

API REST - Design Guidelines



Summary

- **Introduction:** *What is a REST API and why do we need design guidelines*
- **General principles:** *Lists all the principles to follow when designing APIs, they are then declined in the use case pages*
- **Basic use cases:** *Most common use cases, implemented in most APIs*
 - *Create an element (add, start, save, send,...)*
 - *Read an element (search, retrieve, download,...)*
 - *Read a list of elements (search, filter, select, list, ...)*
 - *Update an element (modify, change, replace, edit, ...)*
 - *Delete an element (cancel, close, close, finish...)*
- **Advanced use cases:** *More specific use cases to solve unusual problems*
 - *Dealing with consumers which can't use PUT, PATCH or DELETE HTTP methods*
 - *Handling large data volume or files*
 - *Long operations*
 - *Search for elements using complex or sensitive parameters*
 - *Versioning, introducing (breaking or not) changes in API contract (API lifecycle, handling change)*
- **Design tips and tools:** *Tips and tricks to facilitate API design*
 - *Analyzing needs with the API goals canvas*
 - *API CheckList Warmup before design review*
 - *Describing an API interface contract with Swagger/OpenAPI*
 - *Stoplight Studio: a graphical user interface to create Swagger/OpenAPI files without writing code*
- **Decision records:** *Response to question/problems that may make guidelines evolve*
 - *Accessing media resources served by a OAuth secured API from HTML*
 - *Requiring strong authentication or privilege elevation for a specific request*
 - *Some consumers cannot intercept redirection when using the redirection pattern on POST/PUT/PATCH*

Change log

Version	Date	Commentaire
1.0	11 Feb 2019	Initiale version (french)
1.1	27 Nov 2019	English translation complete, Stoplight Studio tutorial, Manage consumers that can't use PUT, PATCH or DELETE
1.2	31 Jan 2020	Added to advanced use cases: batch and long operations
1.3	10 May 2021	French version deleted. Added a page about handling change and versioning in advanced use case