DISTRIBUTED AND CLOUD COMPUTING

LAB 4: SERVICES & API ARCHITECTURES

(Module: RPC & RESTFUL API)

Local Program ➡ Web Service

- Local Program ➡ Modular Service
  a. Task Orientation + Reusability: group functions/procedures as a **service**.
  b. Independent Development: Separate client and service code - **Modularization**.

my_program.py

```python
# Local Procedure: Greet the user with provided user name and institution.
def greet_with_info(username, institution):
    return f'Hello {username} from {institution}!'

# Local Procedure: Multiply two numbers.
def mult(xin, yin):
    return xin * yin

# Client to use the Procedure.
if __name__ == '__main__':
    print(greet_with_info(username='Peter', institution='SUSTech'))
    print(mult(xin=3.5, yin=5))
```

```
PROBLEMS  OUTPUT  DEBUG CONSOLE  TERMINAL  PORTS

(dncc) (base) root@RAINBOW:~/rainbow/asialab/dncc/local_service# python my_program.py
Hello Peter from SUSTech!
17.5
```

my_service.py

```python
# A Modular Assistant Service.
class AssistantService:
    def __init__(self) -> None:
        # Add some properties.
        pass

    # Greet the user with provided user name and institution.
    def greet_with_info(self, username, institution):
        return f'Hello {username} from {institution}!'

    # Multiply two numbers.
    def mult(self, xin, yin):
        return xin * yin
```

What if service is no longer local?

my_client.py

```python
from my_service import AssistantService

# Client to use the Procedure
if __name__ == '__main__':
    svc = AssistantService()
    print(svc.greet_with_info(username='Peter', institution='SUSTech'))
    print(svc.mult(xin=3.5, yin=5))
```

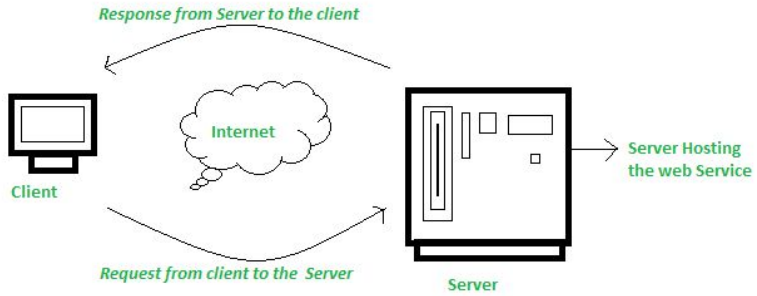
```
PROBLEMS  OUTPUT  DEBUG CONSOLE  TERMINAL  PORTS

(dncc) (base) root@RAINBOW:~/rainbow/asialab/dncc/local_service# python my_client.py
Hello Peter from SUSTech!
17.5
```

Local Program ➡ Web Service

- Local Program ➡ Modular Service
  a. Task Orientation + Reusability: group functions/procedures as a **service**.
  b. Independent Development: Separate client and service code - **Modularization**.
- Local Service ➡ Web Service
  a. **Web Service**: “a service offered by an electronic device to another electronic device, communicating with each other via the Internet”.
  b. Making services web-ready: utilize web standards.
     - Network Protocols (e.g., HTTP, HTTPS)
     - Data Formats (e.g., XML, JSON)

- Web Services specify communication standards and interfaces, making them **APIs**.

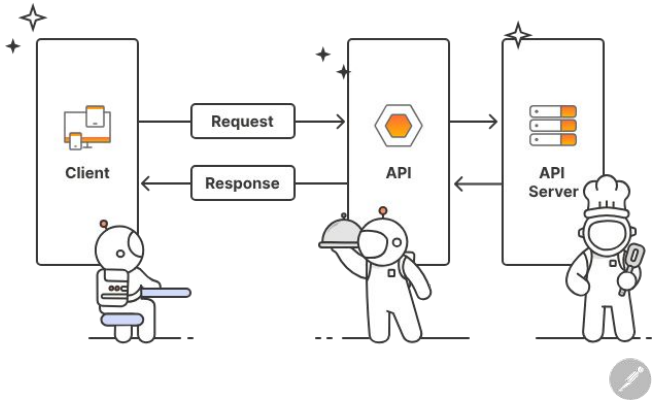


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_service
https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/what-are-web-services/

Application Programming Interface (API)

- "APIs are mechanisms that enable two software components to communicate with each other using a set of definitions and protocols."
- Examples:
  a. GitHub REST API - build scripts/apps for automation and extension
  b. OpenAI API (RESTful API) - programmatically interact with LLMs like ChatGPT
  c. Slack Web API (gRPC) - query and manage Slack messages, channels, workspaces
  d. Netflix Backend-to-backend Communication (gRPC)
  e. …

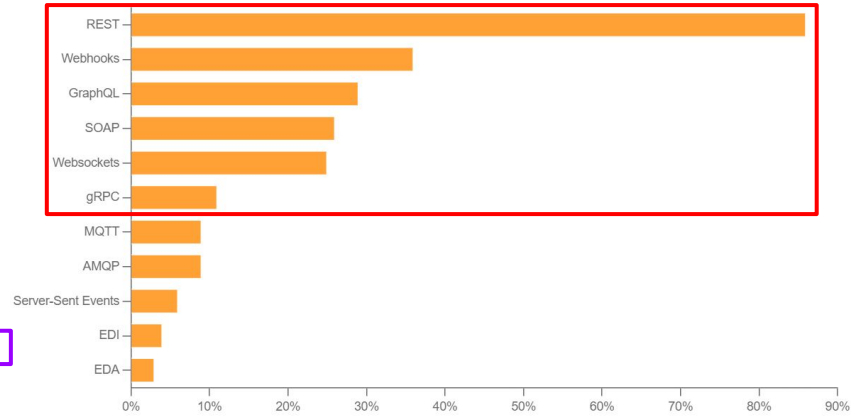
- There are different ways to design and build APIs, each tailored to different purposes and scenarios. These designs are referred to as "**API Architecture Patterns**".

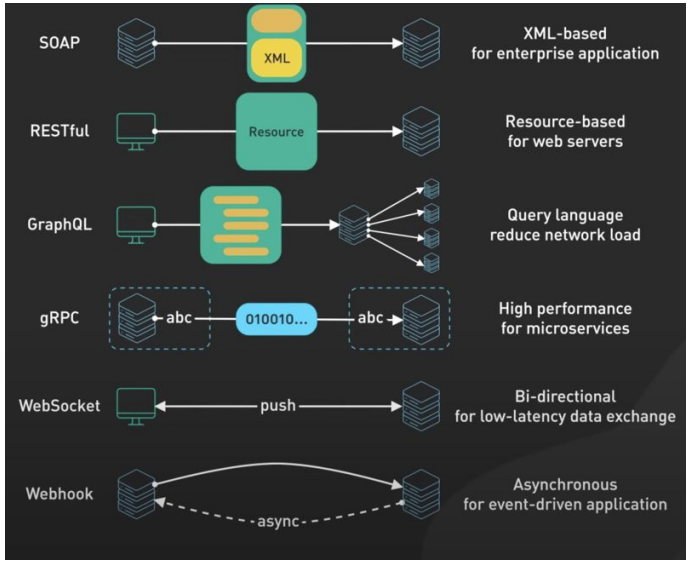


https://aws.amazon.com/what-is/api/
https://www.postman.com/what-is-an-api/

API Architecture Patterns

- **SOAP**:
  a. uses XML messages + a predefined contract
  b. strict, complex, and verbose
- **RESTful API**: **Currently the most popular architecture for Web Services!**
  a. manages resources via common web standards
  b. uses HTTP methods to operate on JSON/XML
  c. simple, fast, and flexible
- **GraphQL**:
  a. queries exactly needed within a single requests
  b. suitable for complex data requirements
- **RPC**:
  a. accesses remote services as if they were local
  b. abstracts the complexity of network communication
- **WebSocket**:
  a. enables fast, bidirectional, and persistent connections
  b. benefits live chat apps and real-time gaming
- **Webhook**:
  a. supports asynchronous & event-driven notifications





https://www.postman.com/state-of-api/api-technologies/#api-technologies
https://dev.to/kanani_nirav/top-6-most-popular-api-architecture-styles-you-need-to-know-with-pros-cons-and-use-cases-564j

TASK: RESTful API - Hello World with Python Flask

Implement a simple RESTful API server using Python Flask.

> Reference codebase: `rest_hello_world`

1. Set up Python (Miniconda is recommended).
2. Install Python dependencies into a Conda environment via:
   - `python -m pip install -r requirements.txt`
3. Run the API server via:
   - `python server.py`
4. In another terminal, test the API with HTTP requests.

```python
@app.route('/', methods=['GET'])
def greet():
    return {'message': 'Hello World!'}, 200

@app.route('/chat/<username>', methods=['GET'])
def greet_with_info(username):  # retrieve username from URL path
    # retrieve institution from URL query
    institution = request.args.get('institution', None)
    institution_segment = f' from {institution}' if institution else ''
    msg = f'Hello {username}{institution_segment}!'
    return {'message': msg}, 200

@app.route('/calculator/mult', methods=['POST'])
def mult():
    inputs = request.get_json()
    op = MultOp(xin=inputs['xin'], yin=inputs['yin'])
    op.cal()
    return op.to_json(), 200
```

```
(dncc) root@RAINBOW:~/rainbow/asialab/dncc/dncc-lab/rpc_rest/1_rest/0_hello_world# python server.py
 * Serving Flask app 'server' (lazy loading)
 * Environment: production
   WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production deployment.
   Use a production WSGI server instead.
 * Debug mode: on
WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production deployment. Use
 * Running on http://127.0.0.1:8081
Press CTRL+C to quit
 * Restarting with stat
 * Debugger is active!
 * Debugger PIN: 245-968-013
```

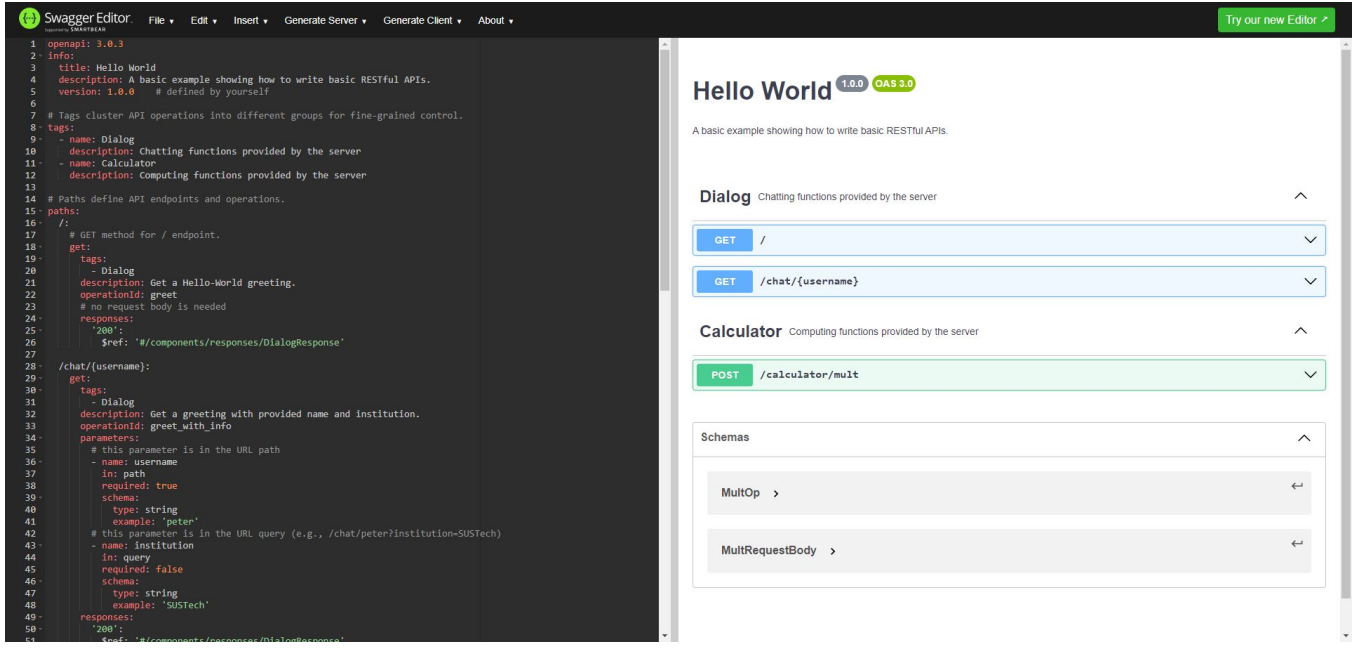
```
(base) root@RAINBOW: # curl http://localhost:8081/
{
  "message": "Hello World!"
}
(base) root@RAINBOW: # curl http://localhost:8081/chat/Peter?institution=SUSTech
{
  "message": "Hello Peter from SUSTech!"
}
(base) root@RAINBOW: # curl -X POST -H "Content-Type: application/json" -d '{"xin": 1.5,
 "yin": 6}' http://localhost:8081/calculator/mult
{
  "result": 9.0,
  "xin": 1.5,
  "yin": 6
}
```

TASK: RESTful API - Hello World with Python Flask

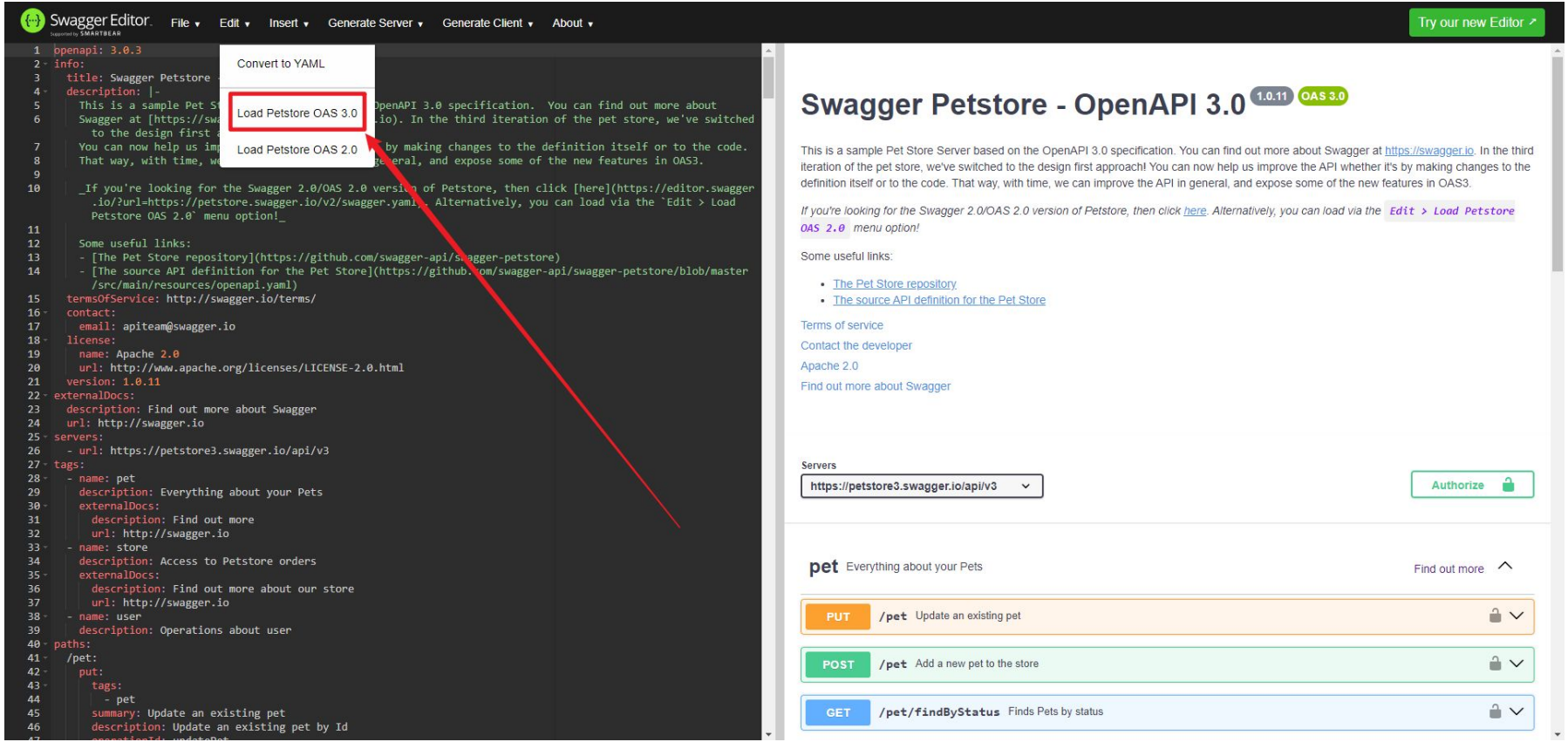
Implement a simple RESTful API server using Python Flask.

> Reference codebase: `rest_hello_world`

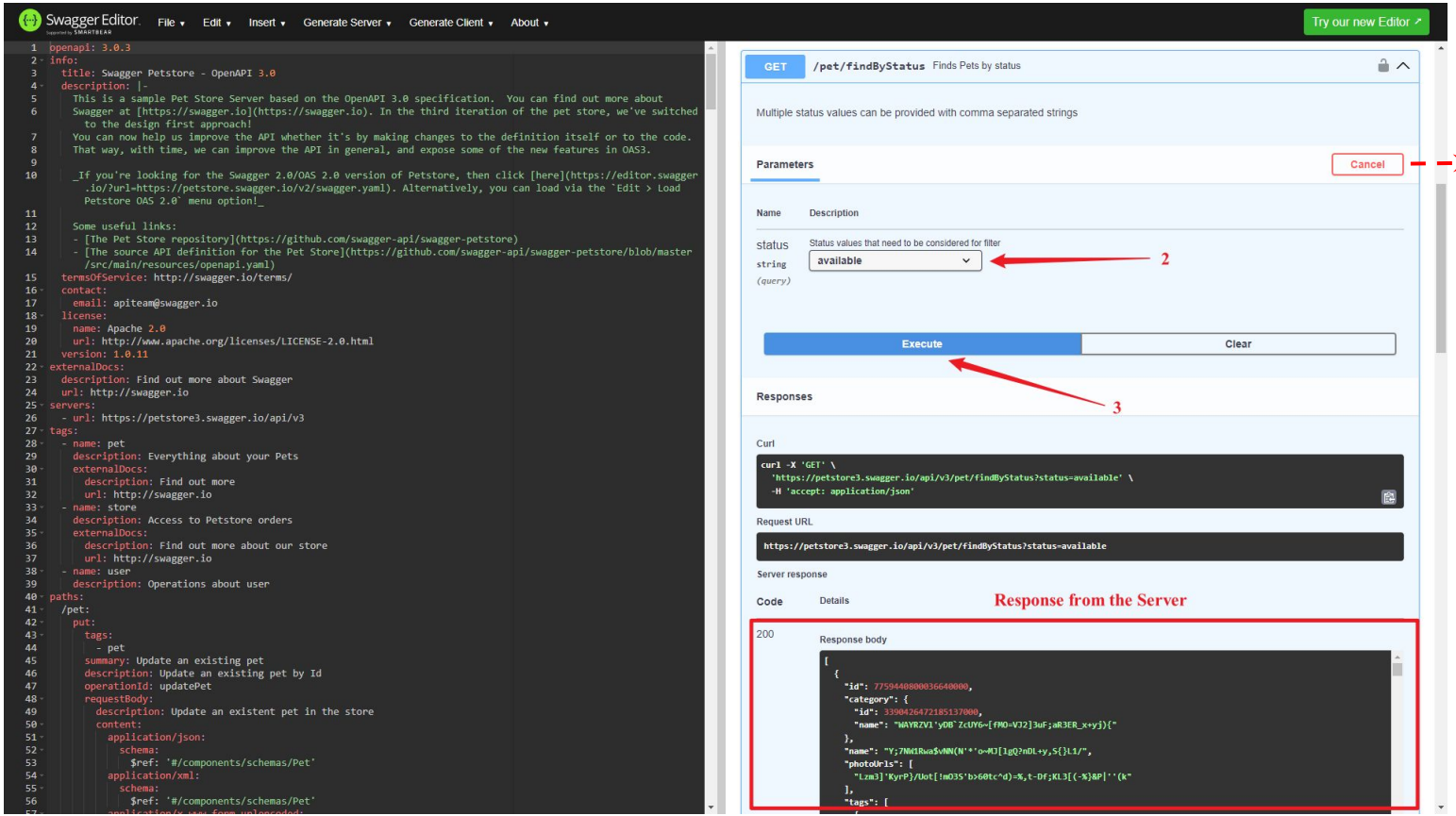
5. Check the API specification file `hello_world.yaml`
6. Copy the file content into the online Swagger Editor. Explore the generated Swagger UI page.



Another RESTful API Example - Petstore



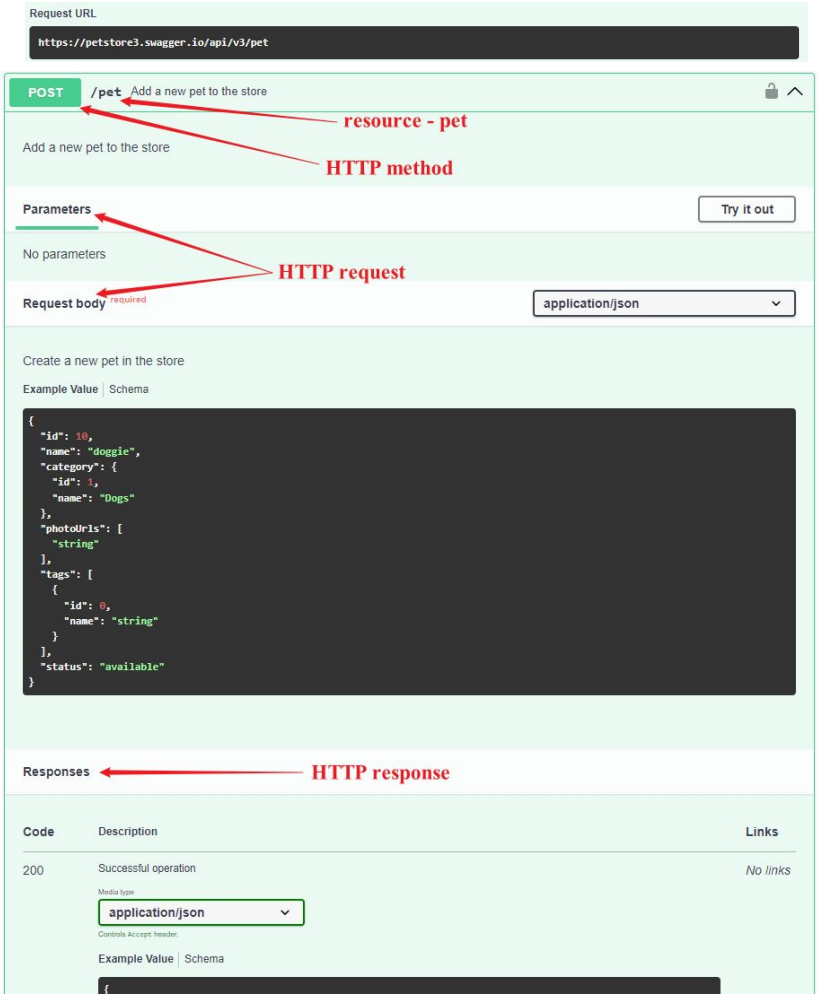
Another RESTful API Example - Petstore



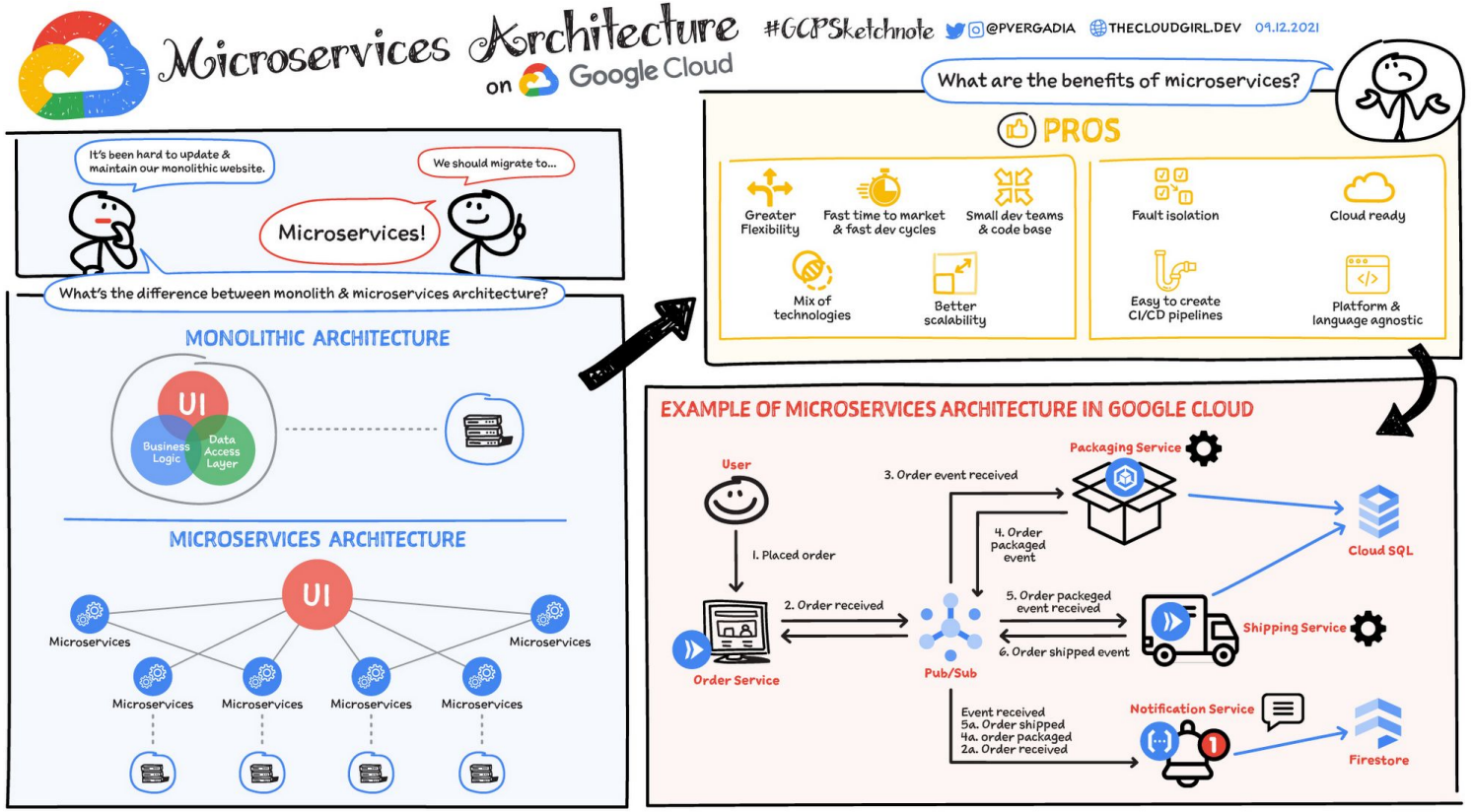
RESTful API Components

Take OpenAPI specification as an example:

- Resource: identified by an endpoint/URL.
- HTTP method: specifies an operation on the resource (e.g., GET, POST, etc.).
- HTTP request:
  - Header: metadata
    - `Content-Type` = `application/json`)
  - Query Parameters
    - `/users?age=25&sort=desc`
  - Request Body
- HTTP response:
  - Status code + message
    - `200 OK`
    - `404 Not Found`
    - …
  - Header
  - Response Body



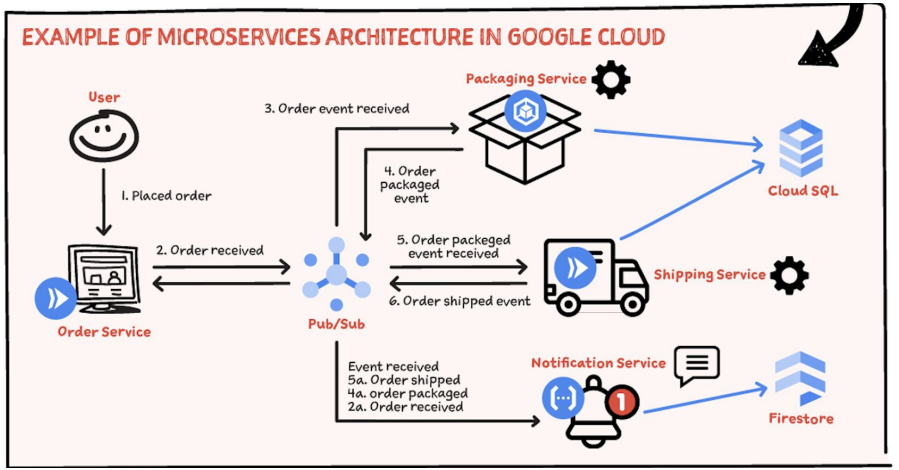
Monolithic Service ➡ Microservices



https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/developers-practitioners/microservices-architecture-google-cloud

Microservices

- Definition: “an architectural pattern that arranges an application as a collection of loosely coupled, fine-grained services, communicating through lightweight protocols.”
- Features:
  a. Finer granularity: each microservice is small and modular
  b. Improved Flexibility & Scalability: easier migration & load balancing
  c. Loosely coupled:
     - Design phase: refactoring a microservice does not heavily the others.
     - Deployment phase: self-contained microservices can be deployed concurrently.
     - Runtime phase: an unavailable microservice does not severely affect the others.



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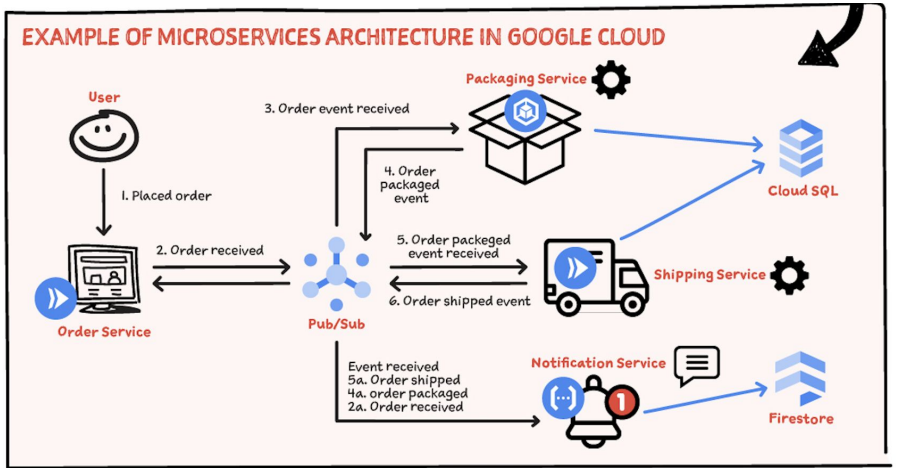
Microservices

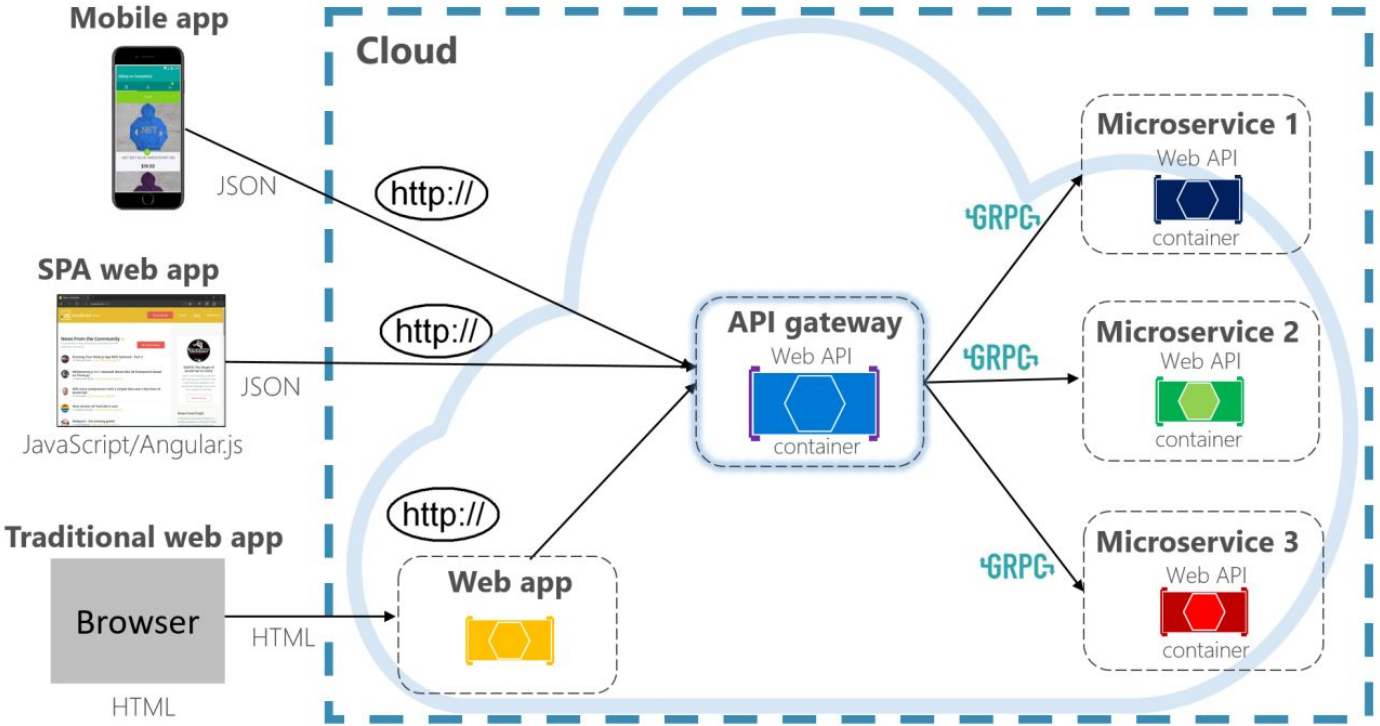
- Definition: “an architectural pattern that arranges an application as a collection of loosely coupled, fine-grained services, communicating through lightweight protocols.”
- Features:
  a. Finer granularity: each microservice is small and modular
  b. Improved Flexibility & Scalability: easier migration & load balancing
  c. Loosely coupled
  d. Cross-platform & Cross-Language: each microservice can be written with different programming languages and deployed to different OS platforms.
  e. Cloud Ready: easier packaging into containers, more efficient resource utilization



- **gRPC** is currently a popular architecture for microservices!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microservices
https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/developers-practitioners/microservices-architecture-google-cloud

Microservices with gRPC



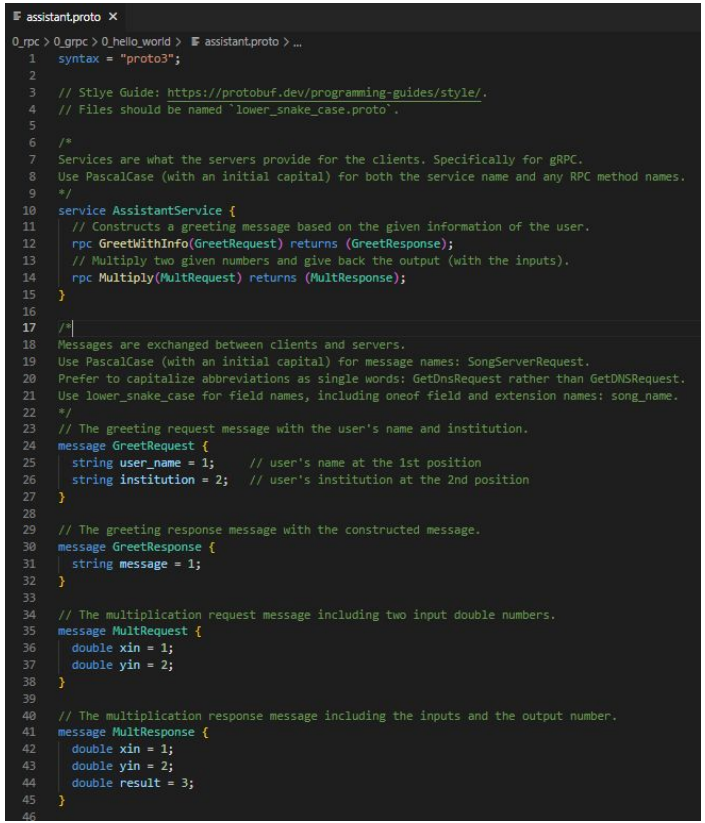
https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/why-rest-when-you-can-grpc-ramit-sharma/

TASK: gRPC - Hello World

Implement a Hello World gRPC Python example.

> Reference codebase: `rpc_grpc_hello_world`

1. Set up Python (Miniconda is recommended).
2. Install Python dependencies into a Conda environment via:
   - `python -m pip install -r requirements.txt`
3. Check the protocol file `assistant.proto`. Use `protoc` to generate some code:
   - `python -m grpc_tools.protoc -I./ --python_out=. --pyi_out=. --grpc_python_out=. assistant.proto`
   - These generated code will be utilized to implement the gRPC client and the gRPC server.



TASK: gRPC - Hello World

Implement a Hello World gRPC Python example.

> Reference codebase: `rpc_grpc_hello_world`

4. Implement the gRPC server in `hw_server.py`. Run the gRPC server via:
   - `python hw_server.py`
5. Implement the gRPC client in `hw_client.py`. In another terminal, run the gRPC client via:
   - `python hw_client.py`

hw_server.py

```python
from concurrent import futures
import logging

import grpc
from assistant_pb2_grpc import AssistantServiceServicer, add_AssistantServiceServicer_to_server
from assistant_pb2 import GreetRequest, GreetResponse, MultRequest, MultResponse

class Assistant(AssistantServiceServicer):
    def GreetWithInfo(self, request: GreetRequest, context):
        msg = f'Hello {request.user_name} from {request.institution}!'
        return GreetResponse(message=msg)

    def Multiply(self, request: MultRequest, context):
        res = request.xin * request.yin
        return MultResponse(xin=request.xin, yin=request.yin, result=res)

def serve():
    port = '8082'
    # the server can handle 10 client requests concurrently
    server = grpc.server(futures.ThreadPoolExecutor(max_workers=10))
    add_AssistantServiceServicer_to_server(Assistant(), server)
    # [::] specifies the listen on all ipv4/ipv6 addresses
    server.add_insecure_port('[::]:' + port)
    server.start()
    logging.info(f'Server started, listening on {port}')
    server.wait_for_termination()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    logging.basicConfig(level=logging.INFO)
    serve()
```

```
(dncc) root@RAINBOW:[redacted]# python hw_server.py
/root/miniconda3/envs/dncc/lib/python3.12/site-packages/google/protobuf/runtime_version.py:112: UserWarning:
Protobuf gencode version 5.27.2 is older than the runtime version 5.28.2 at assistant.proto. Please avoid che
cked-in Protobuf gencode that can be obsolete.
  warnings.warn(
INFO:root:Server started, listening on 8082
```

```
(dncc) root@RAINBOW:[redacted]# python hw_client.py
/root/miniconda3/envs/dncc/lib/python3.12/site-packages/google/protobuf/runtime_version.py:112: UserWarning:
Protobuf gencode version 5.27.2 is older than the runtime version 5.28.2 at assistant.proto. Please avoid che
cked-in Protobuf gencode that can be obsolete.
  warnings.warn(
> Greet: Hello Assistant?
> Client received:
message: "Hello Peter from SUSTech!"

> Mult: Requesting a multiplication task
> Client received:
xin: 3.5
yin: 5
result: 17.5
```

hw_client.py

"abstracts the complexity of network communication"

```python
import grpc
from assistant_pb2 import GreetRequest, MultRequest
from assistant_pb2_grpc import AssistantServiceStub

def run():
    with grpc.insecure_channel('localhost:8082') as channel:
        stub = AssistantServiceStub(channel)
        # Greeting
        print('> Greet: Hello Assistant?')
        res = stub.GreetWithInfo(GreetRequest(user_name='Peter', institution='SUSTech'))
        print(f'> Client received:\n{res}')
        # Multiplication
        print('> Mult: Requesting a multiplication task')
        res = stub.Multiply(MultRequest(xin=3.5, yin=5))
        print(f'> Client received:\n{res}')

if __name__ == '__main__':
    run()
```

TASK: gRPC - Quick Start with Go

Hello World again, but this time with Go.

We will also use a bit of Go in our future lab sessions to demonstrate the cross-language feature of gRPC. Set up Go and try the official quick start guide.

```
(base) root@RAINBOW: # go version
go version go1.23.2 linux/amd64
```

1. Install Go according to the official documentation. Verify with `go version`.
2. (optional) Set a proxy for Go to smoothly download the dependencies:
   - `export GOPROXY=https://goproxy.io,direct`
3. Install the Protobuf compiler, `protoc`, version 3 according to the official documentation.
4. Install Go plugins for Protobuf:
   - `go install google.golang.org/protobuf/cmd/protoc-gen-go@latest`
   - `go install google.golang.org/grpc/cmd/protoc-gen-go-grpc@latest`
   - These plugins will be installed to a `bin/` folder from a preset `GOPATH`. Add this folder to the system path and `protoc` will be able to find these plugins:

     ```
     (base) root@RAINBOW: # go env GOPATH
     /root/go
     ```

     - `export PATH="$PATH:$(go env GOPATH)/bin"`
5. Clone the official gRPC Go GitHub repository and enter the Hello World example folder:
   - `git clone -b v1.67.0 --depth 1 https://github.com/grpc/grpc-go`
   - `cd grpc-go/examples/helloworld`

TASK: gRPC - Quick Start with Go

Hello World again, but this time with Go.

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6. Check the proto file: `helloworld/helloworld.proto`. Some Go code has already been generated by protoc within the same directory. To keep it simple, we will not generate them again for this lab session.
7. Run the server code:
   - `go run greeter_server/main.go`
8. In another terminal, run the client code:
   - `go run greeter_client/main.go`

helloworld.proto

helloworld > helloworld.proto > ...

```
15  syntax = "proto3";
16
17  option go_package = "google.golang.org/grpc/examples/helloworld/helloworld";
18  option java_multiple_files = true;
19  option java_package = "io.grpc.examples.helloworld";
20  option java_outer_classname = "HelloWorldProto";
21
22  package helloworld;
23
24  // The greeting service definition.
25  service Greeter {
26    // Sends a greeting
27    rpc SayHello (HelloRequest) returns (HelloReply) {}
28  }
29
30  // The request message containing the user's name.
31  message HelloRequest {
32    string name = 1;
33  }
34
35  // The response message containing the greetings
36  message HelloReply {
37    string message = 1;
38  }
```

```
(base) root@RAINBOW: # go run greeter_server/main.go
go: downloading google.golang.org/genproto v0.0.0-20240814211410-ddb44dafa142
2024/10/09 06:22:37 server listening at [::]:50051
```

```
(base) root@RAINBOW: # go run greeter_client/main.go
2024/10/09 06:30:34 Greeting: Hello world
```

TASK: gRPC - Quick Start with Go

Hello World again, but this time with Go.

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7. Run the server code:
   - `go run greeter_server/main.go`
8. In another terminal, run the client code:
   - `go run greeter_client/main.go`

```
(base) root@RAINBOW:~/cuizhou/asialab/dncc/grpc-go/examples/helloworld# go run greeter_client/main.go
2024/10/09 06:27:57 could not greet: rpc error: code = DeadlineExceeded desc = context deadline exceeded
exit status 1
```

Q: getting `DeadlineExceeded`?

main.go

greeter_client › main.go › ...

```go
// Package main implements a client for Greeter service.
package main

import (
  "context"
  "flag"
  "log"
  "time"

  "google.golang.org/grpc"
  "google.golang.org/grpc/credentials/insecure"
  pb "google.golang.org/grpc/examples/helloworld/helloworld"
)

const (
  defaultName = "world"
)

var (
  addr = flag.String("addr", "127.0.0.1:50051", "the address to connect to")
  name = flag.String("name", defaultName, "Name to greet")
)

func main() {
  flag.Parse()
  // Set up a connection to the server.
  conn, err := grpc.NewClient(*addr, grpc.WithTransportCredentials(insecure.NewCredentials()))
  if err != nil {
    log.Fatalf("did not connect: %v", err)
  }
  defer conn.Close()
  c := pb.NewGreeterClient(conn)

  // Contact the server and print out its response.
  ctx, cancel := context.WithTimeout(context.Background(), 15*time.Second)
  defer cancel()
  r, err := c.SayHello(ctx, &pb.HelloRequest{Name: *name})
  if err != nil {
    log.Fatalf("could not greet: %v", err)
  }
  log.Printf("Greeting: %s", r.GetMessage())
}

```

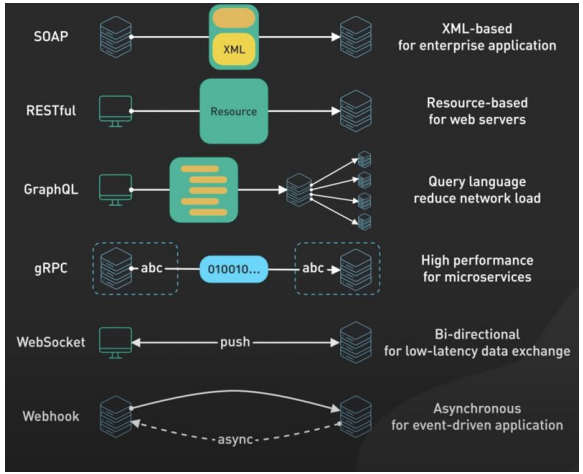
avoid using localhost that leads to DNS lookup overhead

increase timeout when necessary

Summary

- Distributed Architecture Patterns
  a. Web Services
     - Serve clients over the Internet using web standard protocols & data formats.
     - **RESTful API** is currently the most popular architecture for Web Services.
  b. Microservices
     - Break services into loosely coupled, fine-grained services, communicating through lightweight protocols
     - **gRPC** is a popular architecture for microservices.
- 6 Most Popular API Architecture Patterns
  a. SOAP
  b. RESTful API
  c. GraphQL
  d. RPC
  e. WebSocket
  f. Webhook

More details in the following lab sessions…



https://dev.to/kanani_nirav/top-6-most-popular-api-architecture-styles-you-need-to-know-with-pros-cons-and-use-cases-564j