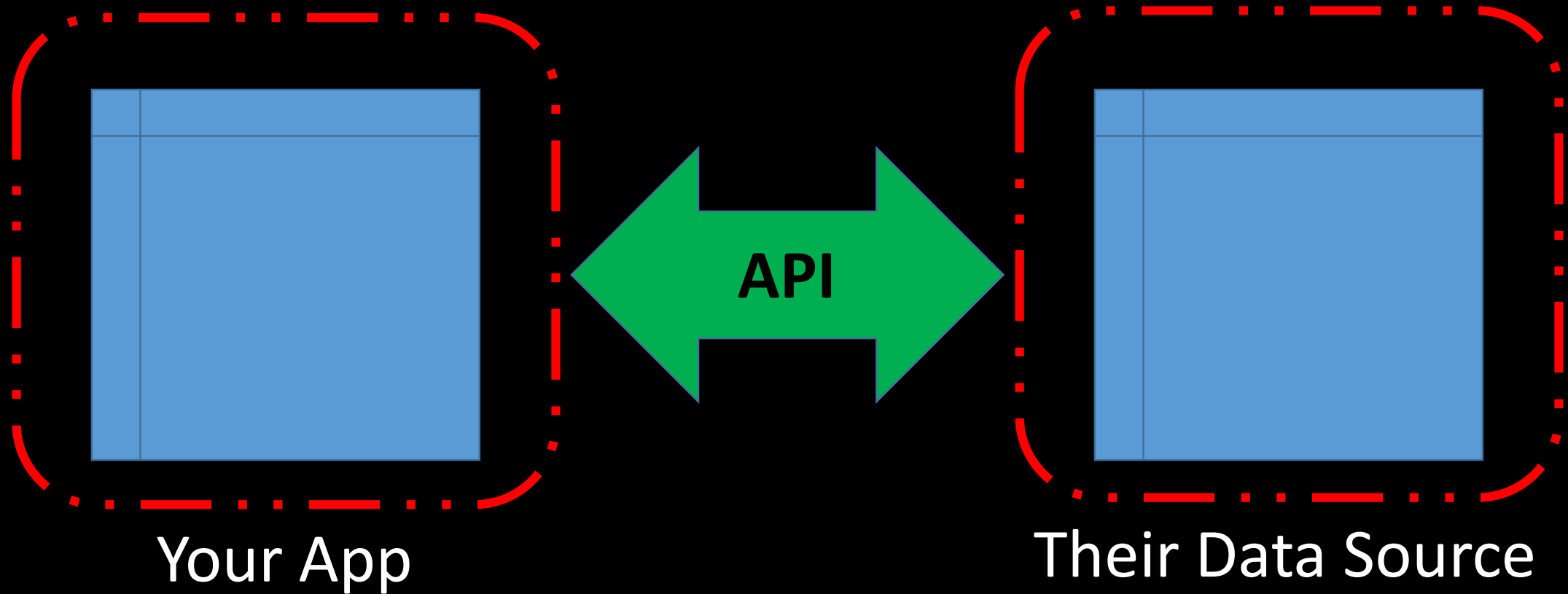# HTTP 5122
Front-end Web Development

Working with APIs

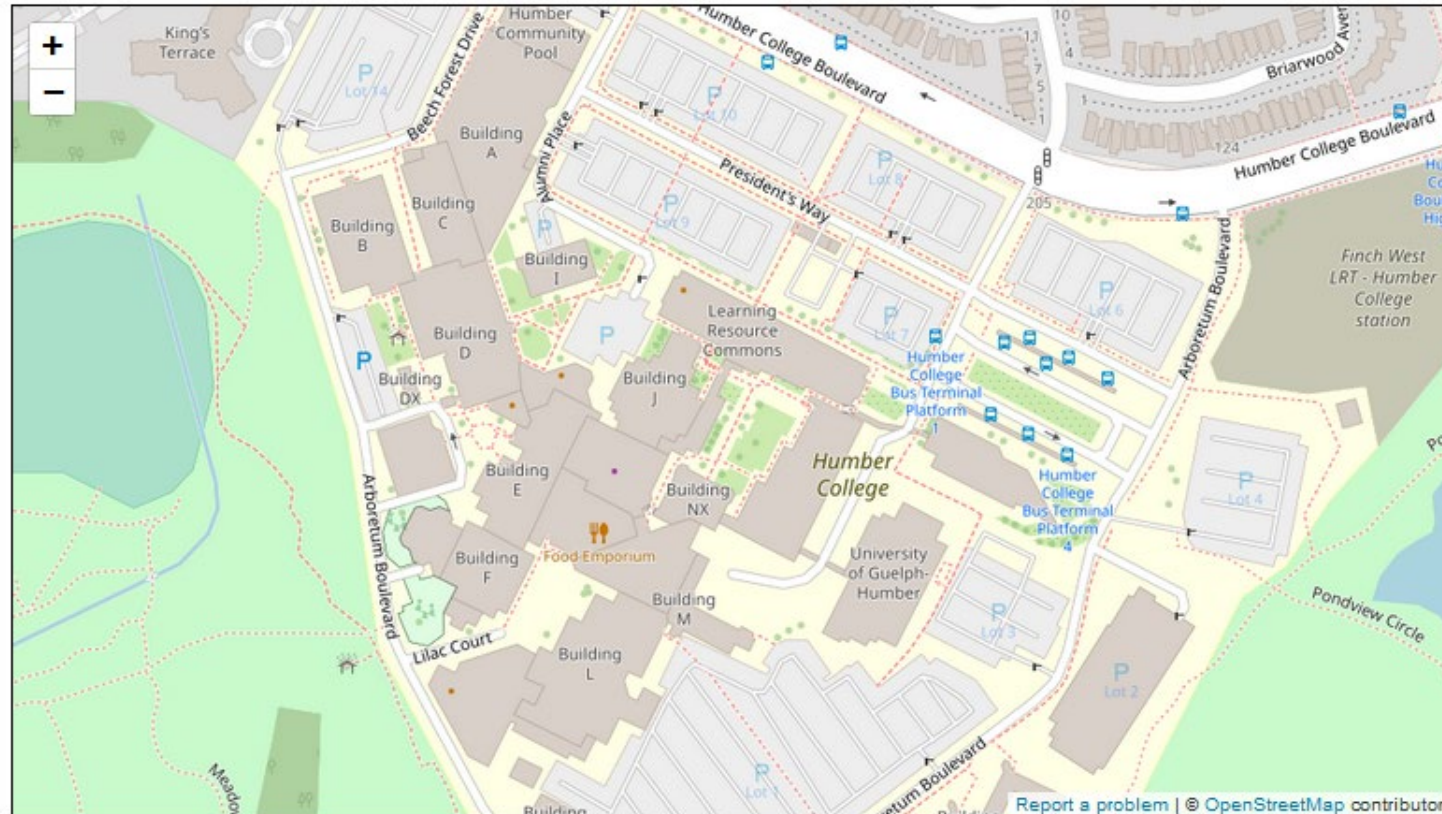# What is an Application Programming Interface?

- An application programming interface (API) is a method for one application to include the output from another "third-party" application.

- Examples:
  - The Humber College application includes content from the OpenStreetMap application
  - a Google map on a web page
  - Like and subscribe buttons
  - Embedded video or audio from a streaming platform (Blackboard uses Panopto)

Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

Your App

API

Their Data Source

The Humber College Maps Page

How an API Works

- An application wishing to share its content or service creates a list of programming commands that another application can use to retrieve data

- Your app wishing to use the data sends a request through a URL using the commands made available through the API.

- Sometimes using this service requires registration or fees for the service

- While there are standards and traditions, each API typically provides its own documentation

How to Work with an API

Read the documentation!!!

- What data is available?
- What format(s) does it provide?
- What are the costs or requirements?
- What are the limitations?
- What are the access commands ("end points")?

Test it!

HTTP 5122
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Working with APIs