

Feature / Drama Point	API (The Messenger)	Web Services (The Online Waiter)	Microservices (The Techno Family)
Definition	A <i>set of rules</i> that let apps talk.	Web-based APIs that work over the internet.	Small, independent services in a big app.
Works Over Internet?	Not always. Can be internal too.	Yes! Needs a network.	Yes, usually over HTTP or message brokers.
Format	JSON, XML, anything.	Mostly XML or JSON (SOAP/REST).	Mostly REST/JSON or gRPC.
Example in Daily Life	Swiggy app asking server “Where’s my food?”	IRCTC site talking to the bank for payments.	Netflix shows: Each genre has its own service.
Platform Dependency	Independent.	Needs network and usually HTTP.	Platform-agnostic.
Coupling (tightness)	Loose.	Tighter compared to APIs.	Super loose. They're chill and separate.
Scalability	Medium.	Depends on architecture.	High! Each microservice can scale alone.
Example Tech Stack	REST, GraphQL, gRPC	SOAP, REST	Spring Boot, FastAPI, Docker, Kubernetes
Main Purpose	Communication between modules.	Web-based communication.	Break big app into small, manageable parts.
Deployment	Part of an app or standalone.	Mostly part of web apps.	Deployed independently like solo artists.
Fun Analogy	WhatsApp chat	Email server	Family of mini startups