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CS493 – Cloud Application Development

Assignment 2: Github API

After performing this assignment, it's safe to say the Gist API is RESTful, because it fulfills the following criteria: URLs retrieve resources, URLs don't contain verbs, all actions are performed with the HTTP verbs, and information about the client's authentication was sent with every request. That's just the Gist API though, the rest of the Github API still needs to be examined.

The first page of the Github REST API documentation has a section on rate limiting. Github limits the number of requests that can be made in an hour for both authenticated and unauthenticated users. The former are allowed 5000 while unauthenticated are limited to 60. Unauthenticated users aren't sending any information about who they are with their requests, aside from their IP address, so the server has to store some form of client information in order to uphold this quota. This leads to the belief that rate limiting isn't a RESTful implementation. The other feature of the Github API look to be restful since they all fulfill the criteria listed in the paragraph above.