What is Web API and why we use it?

API stands for Application Programming Interface

It can be accessed over the web using the HTTP protocol

If an application is to be used on a distributed system and to provide services on different devices like laptops, mobiles, etc then web API services are used. Web API is the enhanced form of the web application

Difference b/w APIs and WEB-API

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Web-API is a subset of API.

Main purpose of creating a Web-API/API is same i.e to create a connection between b/w different servers.

API created using:-

- TCP
- SMTP
- HTTP

Web-API created using:-

HTTP

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Rest and Soap Architecture

REST stands for **Representational State Transfer**.

REST API	SOAP API
Representational State Transfer	Simple Object Access Protocol
Works over HTTP and HTTPS	Works over HTTP, HTTPS, SMTP, XMPP
Simplicity,flexibility,scalibility, Less structured -> less bulky data	Highly structured/typed
It works with GET, POST, PUT, DELETE	Because it is XML based and relies on SOAP, it works with WSDL
less secure	more secure
Generally transports data in JSON. It is based on URI. Because REST follows stateless model, REST does not enforces message format as XML or JSON etc	Transports data in standard XML format.
Designed with mobile devices in mind	Designed with large enterprise applications in mind

WSDL- web service discription language

RESTful services, also known as RESTful APIs, are web services that follow the REST architectural style. REST stands for Representational State Transfer, which is a set of principles for building web services that use HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) as the communication protocol.

RESTful services are based on the following principles:

Client-server architecture: The client and server are separated, allowing them to evolve independently.

Stateless: Each request sent to the server contains all the information needed to complete the request. The server does not maintain any client context between requests.

Cacheable: Responses from the server can be cached to improve performance.

Uniform interface: RESTful services use a uniform interface consisting of resources, HTTP verbs (GET, POST, PUT, DELETE), and hypermedia links.

Layered system: RESTful services can be composed of multiple layers, allowing for scalability, flexibility, and security.

In [1]:

!python --version

Python 3.9.13

In [2]:

```
!python --update
```

```
unknown option --update usage: python [option] ... [-c cmd | -m mod | file | -] [arg] ... Try `python -h' for more information.
```

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