DISTRIBUTED AND CLOUD COMPUTING

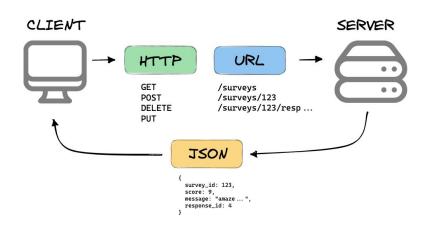
LAB 7: RESTFUL API & OPENAPI SPECIFICATION

(Module: RPC & RESTFUL API)

REST As an Architecture Style

- **REpresentational State Transfer**: architecture <u>style</u> for distributed hypermedia systems
- REST Components
 - a. Resource
 - Identifiers (URI including URL)
 - Metadata (e.g., source links, etc.)
 - b. Representation
 - Metadata (e.g., media type, etc.)
 - c. Control data (e.g., Cache-Control, etc.)
- 6 Guiding Principles/Constraints of REST
 - a. Client-Server
 - b. Stateless
 - c. Cacheable
 - d. Uniform Interface
 - e. Layered System
 - f. Code on Demand (Optional)
- RESTful API (or REST API): Web API conforming to the REST architecture style

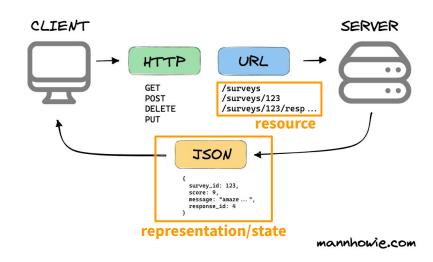
WHAT IS A REST API?



mannhowie.com

- Resource: abstraction of information
 - Identifiers
 - URL endpoint...
 - Metadata
 - Source links
 - Alternate data formats
 - Vary: language preferences...
 - **...**
- Representation: **state** of the resource
 - Metadata
 - Media type
 - Last-modified time
 - **...**
- Control data: interaction behavior
 - Cache-Control
 - 0 ...

WHAT IS A REST API?



- Resource: **abstraction** of information
 - Identifiers
 - URL endpoint...
 - Metadata
 - Source links
 - Alternate data formats
 - Vary: language preferences...
 - **...**
- Representation: **state** of the resource
 - Metadata
 - Media type
 - Last-modified time
 - **...**
- Control data: interaction behavior
 - Cache-Control
 - 0 ...

```
"id": 123,
"title": "What is REST",
"content": "REST is an architectural style for building web services...",
"published at": "2023-11-04T14:30:00Z",
"author": {
  "id": 456,
  "name": "John Doe",
  "profile_url": "https://example.com/authors/456"
"comments": {
  "comments url": "https://example.com/posts/123/comments"
"self": {
  "link": "https://example.com/posts/123"
```

Pressing the links (i.e., GET ...) transform from one resource state to another - REST.

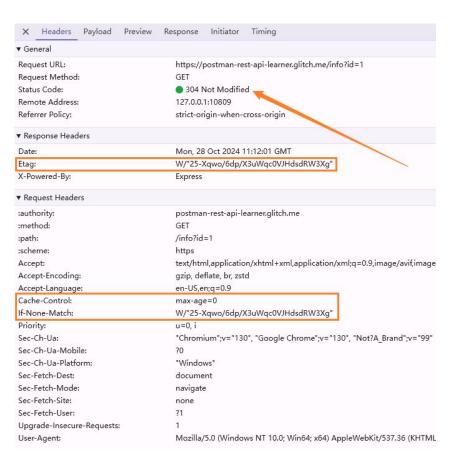
- Resource: abstraction of information
 - Identifiers
 - URL endpoint...
 - Metadata
 - Source links JSON, XML, ...
 - Alternate datá formats
 - Vary: language preferences...
 - **...**
- Representation: **state** of the resource
 - Metadata
 - Media type application/json
 - Last-modified time
 - ...
- Control data: interaction behavior
 - Cache-Control
 - 0 ...

X Headers Payload Previe	w Response Initiator Timing
▼ General	
Request URL:	https://postman-rest-api-learner.glitch.me/info?id=1
Request Method:	GET
Status Code:	 304 Not Modified
Remote Address:	127.0.0.1:10809
Referrer Policy:	strict-origin-when-cross-origin
▼ Response Headers	
Date:	Mon, 28 Oct 2024 11:12:01 GMT
Etag:	W/"25-Xqwo/6dp/X3uWqc0VJHdsdRW3Xg"
X-Powered-By:	Express
▼ Request Headers	
:authority:	postman-rest-api-learner.glitch.me
:method:	GET
:path:	/info?id=1
:scheme:	https
Accept:	text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,imag
Accept-Encoding:	gzip, deflate, br, zstd
Accept-Language:	en-US,en;q=0.9
Cache-Control:	max-age=0
If-None-Match:	W/"25-Xqwo/6dp/X3uWqc0VJHdsdRW3Xg"
Priority:	u=0, i
Sec-Ch-Ua:	"Chromium";v="130", "Google Chrome";v="130", "Not?A_Brand";v="99"
Sec-Ch-Ua-Mobile:	70
Sec-Ch-Ua-Platform:	"Windows"
Sec-Fetch-Dest:	document
Sec-Fetch-Mode:	navigate
Sec-Fetch-Site:	none
Sec-Fetch-User:	?1
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests:	1
User-Agent:	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTM

GET https://postman-rest-api-learner.glitch.me/info?id=1

- Resource: abstraction of information
 - Identifiers
 - URL endpoint...
 - Metadata
 - Source links
 - Alternate data formats
 - Vary: language preferences...
 - ...
- Representation: **state** of the resource
 - Metadata
 - Media type
 - Last-modified time
 - **...**
- Control data: interaction behavior
 - Cache-Control
 - O ... T





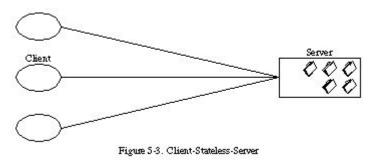
GET https://postman-rest-api-learner.glitch.me/info?id=1

- Client-Server
 - Separation of concerns
 - Modularization
 - Features:
 - Portability of client
 - Scalability of server
- Stateless
- Cacheable
- Uniform Interface
- Layered System
- Code on Demand (*)
- Recall Lab4 when we intend to refactor a local program into a modular service.



Figure 5-2. Client-Server

- Client-Server
- Stateless
 - No session state on server
 - Request contains all necessary info
 - Requests do not rely on one another
 - Features:
 - Visibility
 - Reliability ←
 - Scalability ←
 - Concern: repetitive data overhead
- Cacheable
- Uniform Interface
- Layered System
- Code on Demand (*)



Request:

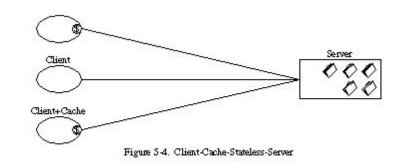
- 1. Add a new book (id=1) in the bookshelf.
- 2. Give me that created book.



Request:

- 1. Add a new book (id=1) in the bookshelf.
- 2. Give me the book (id=1).

- Client-Server
- Stateless
- Cacheable
 - Response data should implicitly or explicitly announce cacheability.
 - If cacheable, <u>client cache</u> is reused.
 - Features:
 - Efficiency
 - **...**
 - Concern: stale data handling
- Uniform Interface
- Layered System
- Code on Demand (*)



Response:

200 OK

- 1. The story is: "Alice was beginning to ..."
- 2. The story does not change. Check the previous copy.

 304 Not Modified

Etag:	W/"25-Xqwo/6dp/X3uWqc0VJHdsdRW3Xg"
Cache-Control:	max-age=0
If-None-Match:	W/"25-Xqwo/6dp/X3uWqc0VJHdsdRW3Xg"

- Client-Server
- Stateless
- Cacheable
- Uniform Interface
 - Principle of generality
 - Identification of resources: uniquely identify each resource
 - Manipulation of resources through representations: uniform representations
 - Self-descriptive messages: enough info in each resource representation
 - Hypermedia as the engine of application state: drive resources via hyperlinks
 - Features:
 - Simplicity
 - Independent evolvability
 - **...**
 - Concern: degradation of efficiency (general vs. optimized)
- Layered System
- Code on Demand (*)

```
"id": 123,
  "title": "What is REST",
  "content": "REST is an architectural style for building web services...",
  "published_at": "2023-11-04T14:30:00Z",
  "author": {
    "id": 456,
    "name": "John Doe",
    "profile_url": "https://example.com/authors/456"
},
  "comments": {
    "count": 5,
    "comments_url": "https://example.com/posts/123/comments"
},
  "self": {
    "link": "https://example.com/posts/123"
}
```

NOTE: Principles are just guidelines. It is not compulsory to

follow all mentioned guidelines to become a RESTful API.

- Client-Server
- Stateless
- Cacheable
- Uniform Interface
- Layered System
 - Hierarchical layers
 - Example: MVC pattern
 - Features:
 - Reduced coupling
 - Evolvability
 - Reusability
 - Scalability
 - Transparency
 - Concern: complexity & processing overhead
- Code on Demand (*)

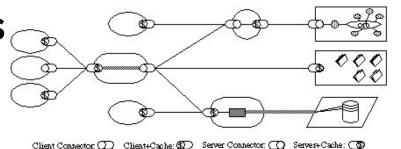
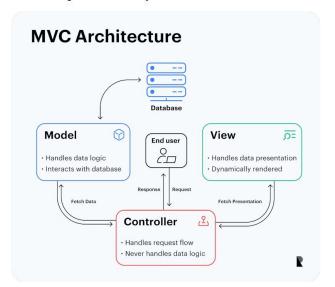
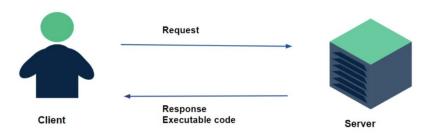


Figure 5-7. Uniform-Layered-Client-Cache-Stateless-Server



https://ics.uci.edu/~fielding/pubs/dissertation/rest_arch_style.htm https://www.ramotion.com/blog/mvc-architecture-in-web-application/

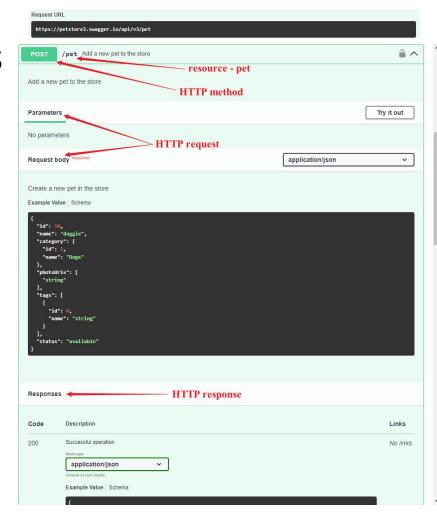
- Client-Server
- Stateless
- Cacheable
- Uniform Interface
- Layered System
- Code on Demand (*)
 - Extend client functionality by downloading code from server
 - Example: server sends JavaScript code to client to execute
 - Features:
 - Simplicity of client init feature
 - Flexibility
 - Concern: visibility & security



RESTful API Components

Take OpenAPI specification as an example:

- Resource: identified by a URL endpoint.
- 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



RESTful API - Benefits

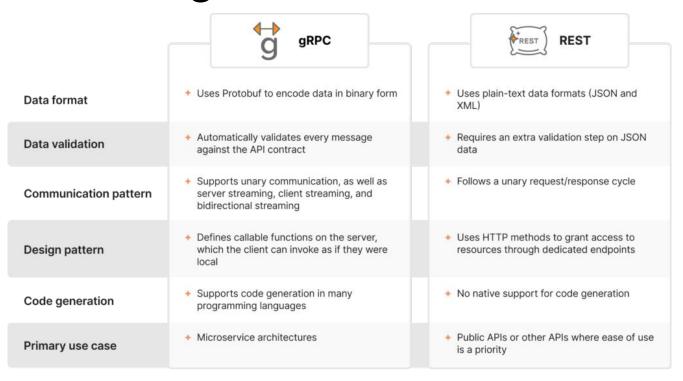
Scalability

- a. <u>Client-Server</u> enables multiple server duplicates with load balancing.
- b. <u>Stateless</u> ensures that each request holds the entire context and is independently processable, thus the servers can be easily scaled out.
- c. <u>Cacheable</u> reduces the load of the servers so they can server more clients. Introducing distributed caching further improves the service capacity.

• Flexibility & Independence

- a. <u>Client-Server</u> allows the client and the server to be evolved independently without affecting each other.
- b. <u>Layered System</u> further decouples service logic so that each layer can be designed and implemented separately.
- c. Flexibility: <u>Code on Demand</u> allows the client to extend new functionalities when needed provided by the server via downloading code.
- Everything is organized thanks to <u>Uniform Interface</u>.

RESTful API vs. gRPC





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

```
@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 ison(), 200
```

```
* Serving Flask app 'server' (lazy loading)
* Environment: production
                                                                                 (base) root@RAINBOW: # curl http://localhost:8081/
 Use a production WSGI server instead
* Debug mode: on
                                                                                    "message": "Hello World!"
* Running on http://127.0.0.1:8081
                                                                                 (base) root@RAINBOW: # curl http://localhost:8081/chat/Peter?institution=SUSTech
Press CTRL+C to quit
* Restarting with stat
* Debugger is active!
                                                                                    "message": "Hello Peter from SUSTech!"
* Debugger PIN: 245-968-013
                                                                                  (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.
```

OpenAPI As a RESTful API Specification

- Refer to <u>OpenAPI Specification</u> from Swagger.
- Specification document file can be either JSON or YAML.
- Metadata:
 - OpenAPI version
 - o Info:
 - Title
 - API spec version
 - Tags (*)
- API paths & operations
 - URL endpoint
 - Method
 - Request & Response
- Components Schemas
 - Set of reusable data objects

```
hello world.yaml X
rpc rest > 1 rest > 0 hello world > ! hello world.yaml > {} info
       openapi: 3.0.3
      info:
        title: Hello World
        description: A basic example showing how to write basic RESTful APIs.
        version: 1.0.0 # defined by yourself
                                                                                       metadata
      # Tags cluster API operations into different groups for fine-grained control.
        - name: Dialog
        - name: Calculator
      # Paths define API endpoints and operations.
                                                       APIs
                                                                               data object schema
      # Components define reusable data objects to be used in API operation definitions.
          # An multiplying operation.
          ### Request Body: it is a good habit to separately define a request body object for each request
          ### rather than using the same resource object (e.g., MultOp).
         ### Response: it is a good habit to pre-define reusable responses.
```

OpenAPI As a RESTful API Specification

A GET example

- Refer to <u>OpenAPI Specification</u> from Swagger.
- Specification document file can be either JSON or YAML.
- Metadata:
 - OpenAPI version
 - o Info:
 - Title
 - API spec version
 - Tags (*)
- API paths & operations
 - URL endpoint
 - Method
 - Request & Response
- Components Schemas
 - Set of reusable data objects

```
hello world.yaml X
rpc_rest > 1_rest > 0_hello_world > ! hello_world.yaml > {} components > {} schemas
        /chat/{username}: → URL endpoint
 HTTP GET Scan | Try it | Audit
               - Dialog
             description: Get a greeting with provided name and institution.
                                                   generated function name
             operationId: greet with info
                                                   in the backend server
             parameters:
              # this parameter is in the URL path

    name: username

                 in: path
                 required: true
                                     a path parameter
                 schema:
                   type: string
                   example: 'peter'
              # this parameter is in the URL query (e.g., /chat/peter?institution=SUSTech)
               - name: institution
                 in: query
                 required: false
                                    a query parameter
    reference to type: string
                                                                         description: Successful Dialog Response
    a data object example: 'SUSTech'
               '200': --- response status code
                                                                             type: object
                       '#/components/responses/DialogResponse
```

OpenAPI As a RESTful API Specification

a data object

- Refer to <u>OpenAPI Specification</u> <u>from Swagger</u>.
- Specification document file can be either JSON or YAML.
- Metadata:
 - OpenAPI version
 - o Info:
 - Title
 - API spec version
 - Tags (*)
- API paths & operations
 - URL endpoint
 - Method
 - Request & Response
- Components Schemas
 - Set of reusable data objects

```
A POST example
 hello world.yaml X
rpc_rest > 1_rest > 0_hello_world > __! hello_world.yaml > {} paths > {} /calculator/mi
        /calculator/mult: URL endpoint
        post:
 HTTP POST Scan | Try it | Audit
                                                                             # An multiplying
               - Calculator
                                                                               type: object
             description: Multiply two numbers.
                                                                     80 >
             operationId: mult ___ generated function name
                                                                     84 >
                                    in the backend server
             requestBody:
               required: true
                                                                     90 >
                                                                             ### Request Body
                 # a JSON type request body
                                                                             ### rather than
                 application/json: → request body media type
 64 reference to
                                                                               type: object
                                                                     98 >
 65 a data object ← $ref:
                            '#/components/schemas/MultRequestBody
                                                                     102 >
               '200':
                 description: Successful operation
                 content: response body media type
                   application/json:
     reference to
```

'#/components/schemas/MultOp'

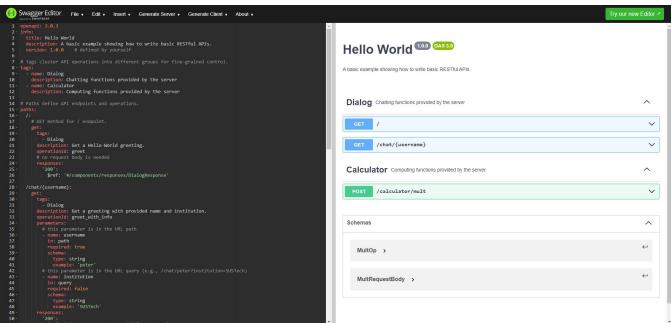
OpenAPI - Benefits

- Standardization
 - Client & Server reaches an agreement on available APIs and access requirements.
- Human-Readable Format
 - JSON/YAML is both clean & programmatically operable.
- API Documentation & Visualization:
 - Swagger UI: visualize & interact with APIs in a web page
 - Swagger Editor: edit API specification file with real-time Swagger UI support
- Multi-Language Client & Server Code Template Generation:
 - Client/Server code of different frameworks from different programming languages can be automatically generated as development templates.
 - OpenAPI Generator
- Integrated Testing Capability:
 - Variable tools support easy setup for API testing.
 - o <u>cURL</u>
 - Swagger Mock Server
 - Postman

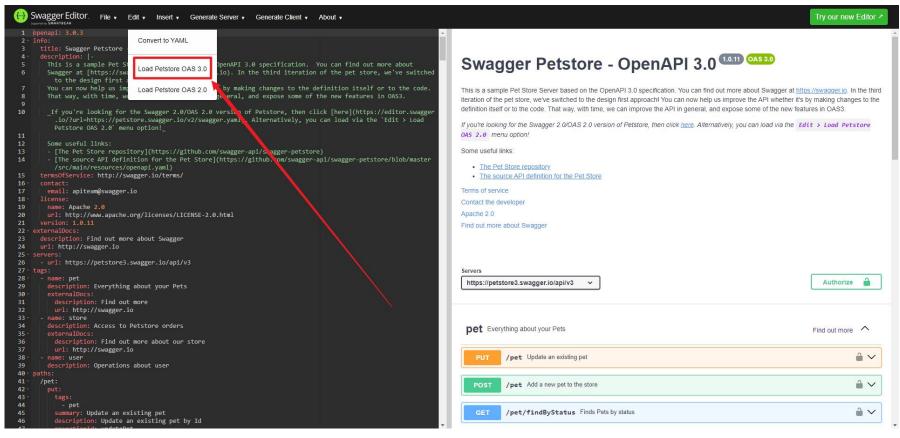
TASK: RESTful API - Hello World with Python Flask

Implement a simple RESTful API server using Python Flask.

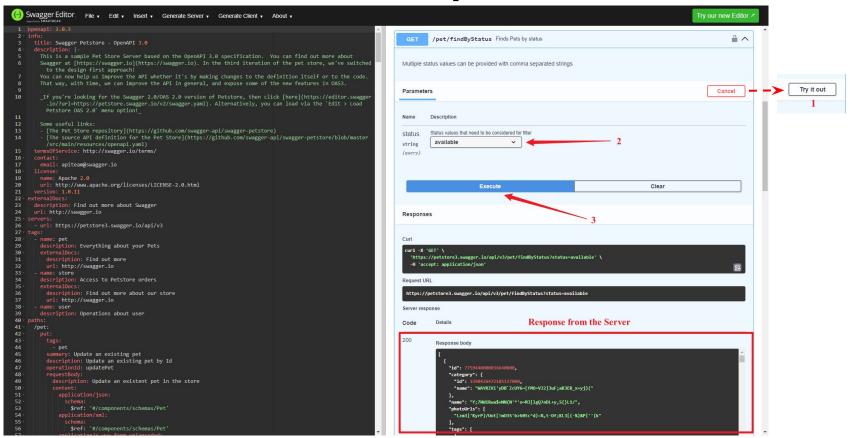
- > Reference codebase: rest_hello_world
- 5. Check the API specification file hello_world.yaml
- 6. Copy the file content into the <u>online Swagger Editor</u>. Explore the generated Swagger UI page.



Another RESTful API Example - Petstore

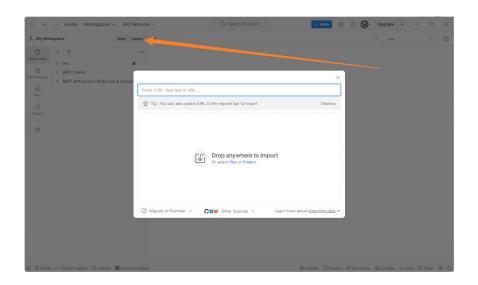


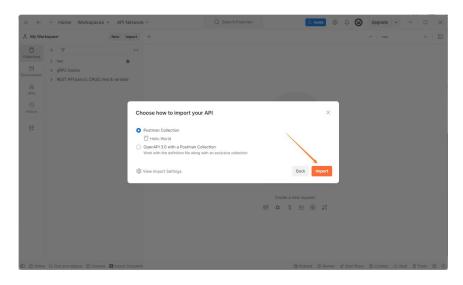
Another RESTful API Example - Petstore



Postman for RESTful API Testing

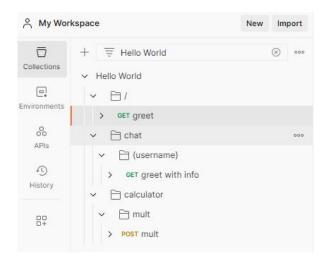
- 1. Download and install Postman Desktop app.
- 2. In the workspace, click the "Import" button.
- 3. Upload the API specification YAML file (e.g., hello_world.yaml). Click "Import".

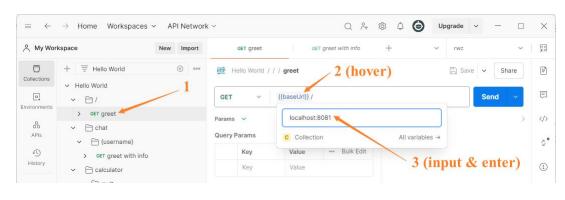




Postman for RESTful API Testing

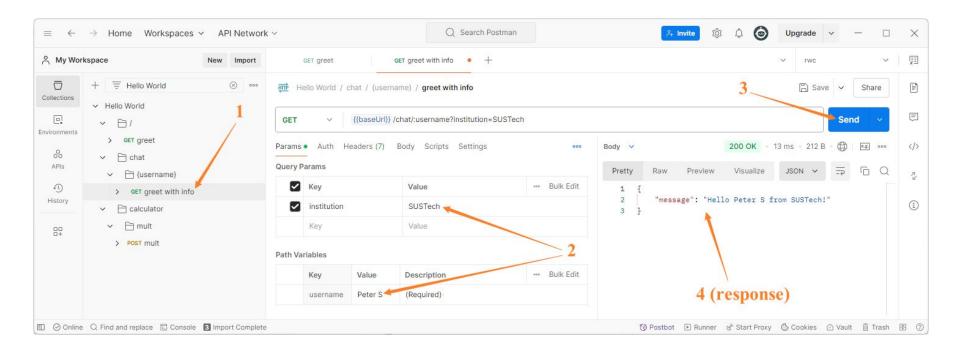
- 4. A collection of API testing requests will be automatically generated. Note that the URL endpoint contains a base url variable that needs to be configured.
- 5. Select any request in the collection, hover on the {{baseUr1}} variable in the URL endpoint and change its value to the address of the running API backend server.



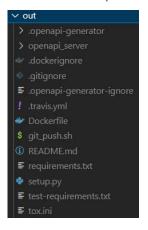


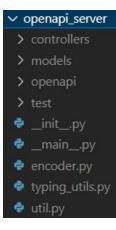
Postman for RESTful API Testing

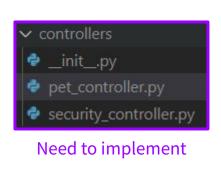
6. Now play with these requests with different parameters/body.

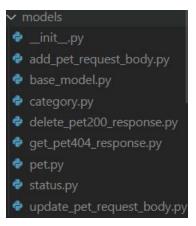


- > Reference codebase: rest_codegen
 - 1. Set up Python (<u>Miniconda</u> is recommended).
- 2. Check the API specification file petstore.yaml. Using <u>Docker</u>, generate Python Flask server code template with the OpenAPI Generator CLI:
 - o docker run --rm -v ./:/app/ openapitools/openapi-generator-cli generate -i /app/petstore.yaml -g python-flask -o /app/out/
- 3. The server template includes data object models and API controllers.









- > Reference codebase: rest_codegen
 - 4. Implement the Pet Controller. The sample implementation follows the MVSC pattern (Model-View-Service-Controller).

```
pet_controller.py M X
rpc_rest > 1_rest > 1_codegen > generated > openapi_server > controllers > 🔮 pet_controller.py > ...
      descrialize request body
           matches op id in API spec
      def update pet(pet id): # noqa: E501
                                                   decode request body
          """update pet ... > a path parameter
 18 >
          if connexion.request.is json:
              update pet request body = UpdatePetRequestBody.from dict(connexion.request.get json())
          pet = pet svc.update pet(pet id, name=update pet request body.name,
                                  category=update pet request body.category,
                                  status=update pet request body.status) ------ handle request
                                                                                via Pet Service
          if pet is None:
            return {"message": "no pet with id=%s" % pet_id}, 404
          else:
                                             return response body, status code
            return pet, 200
```

- > Reference codebase: rest_codegen
- 5. Configure Python dependencies:
 - cd out/; python -m pip install -r requirements.txt
- 6. Run the server as a Python module:
 - o cd out/; python -m openapi_server
- 7. In another terminal, test the API with HTTP requests.

```
python -m openapi_server

* Serving Flask app '__main__' (lazy loading)

* Environment: production

* Environment: production

* Environment: production

* Environment: production

* Serving Flask app '__main__' (lazy loading)

* Environment: production deployment

* Debug mode: off

* Abelianc: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production deployment. Use a production WSGI server instead.

* Running on all addresses (0.0.0.0)

* Running on http://127.0.0.1:8080

* Running on http://172.30.236.136:8080

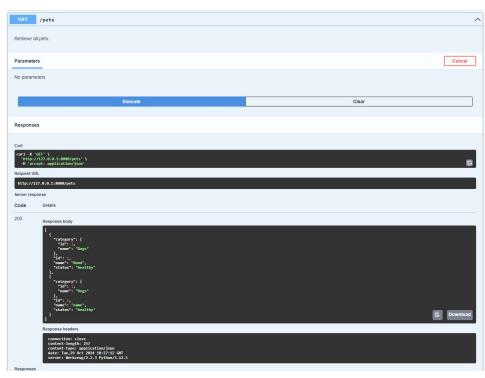
* Press CTRL+C to quit
```

```
(base) root@RAINBOW: # curl http://127.0.0.1:8080/pets
(base) root@RAINBOW: # curl -X POST http://127.0.0.1:8080/pets \
     -H "Content-Type: application/json" \
    -d '{"name": "Bond", "category": {"id": 1, "name": "Dogs"}, "status": "healthy"}
  "category": {
    "id": 1.
    "name": "Dogs"
  "id": 1,
  "name": "Bond".
  "status": "healthy"
(base) root@RAINBOW: # curl http://127.0.0.1:8080/pets
    "category": {
      "id": 1,
      "name": "Dogs"
    "id": 1,
    "name": "Bond",
    "status": "healthy"
```

This task explores all the aforementioned benefits.

- > Reference codebase: rest_codegen
 - 3. The generator <u>naturally supports Swagger</u>
 <u>UI</u>. The UI web page is serving at the <BASE_URL>/ui endpoint. In this task, access http://127.0.0.1:8080/ui in the browser.
 - 9. All test requests invoked from the UI page will be forwarded to the API server.





TASK: RESTful API - Codegen Yourself

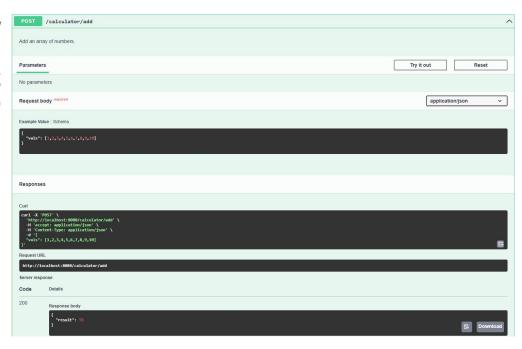
Implement a RESTful API server yourself with OpenAPI Generator.

> Reference codebase: rest_codegen_yourself

Write an addition function to add an array of integers together and return the result. Define a RESTful API with the calculator tag to handle this functionality. Add this API to hello_world.yaml.

- 1. Modify API specification YAML file.
- 2. Generate via OpenAPI Generator.
- 3. Implement the generated controllers.
- 4. Test the new API.

Try starting from scratch to be familiar with the process before Assignment 2.



Summary

REST

- a. Components: resource, representation, control data
- b. 6 Guiding Principles
 - i. Client-Server
 - ii. Stateless
 - iii. Cacheable
 - iv. Uniform Interface
 - v. Layered System
 - vi. Code on Demand (Optional)

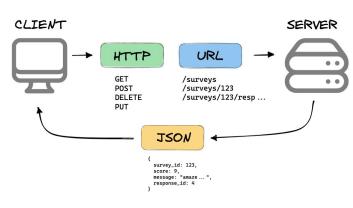
RESTful API

- a. Benefits: Scalability, Flexibility, Independence
- b. RESTful API vs. gRPC

OpenAPI

- a. Components: metadata, API paths & operations, data object schemas
- b. Benefits: Standardization, Human-readable, UI, Codegen, Integrated Testing

WHAT IS A REST API?



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