



RESTful API 101

REST API Design, Development & Management

<http://www.acloudfan.com>

raj@acloudfan.com

Summary of a course that covers the A to Z of RESTful API. More information.

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Application Programming Interface

A user interface to data and systems that is consumed by applications rather than humans

A well defined contract between provider and consumer

Contract = Structure of Request & Response XML

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Why Developers started to prefer JSON over XML?



XML is heavy in terms of network traffic

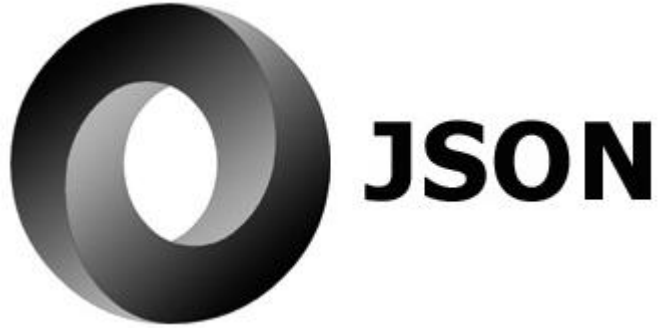
Parsing of XML is CPU & Memory intensive

Slow performance of XML on browser front end not desired

Mobile devices battery performance reduced due to XML

Standards & versions of standards caused confusion and complexity





Java Script Object Notation

<http://json.org> launched in 2002

Google & Yahoo offered JSON/RPC in 2006



Representational State Transfer

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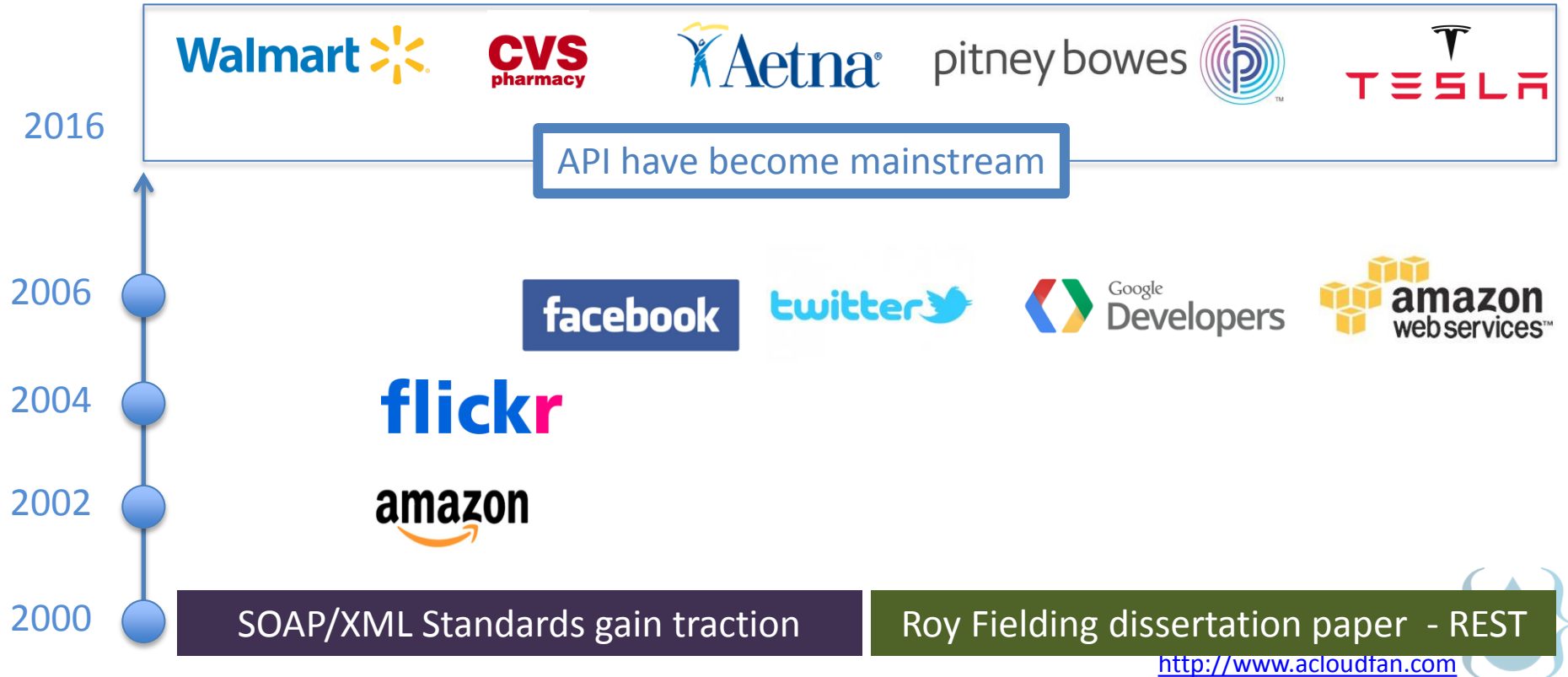
History

Roy Fielding dissertation paper Year 2000

Described the REST Architectural Principles



API provides programmatic access to data & systems



Summary

1. XML-RPC & SOAP are API standards that use XML
2. With the rise of mobile & single page apps REST/JSON have gained popularity
3. Irrespective of the industry, companies are leveraging API



Representational State

What makes an API RESTful?

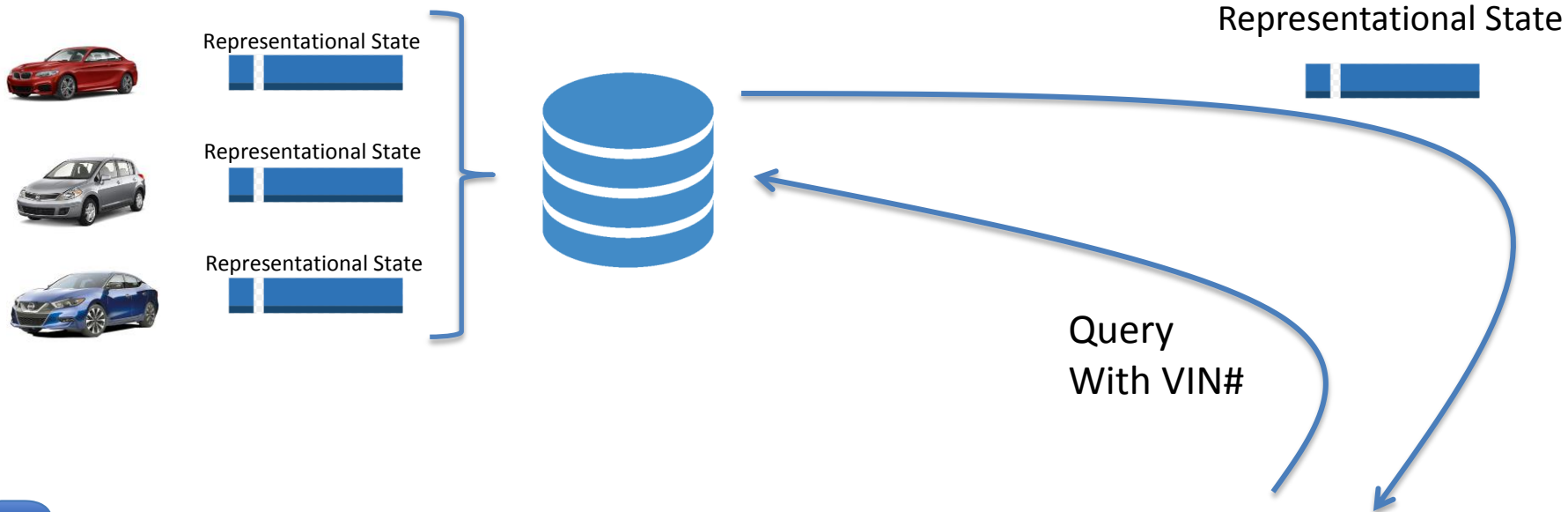


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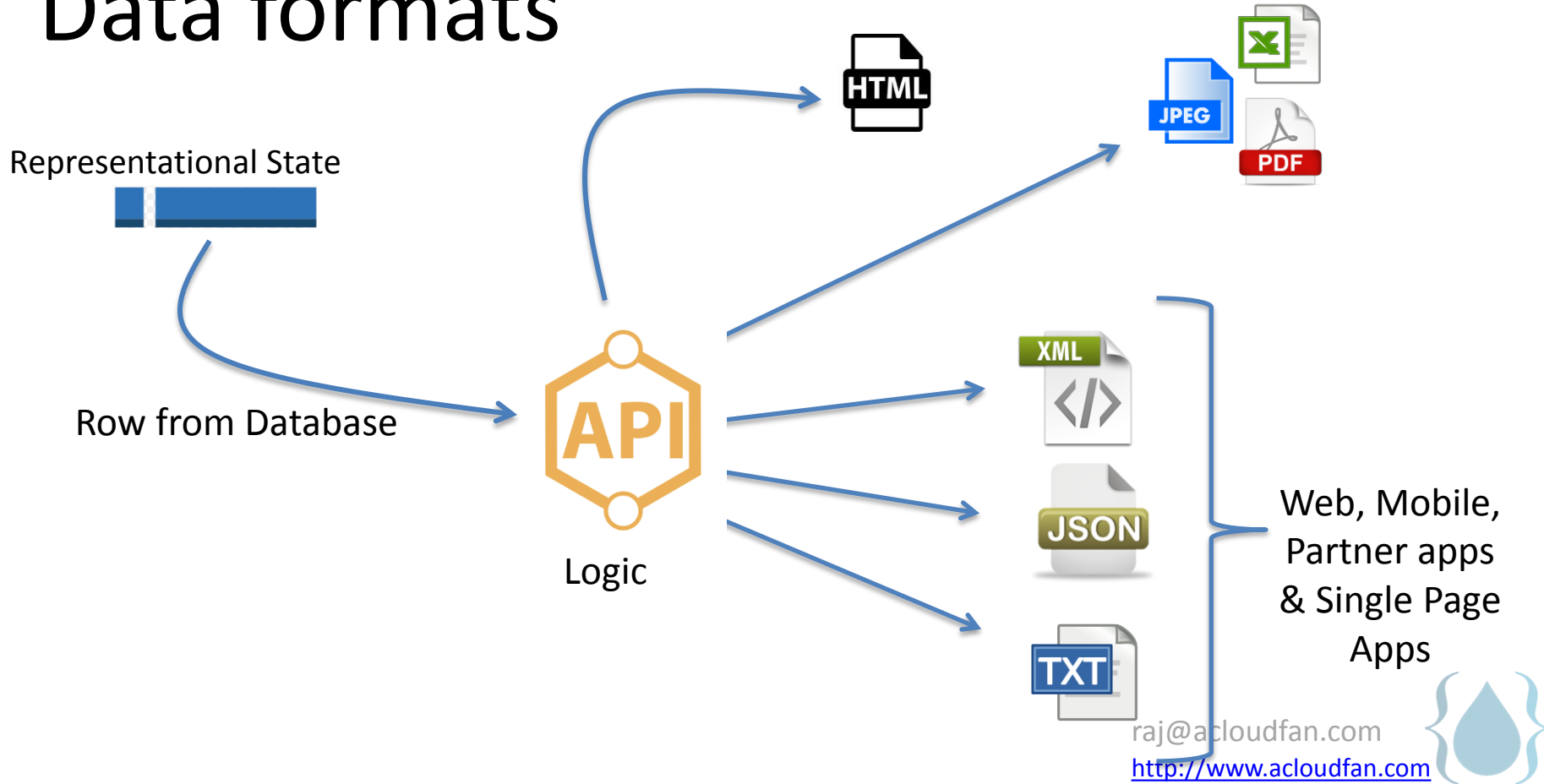
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Representational State Transfer



Data formats





= RESTful

Architectural Style



Technology



Set of Principles



Standards



Summary

1. Resources are objects, things, entities such as car, bank a/c
2. Resources have representational state managed in backend
3. REST is NOT a standard but an architectural style
4. REST may use HTTP application protocol

