REST

A brief introduction

Stands for:

- REpresentational
- State
- Transfer

What it is

- Not a formal protocol
    - An “architectural style”
- A convention for mapping CRUD actions to HTTP requests
- Stateless

Why

- An easy pattern for structuring a web app
- Avoids URL chaos
- Makes APIs easier
  - See SOAP

HTTP Verbs (methods)

GET

- get me the document at this URL
- used to request a single resource or multiple resources

POST

- Create a new resource
- URL represents a collection
- Body is the data

PUT/PATCH

- Replace(modify) a resource at this URL

DELETE

- Destroy a resource at this URL

REST Implemented

Verb/Method	URL	Purpose
GET	/contacts	List all the contacts
GET	/contacts/1	Display contact with id=1
GET	/contacts/new	New contact form
POST	/contacts	Create a new contact
GET	/contacts/1/edit	Edit contact form
PUT	/contacts/1	Update a contact
DELETE	/contacts/1	Delete a contact

Simulating verbs

- Historically, browsers only do GET and POST
- sending a _method param lets us fake it

CODEZ PLZ

Nested resources

- Are totally a thing
- /contacts/1/addresses
- /contacts/1/addresses/2
- /contacts/1/addresses/2/edit

> 1 level deep is too deep

Relative vs absolute URLs

Example

Base URL	Relative URL	Absolute URL
http://foo.com/bar/baz.html	bing.html	http://foo.com/bar/bing.html
	../wuzza.html	http://foo.com/wuzza.html