# **API Testing Basics**

**What are facets**?

APIs comes with 2 broad facets

1. Request– An encapsulation of action performed along with pertinent details to be sent to the server.

2. Response– An encapsulation of processed data along with supplement details sent back to client by the server.

Both request and response come with header attached. Take a look at any network call, you should be able to see headers quite evidently.

**How are API called?**

Each user interaction on UI is associated with an API that will be accessed through a URL. Let us say a user fills up a form and clicks on “Send” button, on trigger of this event respective API will be invoked.

**API Request Method?**

Every request is associated with the “Request Method”. This method specifies the desired action to be performed by the server. Below are the frequently used methods

1. **GET**: This method is used to retrieve the details, this performs a read-only operation.

2. **POST**: This method submits data by creating an entry into database. This method should be used wisely as it can change the state causing side effects if not handled properly.

3. **PUT**: This method is used to update any data, the data that needs to be replaced is sent as part of payload.

4. **DELETE**: This method just deletes the data.

5. **HEAD**: This is similar to get method, however there is no response body sent.

6. **PATCH**: This method specifies how to update the data, this can cause side effects if not handled with care.