

Is the Github API restful?

The most important factors to a RESTful API are state and a uniform interface. Stateless implies that the client-server communication is constrained by no client context being stored on the server. More specifically information about the client state exists only in the sent communication from the client to the server. The uniform interface requirement requires that the communication to the server be limited to nouns and very limited verbs. This means that generally to be restful syntax must be limited to a uniform use of GET, POST, PUT, PATCH, DELETE...

The limited verbiage of the GitHub API satisfies the above constraint for uniform interface. All interaction with the API is done with the URL request verbs that are presented above. The advantage to this is the easy interface with the client and across many potential servers and networks. The GitHub API also utilizes state information only on the client communication. All information about the client is passed through communication headers. This allows a session to efficiently interact with potentially multiple servers depending on the need of the network. As both of these conditions are satisfied we may say that the GitHub API is RESTful enough to be classified a REST API.