API vs Microservices (basic difference)

They're both incredibly important in modern day web apps.

What Is a Microservice?

- The word "**microservice**" refers to the individual services in a **microservice arch**.
- The reason microservices are all the rage right now is that they make it *so* much **easier** to develop, integrate, and maintain applications.
- This ultimately comes down to the fact that **individual functionalities are treated separately.**
- Microservices are especially useful for **larger companies** since they allow teams to work on separate items without the need for any horribly complicated orchestration between them.

What Is an API?

- **API** stands for Application Programming Interface, where the keyword is ***interface***. APIs are the *doorways*, so to speak, that allow developers to interact with an application.
- APIs have been around since the dawn of computing.
- **APIs** allow developers internal and external to accomplish one of two things: **access an application's data**, or **use an application's functionality**.
- **E.g.** Things like using a social account to authenticate on a website, having the weather on your phone, being able to access Google maps from a separate application, or triggering Internet of Things devices — they all rely on APIs to function.
- While many APIs are created for third parties to make use of — so-called public APIs — the increasing popularity of a microservice architecture has led to the creation of more and more **private APIs**.
- From a technical perspective, APIs usually send data by means of HTTP requests.

The Difference Between APIs and Microservices

Microservices are an **architectural style** for web applications, where the functionality is **divided up** across small web services.

whereas

APIs are the **frameworks** through which developers can **interact** with a web application.

- so many microservices use APIs to communicate between themselves.