

# Introduction to APIs (Application Programming Interface)

Web API's : communicate via HTTP.

When we use the Internet, we make HTTP request and get HTML back,  
While API's respond with data in format like XML, and JSON.

XML : ( Extended Markup Language ), has a syntax similar to HTML.

JSON : Javascript object Notation, it looks exactly like Javascript objects,  
but everything is a string.

Request : `npm install request`.

This is a simple way to make http calls.

To use it : 

```
var request = require("request");  
request("http://..."; function (error, response, body) {  
  if (error) { // something wrong  
    ...  
  }  
  else if (response.statusCode === 200) { // worked  
    ...  
  }  
}
```

*True/fake* ↑  
*status* ↑  
*all information as a string* ↑

To convert the information in body part, we need to use JSON.parse(body)  
to format it as .json.

i.e : `var jsonData = JSON.parse(body);`

To install multiple package at one time : `npm install --save p1 p2 p3 ...`