An API resource is simply information which you can target with a hyperlink[[1]](#footnote-1). Documents, images and services are all types of resources. It’s basically something with a type and that has associated data with it. A representation is the value of that resource at a certain point in time[[2]](#footnote-2). Representations are transferred over HTTP in a specific media type such as JSON or XML.

To get a representation of a resource, one uses the HTTP method GET. It retrieves the information about the resource. To request that a resource add something to itself, one uses the POST method. So, for example, when you visit Flickr.com, you make a GET request in order to see the web page. If you want to add a picture to Flickr, you use a POST request. The two other prominent HTTP methods are PUT and DELETE. DELETE requests that the resource delete something from itself, while PUT requests that something that is already on the resource be updated.

1. Prakash Subramaniam. (2014, Aug 14). REST API Design – Resource Modeling (article). Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtworks.com/insights/blog/rest-api-design-resource-modeling> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Amit Aggarwal. (2017, May 18). REST API – Back To Basics (article). Retrieved from <https://restful.io/rest-api-back-to-basics-c64f282d972> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)