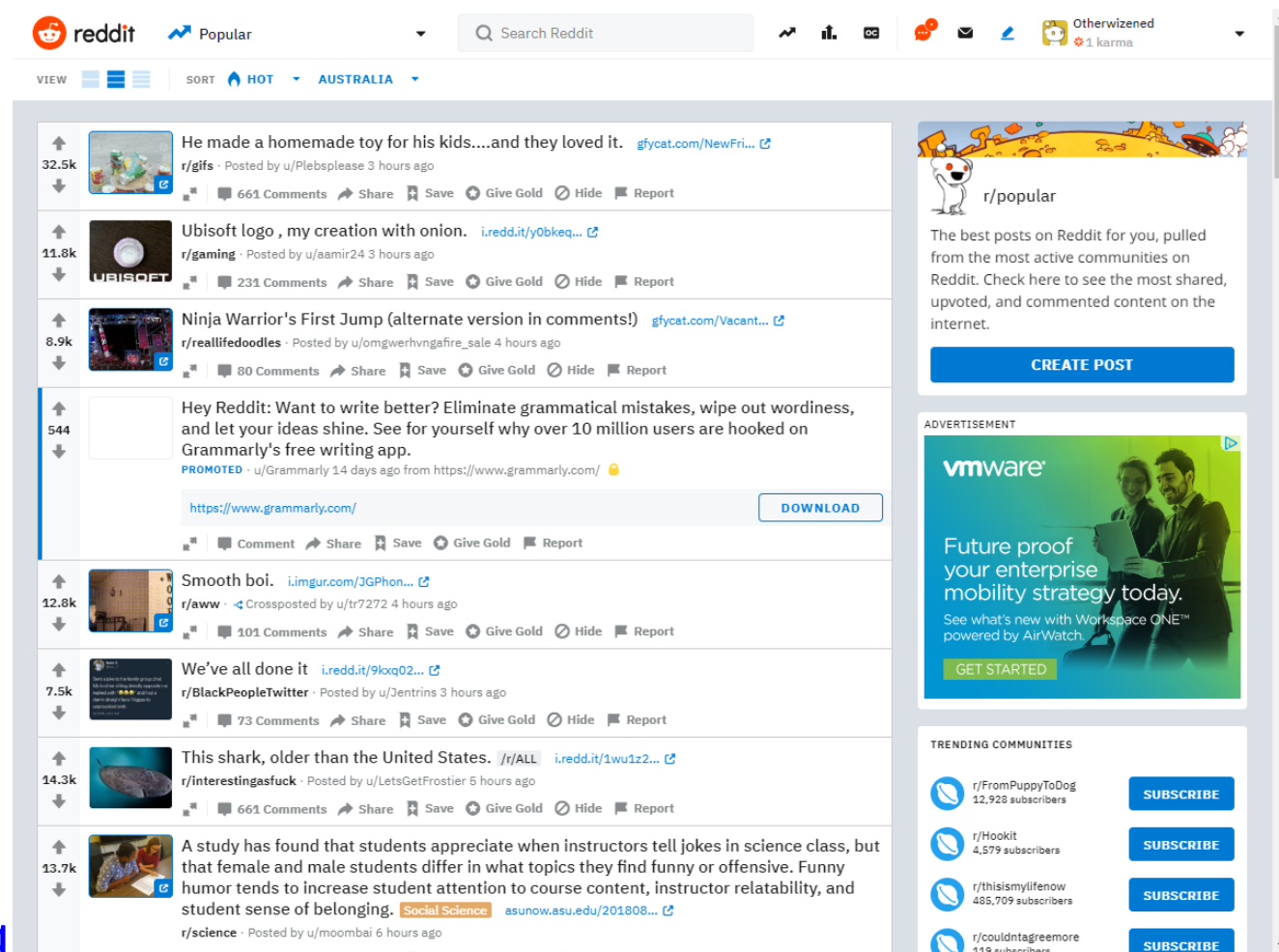




Reddit

- why Reddit?
 - good example of a social media product
 - rich content
 - large user base
 - highly structured API
 - immediately accessible

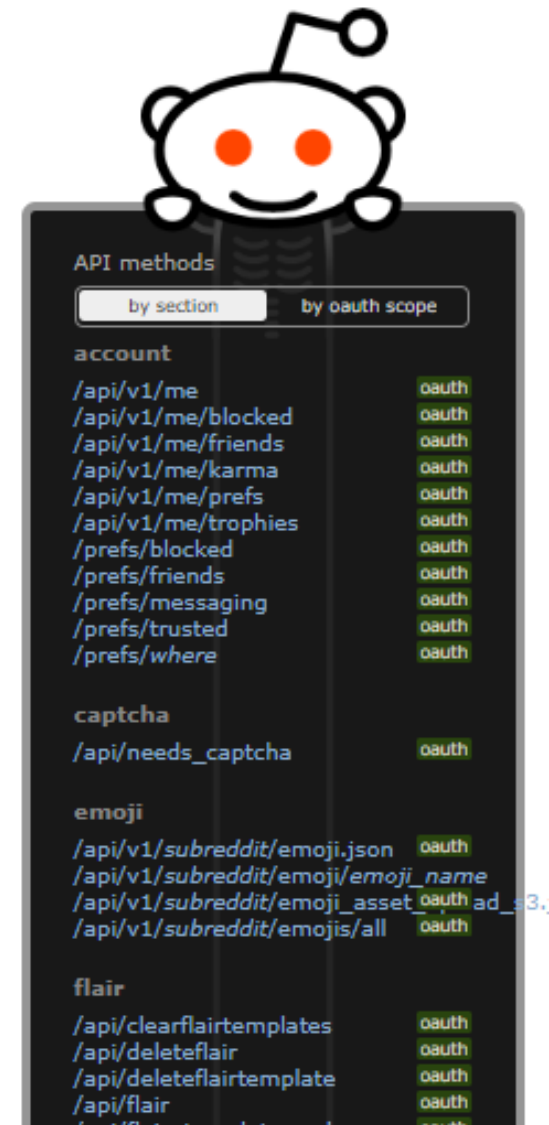
<https://www.reddit.com/wiki/faq>





Reddit API

- *Account* endpoints:
 - *me, me/friends, me/prefs, ...*
- *Links & comments* endpoint:
 - *comment, vote, report, ...*
- *Listing* endpoints:
 - categories
 - *hot, new, random, ...*
 - navigation (pagination) and filtering
 - *before, after, count, show*
- and many more ...



<https://www.reddit.com/dev/api>



Reddit API: Developer Access

1. Open a Reddit user account
2. Create a Reddit app
3. Register the app for API access
4. Store your credentials
 - for accessing your account:
 - user name
 - password
 - for authenticating your app:
 - user agent (information describing your app)
 - client ID (a unique identifier for your app)
 - client secret (secure token for authorising your app to access the API)



Reddit API: Using Python

- install PRAW package
- import praw
- create a connection object (to Reddit API)
- invoke API methods on the connection object
 - send requests that GET or PUT data to/from Reddit objects
- do something with data!

<https://www.reddit.com/r/popular/>

<https://www.reddit.com/wiki/faq>

https://praw.readthedocs.io/en/stable/getting_started/quick_start.html



Lab 3.2.2: Mining Social Media with Reddit

- Purpose:
 - To develop skills in using a media-rich API
- Resources:
 - Python library for Reddit API: **PRAW**
https://praw.readthedocs.io/en/stable/getting_started/quick_start.html
- Materials:
 - 'Lab 3.2.2.ipynb'





Google Cloud Platform

- public data sets / BigQuery
- APIs based on data science products





Google Cloud Platform

Google Cloud SDK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://cloud.google.com/sdk/gcloud/• https://cloud.google.com/sdk/docs/initializing
Google Cloud Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://github.com/GoogleCloudPlatform/python-docs-samples• https://googlecloudplatform.github.io/google-cloud-python/• https://googlecloudplatform.github.io/google-cloud-python/latest/
Google API Client Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://developers.google.com/api-client-library/
Google BigQuery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://cloud.google.com/bigquery/public-data/• https://cloud.google.com/bigquery/docs/quickstarts/quickstart-web-ui• https://cloud.google.com/bigquery/docs/reference/libraries• https://cloud.google.com/bigquery/create-simple-app-api• https://github.com/GoogleCloudPlatform/google-cloud-python/tree/master/bigquery



Google Public Data sets

- accessible via Google BigQuery
- free for 1st TB / month
- subject areas:
 - genomics
 - medicine & epidemiology
 - geo imagery (Earth science, weather, etc.)
 - transport & service utilisation
 - annotated images
 - etc.
- <https://cloud.google.com/public-datasets/>



Google BigQuery

Quickstart to
BigQuery Web UI:

[https://cloud.google.com/
bigquery/docs/quickstarts
/quickstart-web-ui](https://cloud.google.com/bigquery/docs/quickstarts/quickstart-web-ui)

The screenshot displays the Google Cloud Platform BigQuery interface. The top navigation bar includes the Google Cloud Platform logo, the project name 'MyReallyBigQuery', and a search bar. The main interface is divided into a left sidebar and a main content area. The sidebar contains links to 'Query history', 'Saved queries', 'Job history', 'Transfers', and 'Resources'. The main content area is split into a 'Query editor' and a 'Query results' section. The 'Query editor' shows a SQL query:

```
1 SELECT
2   name, gender,
3   SUM(number) AS total
4 FROM
5   `bigquery-public-data.usa_names.usa_1910_2013`
6 GROUP BY
7   name, gender
8 ORDER BY
9   total DESC
10 LIMIT
11  100
```

 Below the query editor, there are buttons for 'Run query', 'Save query', 'Save view', and 'Options'. A status message indicates 'This query will process 99.95 MB when run.' The 'Query results' section shows a table with columns 'name', 'gender', and 'total'. The table contains three rows of data: James (M, 4924235), John (M, 4818746), and Robert (M, 4703680). The bottom of the interface shows pagination controls: 'Rows per page: 50' and '1 - 50 of 100'.

Google Cloud Platform MyReallyBigQuery

BigQuery BETA Go to Classic UI + COMPOSE NEW QUERY

Query history

Saved queries

Job history

Transfers

Resources PIN PROJECT

Search for your tables and data sets

myreallybigquery

Query editor HIDE EDITOR

```
1 SELECT
2   name, gender,
3   SUM(number) AS total
4 FROM
5   `bigquery-public-data.usa_names.usa_1910_2013`
6 GROUP BY
7   name, gender
8 ORDER BY
9   total DESC
10 LIMIT
11  100
```

Processing location: US

Run query Save query Save view Options

This query will process 99.95 MB when run.

Query results SAVE AS EXPLORE IN DATA STUDIO

Query complete (1.391 sec elapsed, 99.95 MB processed)

Job information Results JSON Execution details

Row	name	gender	total
1	James	M	4924235
2	John	M	4818746
3	Robert	M	4703680

Rows per page: 50 1 - 50 of 100



BigQuery API: Authentication

Service accounts

- for client apps that you will run
 - e.g. dev/test, batch processing pipelines
- authentication via your service credentials

User accounts

- for apps you create for other end-users
 - e.g. data products
- authentication via end-users credentials
 - app can only access BigQuery tables that the end-user is authorised to access
 - end-user gets billed for queries

<https://cloud.google.com/bigquery/docs/authentication/>



BigQuery API: Authentication – cont'd

[GCP CONSOLE](#) [COMMAND LINE](#)

1. Go to the **Create service account key** page in the GCP Console.

GO TO THE CREATE SERVICE ACCOUNT KEY PAGE
2. From the **Service account** drop-down list, select **New service account**.
3. Enter a name into the **Service account name** field.
4. From the **Role** drop-down list, select **Project > Owner**.

★ **Note:** The **Role** field authorizes your service account to access resources. You can view and change this field later using [GCP Console](#). If you are developing a production application, specify more granular permissions than **Project > Owner**. For more information, see [granting roles to service accounts](#).
5. Click **Create**. A JSON file that contains your key downloads to your computer.

<https://cloud.google.com/docs/authentication/production>

Google Cloud Platform MyReallyBigQuery

Create service account key

Service account

New service account

Service account name ?

bigquery-api-service

Role ?

BigQuery Admin

Service account ID

bigquery-api-service @myreallybigquery.iam.gserviceaccount.co

Key type

Downloads a file that contains the private key. Store the file securely because this key cannot be recovered if lost.

☒ JSON

Recommended

☐ P12

For backward compatibility with code using the P12 format

Create

Cancel



BigQuery API: Authentication – cont'd

Google Cloud Platform

MyReallyBigQuery

API

Credentials

Credentials

OAuth consent screen

Domain verification

Create credentials

Delete

Create credentials to access your enabled APIs. [Refer to the API documentation](#) for details.

Service account keys

ID	Creation date	Service account
75516912d806a1ecdc78fa935cadb396cf9d11c6	21 Aug 2018	bigquery-api-service



Using the Google Authentication Key

Option 1: Set GOOGLE_APPLICATION_CREDENTIALS environment variable

- Linux / MacOS

```
$ export GOOGLE_APPLICATION_CREDENTIALS="[PATH]"
```

- Windows

```
$ set GOOGLE_APPLICATION_CREDENTIALS="[PATH]"
```

Option 2: Pass the path to the service account key in code

```
from google.cloud import storage
```

```
storage_client = storage.Client.from_service_account_json('[PATH]')
```

where '[PATH]' is the full file path of the json key file



Google BigQuery API: Top-Level Object

client object:

- **connection**
 - authenticated connection to the BigQuery service
 - determines credentials
 - implicitly from the environment,
 - or directly via *from_service_account_json* and *from_service_account_p12*
- **project**
 - top-level container
 - tied to billing
 - can provide default access control across all its datasets
 - access control list (ACL)
 - grants reader / writer / owner permission to one or more entities
 - must be managed using the Google Developer Console (not API)



BigQuery API Object Hierarchy

```
bigquery
  .projects
  .datasets
    .get, .delete, .insert, .list, .update, ...
  .tabledata
  .tables
  .jobs
    .get, .cancel, .insert, .list, .query, ...
  ...
```

<https://developers.google.com/apis-explorer/#p/bigquery/v2/>



Lab 3.2.3: Big Data Analytics with BigQuery

- Purpose:

- (1) To learn how to the Google BigQuery Web UI for discovering public data sets and performing basic analytics.
- (2) To become proficient with the Google BigQuery API for wrangling Google's public datasets.

- Materials:

- 'Lab 3.2.3.ipynb'





Lab 3.2.3 – cont'd

- Python packages :
 - pyarrow (pip)
 - google-cloud-bigquery (conda-forge)
 - google-cloud-storage (conda-forge)
- Resources:
 - Google BigQuery Public Datasets <https://cloud.google.com/bigquery/public-data/>
 - BigQuery UI <https://cloud.google.com/bigquery/docs/quickstarts/quickstart-web-ui>
 - Python client for BigQuery API <https://github.com/GoogleCloudPlatform/google-cloud-python/tree/master/bigquery>



Discussion

- Extracting data using APIs
 - applications?



Lab/ HOMEWORK

1. Create a mini-project based on any skills from the course so far:
 - select an interesting public data set or form a question you are interested answer and identify data needed to answer the question
 - use Jupyter Notebook to access, analyse and visualise the data
2. Prepare a 5-minute presentation
 - use Jupyter Notebook
 - organise as:
 - question
 - dataset & analysis
 - conclusion
3. plan to present to the class



Presentations

- each team
 - 5 minute presentation



Analytics-Based APIs

- **Google**

- Google Analytics
 - <https://developers.google.com/analytics/>
- Google Cloud Vision
 - <https://cloud.google.com/vision/>
- Google Cloud AI
 - <https://cloud.google.com/products/ai/>

- **IBM Watson**

- Developer Cloud
 - <https://www.ibm.com/watson/developercloud/>
 - <https://github.com/watson-developer-cloud/python-sdk>
- Mashups
 - <https://www-01.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?subtype=SP&infotype=PM&htmlfid=LBS03048USEN&attachmen t=LBS03048USEN.PDF>



Analytics-Based APIs – cont'd

- AWS
 - Boto3
 - low-level (“client”) and high-level (“resource”) APIs for all AWS products
 - <https://aws.amazon.com/sdk-for-python/>
 - API Explorer
 - <https://developers.google.com/apis-explorer/#search/analytics/analytics/v3/>
- Azure
 - Code samples, Cognitive Services API, etc.
 - <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/python/azure/?view=azure-python>
 - Python API Browser
 - <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-au/python/api/?view=azure-python>



Machine Vision APIs

- use cases:
 - autonomous vehicles
 - industrial control & QA
 - face recognition
 - number plate recognition
 - biometric identity verification
 - print & handwriting transcription
 - image annotation
 - detecting and labelling objects or themes in an image



Creating APIs

- Why would a data scientist/engineer want to create their own API?
 - for building an interface to your data product
 - for enforcing control over how your application's data and services can be used
 - for isolating the IP that your data product is based on
- References:
 - <https://www.fullstackpython.com/application-programming-interfaces.html>



Discussion

More APIs

- List of Free APIs (Rapid API)
<https://rapidapi.com/collection/list-of-free-apis/>
- Public APIs List
<https://apislist.com/>
- todmotto Public APIs
<https://github.com/toddmotto/public-apis>



HOMEWORK

1. Investigate a data or analytic API for one of the following:
 - AWS
 - Microsoft Azure
 - IBM Cloud
2. Create a Jupyter notebook that demonstrates some basic operations (e.g. transporting, querying, or visualising data).

NOTES:

- The offerings of these platforms are myriad and complex. It may not be obvious which API you need to use at first, so try to start with published code examples.
- APIs (and the libraries that wrap them) change. Online examples may not work as documented.



Questions?



End of Presentation!