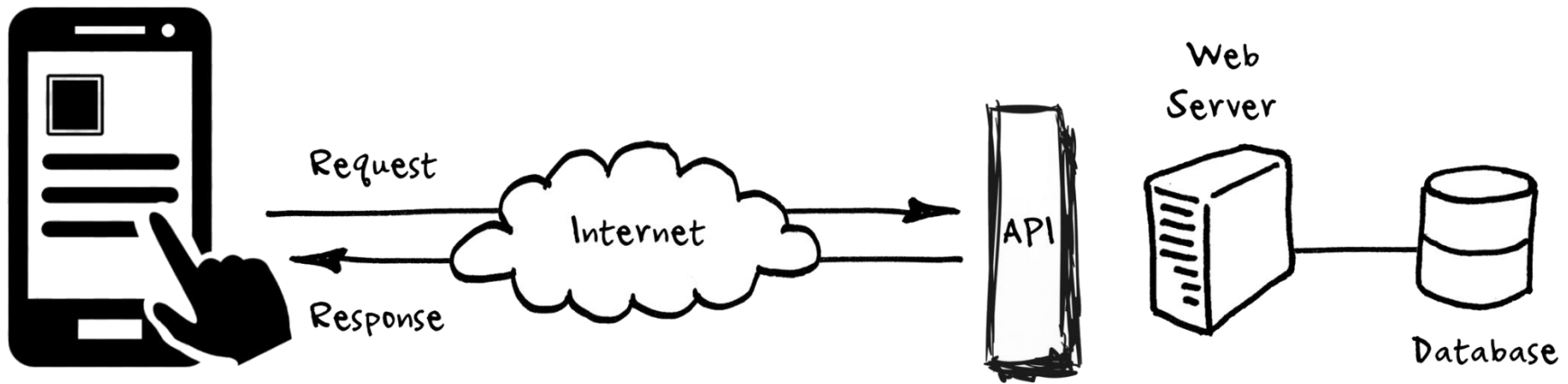


Calling Web API



Outline

1. Web API
2. Accessing Web API using dio package

Web API

(aka Web Services / REST API)



Working with Web APIs – the Why?

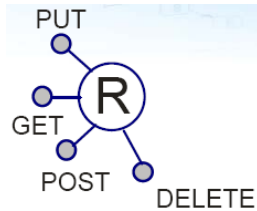
- Phones can not serve as centralized data stores, so we **need servers**
- Even when we can do heavy tasks on-device, we should not
 - Servers are powerful, phones are not
 - Processing a lot of data / complex computation on a phone is a drain on its resources: Battery, CPU, Memory
- As good citizens on an Android phone, our **apps should consume as little resources as possible**
- Calling Web APIs lets the app connect to the outside world

What is a Web API?

- Web API = Web accessible Application Programming Interface accessible via HTTP to allow programmatic access to applications
 - Also known as Web Services
 - Can be accessed by a broad range of clients including browsers and mobile devices
- Web API is a web service that accepts requests and returns **structured data** (JSON in most cases)
 - Programmatically accessible at a particular URL
 - You can think of it as a Web page returning JSON instead of HTML
- Major goal = **interoperability between heterogeneous systems**



Web Services Principles



- **Resources have unique address (nouns) i.e., a URI**

Any **information that can be named can be a resource**: a document or image, a dynamic service to get weather or news, a collection of books and their authors, and so on

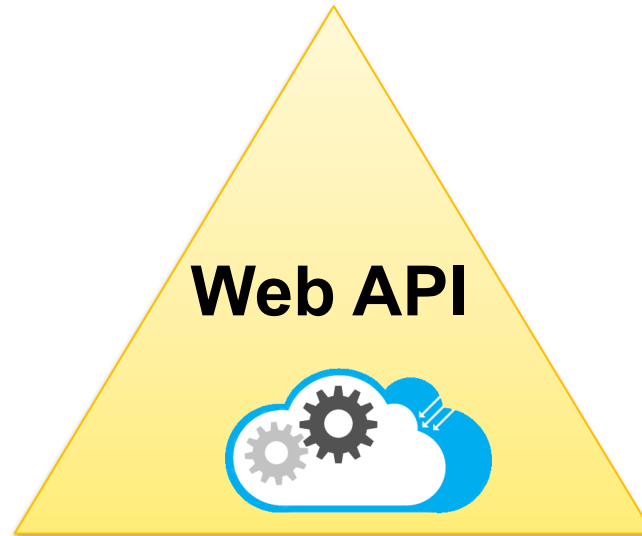
e.g., <http://example.com/customers/123>

- **Can use a Uniform Interface (verbs) to access them:**
 - HTTP verbs: GET, POST, PUT, and DELETE
- **Resource has representation(s) (data format)**
 - A resource can be in a variety of data formats such as **JSON** and **XML**

Web API Main Concepts

Nouns (Resources)

e.g., `http://example.com/employees/12345`



Verbs

e.g., GET, POST

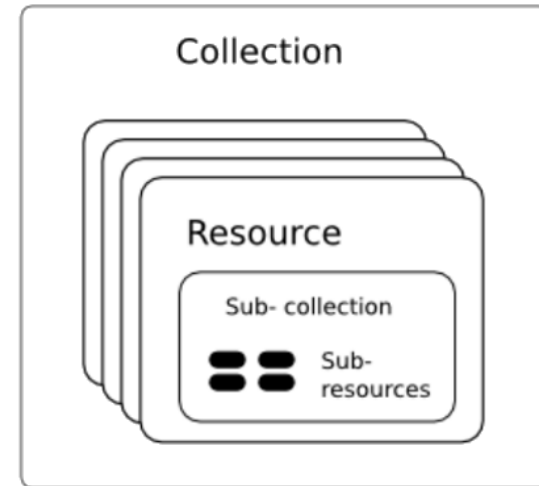
Representations

e.g., XML, JSON

Naming Resources

- Web API uses URL to identify resources

Often **api** path is used for better organization



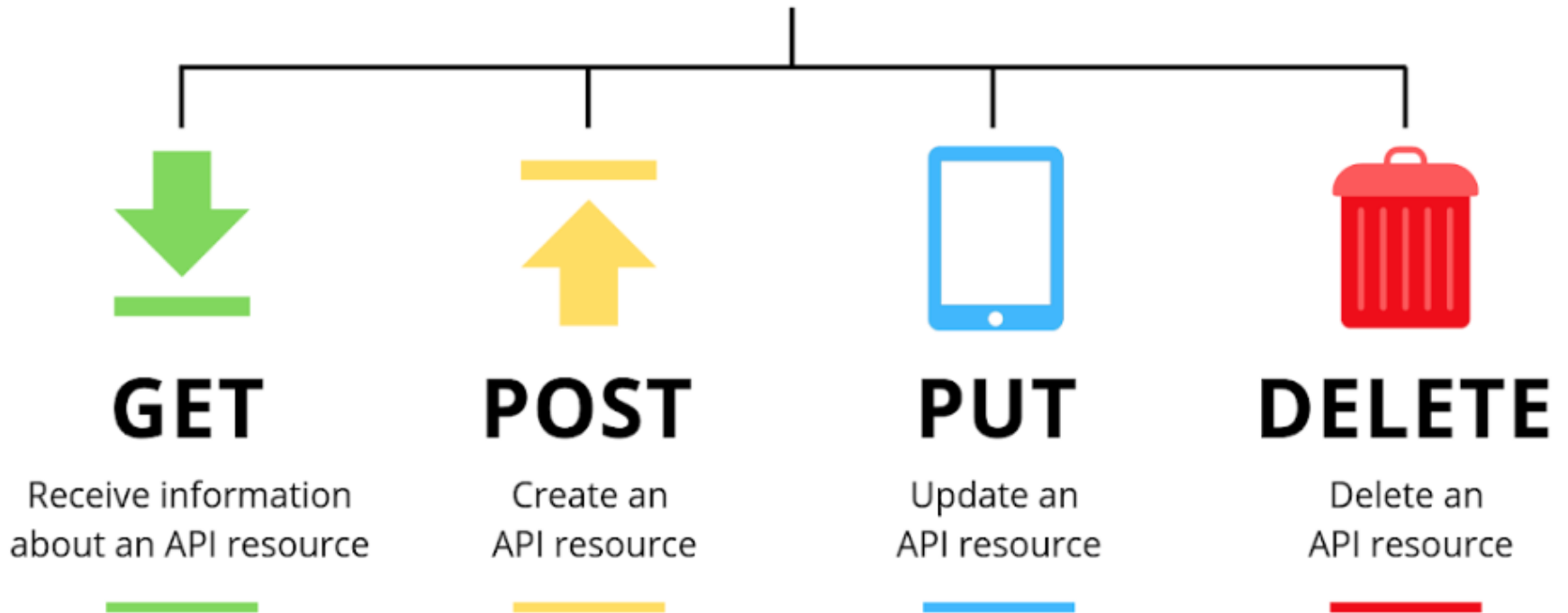
- <http://localhost/api/books/>
 - <http://localhost/api/books/ISBN-0011>
 - <http://localhost/api/books/ISBN-0011/authors>

 - <http://localhost/api/classes>
 - <http://localhost/api/classes/cmcs356>
 - <http://localhost/api/classes/cs356/students>
- As you traverse the **path** from more generic to more specific, you are navigating the data

HTTP Verbs

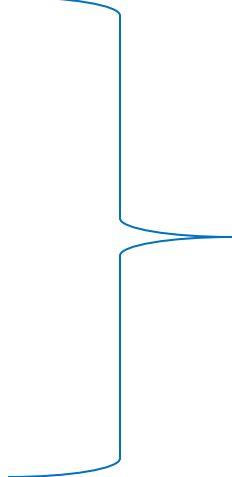
HTTP Verbs represent the **actions** to be performed on resources

REST API Methods



CRUD (Create, Read, Update and Delete) Operations and their Mapping to HTTP Verbs

- **GET** - Read a resource
 - **GET** /books - Retrieve all books
 - **GET** /books/:id - Retrieve a particular book
- **POST** - Create a new resource
 - **POST** /books - Create a new book
- **PUT** - Update a resource
 - **PUT** /books/:id - Update a book
- **Delete** – Delete a resource
 - **DELETE** /books/:id - Delete a book



The resource data (e.g., book details) are placed in the **body** of the request

Example 2 - Task Service API

Task	Method	Path
Create a new task	POST	/tasks
Delete an existing task	DELETE	/tasks/{id}
Get a specific task	GET	/tasks/{id}
Search for tasks	GET	/tasks
Update an existing task	PUT	/tasks/{id}

Representations

- In all requests and responses, it is important to share data in a **format which both the client and server can understand**
- Two main formats are commonly used:

- **JSON**

```
{  
    code: 'cmp312',  
    name: 'Mobile App Development'  
}
```

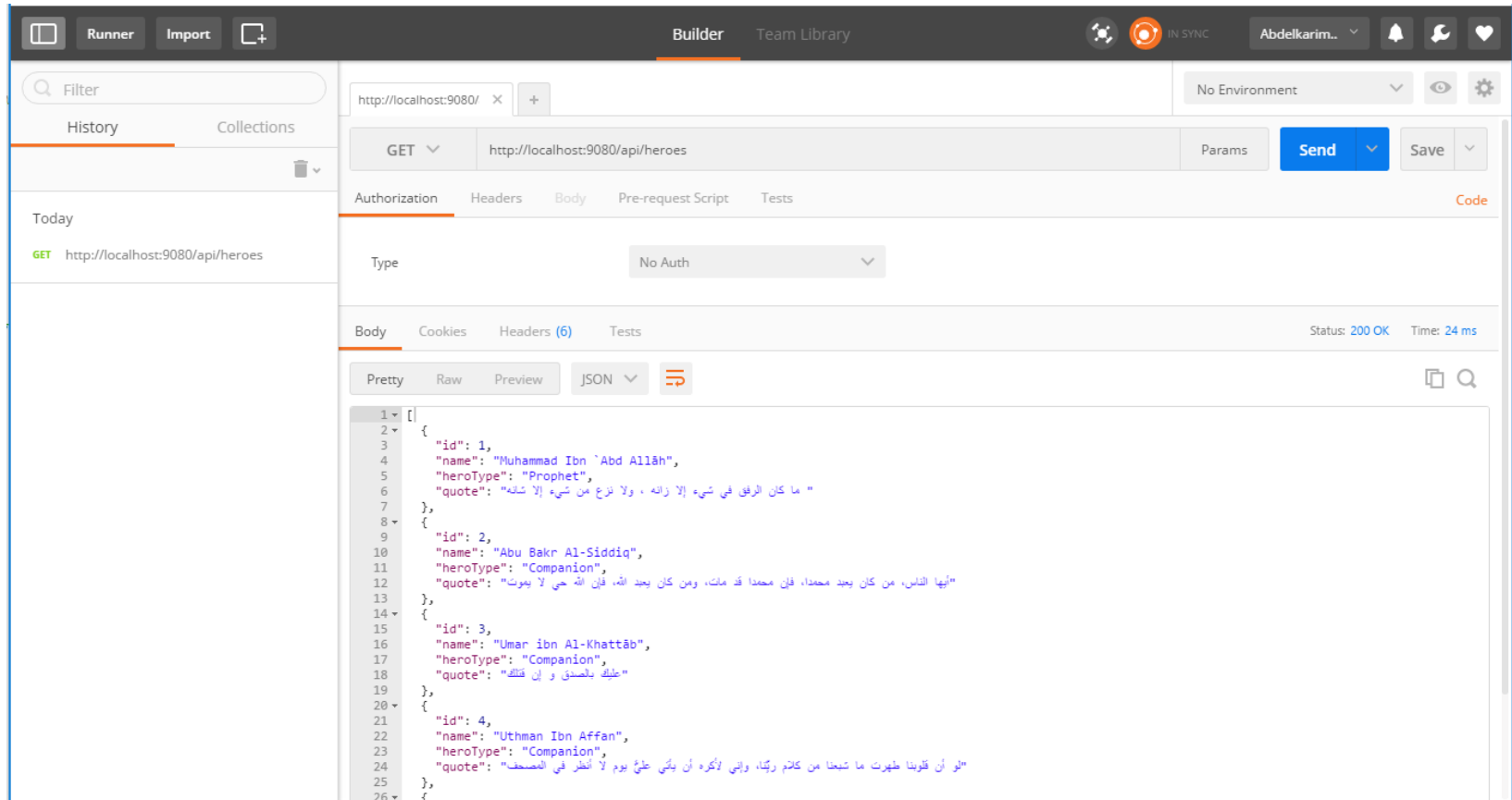
- **XML**

```
<course>  
  <code>cmps312</code>  
  <name>Mobile App Development</name>  
</course>
```

Testing Web API

- Using Postman to test Web API

<https://www.postman.com/downloads/>

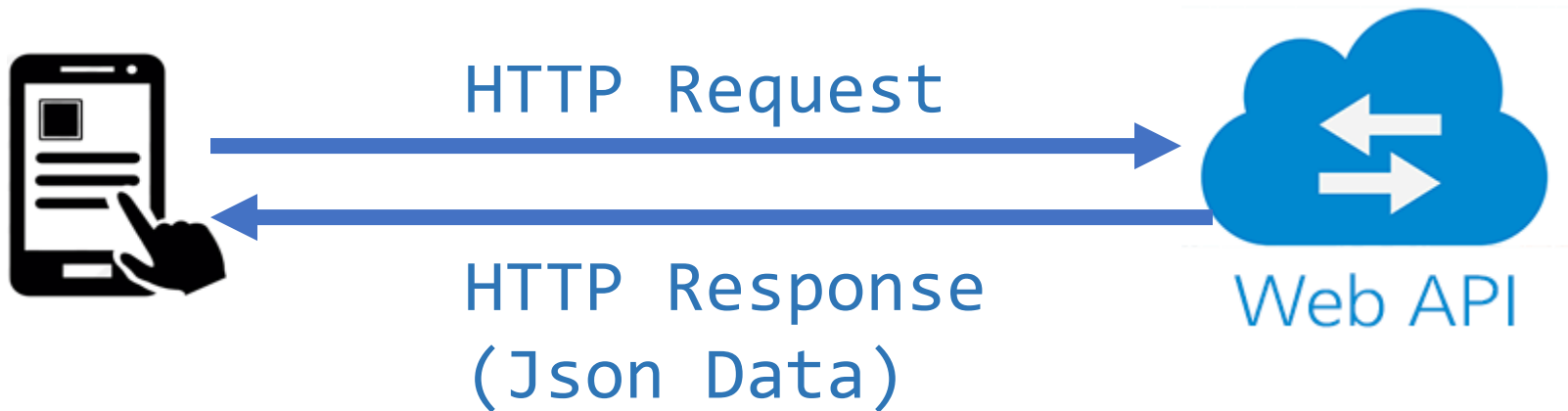


Dio



dio

- **dio** is HTTP networking package for Dart/Flutter, for a mobile app to call a remote Web API
 - Make HTTP requests and handle responses



dio – 3 Programming Steps

1. Define **Classes** for input/output objects used when interacting with the Web API
2. Create and configure an instance of dio
3. Use its **.get**, **.post**, **.put**, **.delete** methods to interact with the remote Web API



Define Serializable Classes for input/output objects used when interacting with the Web API

```
class ToDo {
    final int id;
    final String title;
    final int userId;
    final bool completed;

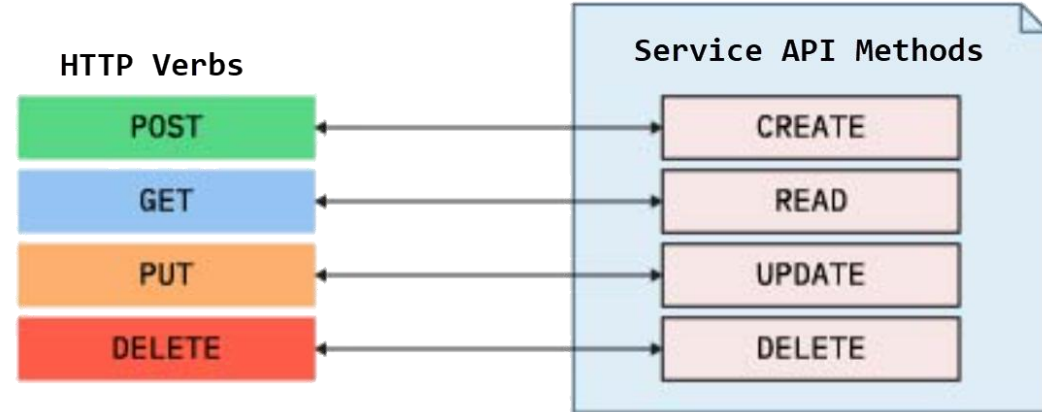
    ToDo({
        this.id = 0,
        required this.title,
        this.userId = 1,
        this.completed = false,
    });

    factory ToDo.fromJson(Map<String, dynamic> json) {
        return ToDo(
            id: json['id'],
            title: json['title'],
            userId: json['userId'],
            completed: json['completed'],
        );
    }
}

Map<String, dynamic> toJson() {
    return {
        'id': id,
        'title': title,
        'userId': userId,
        'completed': completed,
    };
}
```

Use Get/Post/Put/Delete to interact with the Web API

- **dio** provides specific functions for basic HTTP methods: get, post, put, and delete.



```
const BASE_URL = "https://api.polygon.io/v1/open-close"  
// Create and configure an instance of dio  
final _dio = Dio();  
_dio.options.baseUrl = BASE_URL;  
final symbol = "Tesla"  
final response = _dio.get("/$symbol");  
final MarketStockQuote.fromJson(response.data);
```

Another get example example

```
import 'package:dio/dio.dart';
```

```
// Create and configure an instance of dio
```

```
final _dio = Dio();
```

```
...
```

```
const String BASE_URL = 'http://api.example.net/todos';
```

```
_dio.options.baseUrl = BASE_URL;
```

```
Future<ToDo> getToDo(int toDoId) async {  
  final response = await _dio.get('/$toDoId');  
  return ToDo.fromJson(response.data);  
}
```

Path Parameters vs. Query Parameters

- Required parameters can be passed using **path parameters** appended to the URL path
 - E.g., **/students/1234** this will return the details of the student with the id 1234
- Named **query parameters** can be added to the URL path after a **?** E.g., **/posts?sortBy=createdOnDate**
- Query parameters are often used for **optional** parameters (e.g., optionally specifying the property to be used to sort of results)

Post / Put Request

- Assign the json data to be sent in the body of the request using data property
 - Use post for add and put for update

```
Future<ToDo> addToDo(ToDo toDo) async {  
  final response = await _dio.post("/", data: toDo.toJson());  
  return ToDo.fromJson(response.data);  
}
```

```
Future<void> updateToDo(ToDo toDo) async {  
  final response = await _dio.put('/${toDo.id}', data: toDo.toJson());  
  ToDo.fromJson(response.data);  
}
```

Delete Request

- Use the `dio.delete` method to delete a resource
 - Specify the resource id to be deleted in the request url

```
Future<bool> deleteToDo(int toDoId) async {  
    final response = await _dio.delete('/$toDoId');  
    return response.statusCode == 200;  
}
```