

API

API = Application Programming Interface

Definition

Application = Any software with a distinct function

Interface = Contract of service between two applications
Request & response

API Documentation contains information on how developers
are to structure those requests and responses.

How API's work

Client / Server

Client = application sending the request

Server = application sending the response

4 ways it works:

- SOAP API = Simple Object Access Protocol.

Client/Server exchange messages using XML.
less flexible but more popular in the past.

- RPC API = Remote Procedure Calls.

Client completes a function (or procedure) on the server,
the server sends the output back to the client.

- WebSocket API = modern web API uses JSON objects to pass data.

2-way communication between client apps & the server. The server
can send callback messages to connected clients, making it more
efficient than REST API.

- REST API = most popular and flexible on the web today. Client
sends requests to the server as data. The server uses client input
to structure responses.