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Discussion 4.1

Web 340

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Once an API is created and made public, users begin to rely on the service. As the service is used more and requirements change, the service may need to be upgraded or changed. These changes must be made while not causing any malfunction on the clients using the service. With web API versioning, the creator of the API keeps the existing services as is so that the client applications continue to work. One example of this is when using an API’s url to make a request.

The url may contain the version number of the current API iteration.

<https://api.name/v0.0.1> or [https://api.name/v](https://api.name/v1)1

the v1 in the url means that it is version one of the service.

The first 0 in the version url is saved for major breaking changes to the service. The second 0 in the version url is reserved for minor changes or functions added to the current version. The last digit 1, is mostly used for patches where there are less than minor patches implemented into the current version. I created a table to display the differences:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 0 | .0 | .1 |
| New functionality | New Methods | Updating documentation |
| Removing functionality | New resources | Fixing typos client side |
| New endpoint/input |  |  |

According to Mulesoft Videos, the first zero meaning a major change in the service should not be changed often. That is because the url will change and cause problems accessing the service. However, according to kudvenkat, the version can be as simple as v1, v2 or v3[Hahn 2016, 97]. In conclusion, weather the version has three digits or one seems to be up for debate. However, it is important to use versioning because there will always be updates that will cause users to migrate to a new version of the service.

Reference List

Kudvenkat. “Web API versioning using URI.” YouTube, 27 February 2017.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq9PNfcwnvI&ab_channel=kudvenkat>

MuleSoft Vides. “API Versioning Explained | Technical Introduction to MuleSoft.” YouTube,

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WWr_eFRDeM&ab_channel=MuleSoftVideos>

Hahn, Evan M. *Express in Action.* Shelter Island NY, Manning Publications Co., 2016