

The GitHub API is mostly RESTful, however there are some exceptions that do not follow the specification described by Roy Fielding in his original paper on Representational State Transfer. Retrieving, creating, updating, and destroying Gists involves the appropriate HTTP verbs and the HTTP request bodies resemble the state being changed. The HTTP response status codes and response bodies also are RESTful in nature. Where GitHub's API diverts from pure REST is how stars are treated. Stars do not exist as their own resource, which makes them difficult to fit into a REST API. GitHub uses the PUT `/gists/:id/star` to add a star, while a POST would make more sense because PUT is not usually used without a request body. To remove a star, DELETE `/gists/:id/star` is not intuitive, because again stars aren't full resources (you can't retrieve them individually), they are part of the Gist resource.