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What is REST?

REST is an architectural style for building web services.

REST = Representational State Transfer

A **RESTful Web Service** is an API implemented using HTTP and REST principals.

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Resource Based

In REST we talk about nouns (article, user, setting), and use HTTP verbs to dictate the operation to perform on a given resource.

GET - POST - PUT - DELETE - PATCH

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Resource Based

In REST, we talk about nouns (i.e. article, user, setting) and use HTTP verbs (GET, POST, PUT, DELETE, PATCH) to dictate the operation to perform on a given resource.

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HTTP: The Language of the Web

REST uses the existing technology and protocols of the web.

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GET

Request:
GET : http://example.com/resource/{ID}
Accept: application/json

Response:
HTTP 200 Ok
Content-type: application/json
{“message”: “Hello World!”}

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POST

Request:
POST : http://example.com/resource
Accept: application/json
Content-type: application/json
{“id”:42, “title”:”Hello World!”}

Response:
HTTP 200 Ok
Content-type: application/json

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6 Principals of REST

- Uniform interface
- Stateless
- Cacheable
- Client-Server
- Layered system
- Code on demand

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REST is a style.

Not a strict protocol or specification.

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Why REST?

- It’s simple and lightweight compared to things like SOAP.
- It's HTTP-based, so most everything supports it.
- It’s a suggestion, not a rule.

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Learn more: http://restcookbook.com/

Roy Fielding's dissertation that describes REST
http://www.ics.uci.edu/~fielding/pubs/dissertation/rest_arch_style.htm