

An aerial, grayscale photograph of the New York City skyline, featuring numerous skyscrapers and the Hudson River. The image is used as a background for the text.

ALPS + AI = API

Mike Amundsen
@mamund



Mike Amundsen
@mamund

Overview

- Writing API/User Stories
- Building the ALPS Description
- Creating the NodeJS API

But First ...



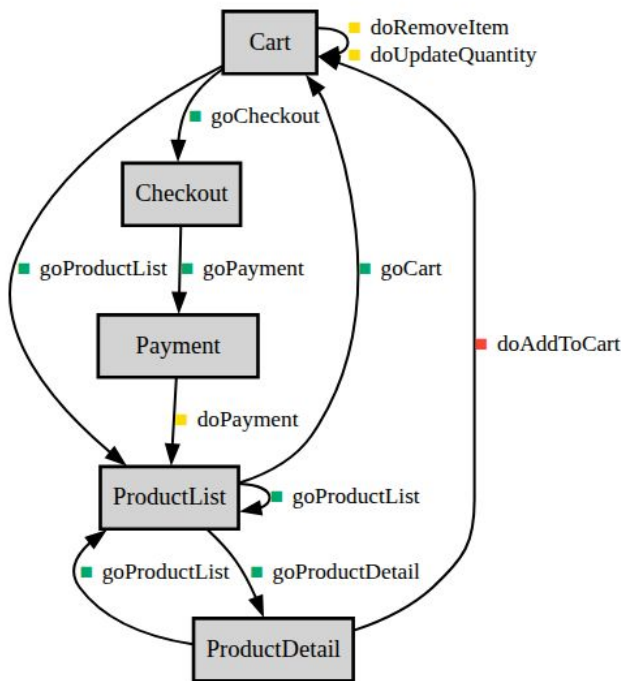
ALPS

- Goal
 - A Format for Clarifying Application-Level Meaning and Structure of Interfaces
- History
 - First experiment was in at 2011 [RESTFest](#)
 - Based on XML Meta Data Profiles ([XMDP](#)) from 2003 by Tantek Çelik
- Tooling
 - [ALPS online editor](#)
 - [ASD \(app-state-diagram\) CLI](#)
 - [LLMs Prompt Library](#)
 - [ALPS OpenAI Assistant](#)

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <!--
3 Welcome to ALPS Editor! Let's make API design fun and effective.
4
5 Quick tips:
6 - Press Ctrl + Space to show snippets for auto-completion (suggested terms are from Schema.org)
7 - To start from scratch, delete all content and press Ctrl + Space, then select "Skeleton"
8 - Drag and drop an ALPS file (JSON, XML, or HTML) into the editor to open it
9   (For HTML files, the ALPS profile contained within will be extracted)
10 - Hit Ctrl + S to download your work anytime
11
12 ALPS bridges vision and implementation, creating APIs that speak business and tech fluently.
13
14 Learn more about ALPS:
15 - app-state-diagram: https://www.app-state-diagram.com/
16 - Official ALPS website: http://alps.io/
17
18 Happy modeling! Remember, solid semantics supports the long-term evolution of your APIs. :)
19 -->
20 <alps
21   xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
22   xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation="https://alps-io.github.io/schemas/alps.xsd">
23   <title>ALPS Online Shopping</title>
24   <doc>This is a sample ALPS profile demonstrating the semantic descriptors
25     and operations for a basic e-commerce system. It includes product listing,
26     shopping cart management, and checkout process, serving as an educational
27     example for ALPS implementation in online shopping contexts.</doc>
28
29   <!-- Ontology -->
30   <descriptor id="id" def="https://schema.org/identifier" title="identifier"/>
31   <descriptor id="name" def="https://schema.org/name" title="name"/>
32   <descriptor id="description" def="https://schema.org/description" title="description"/>
33   <descriptor id="price" def="https://schema.org/price" title="price"/>
34   <descriptor id="quantity" def="https://schema.org/Quantity" title="quantity"/>
35   <descriptor id="email" def="https://schema.org/email" title="email"/>
36   <descriptor id="address" def="https://schema.org/address" title="address"/>
37
38   <!-- Taxonomy -->
39   <descriptor id="ProductList" def="https://schema.org/ItemList" title="Product List" tag="collect">
40     <descriptor href="#id"/>
41     <descriptor href="#name"/>
42     <descriptor href="#description"/>
43     <descriptor href="#goProductDetail"/>
44     <descriptor href="#goCart"/>
45     <descriptor href="#goProductList"/>
46   </descriptor>
47
48   <descriptor id="ProductDetail" def="https://schema.org/Product" title="Product Detail" tag="item">
49     <descriptor href="#id"/>
50     <descriptor href="#name"/>
51     <descriptor href="#description"/>
52     <descriptor href="#price"/>
53     <descriptor href="#goProductList"/>
54     <descriptor href="#doAddToCart"/>
55   </descriptor>
56
57   <descriptor id="Cart" def="https://schema.org/Cart" title="Shopping Cart" tag="collection">
58     <descriptor href="#id"/>
59     <descriptor href="#goProductList"/>
60     <descriptor href="#goCheckout"/>
61     <descriptor href="#doUpdateQuantity"/>
62     <descriptor href="#doRemoveItem"/>
```

ALPS Online Shopping

This is a sample ALPS profile demonstrating the semantic descriptors and operations for a basic e-commerce system. It includes product listing, shopping cart management, and checkout process, serving as an educational example for ALPS implementation in online shopping contexts.




```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <!--
3 Welcome to ALPS Editor! Let's make API design fun and effective.
4
5 Quick tips:
6 - Press Ctrl + Space to show snippets for auto-completion (suggested terms are from Schema.org)
7 - To start from scratch, delete all content and press Ctrl + Space, then select "Skeleton"
8 - Drag and drop an ALPS file (JSON, XML, or HTML) into the editor to open it
9
```

Command Line Options

asd [options] [alpsFile]

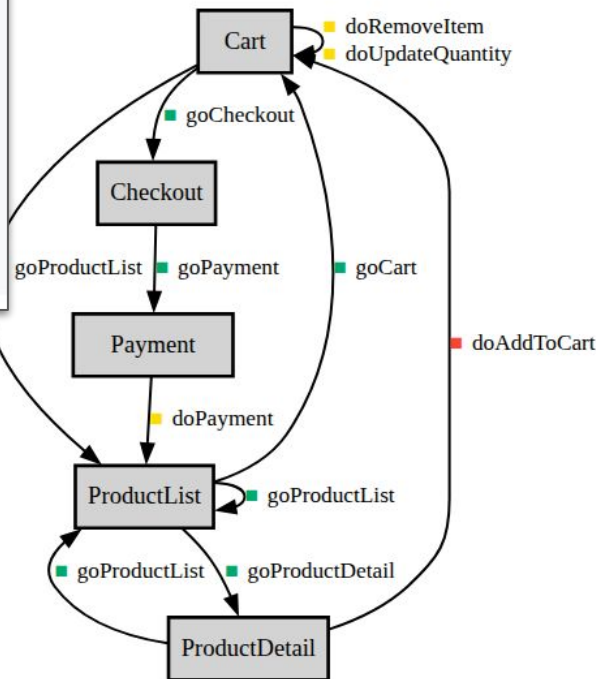
Options:

-w, --watch	Watch mode
-m, --mode	Drawing mode
--port	Port to use (default 3000)

```
36 <descriptor id="address" def="https://schema.org/address" title="address" />
37
38 <!-- Taxonomy -->
39 <descriptor id="ProductList" def="https://schema.org/ItemList" title="Product List" tag="collecti
40 <descriptor href="#id"/>
41 <descriptor href="#name"/>
42 <descriptor href="#description"/>
43 <descriptor href="#goProductDetail"/>
44 <descriptor href="#goCart"/>
45 <descriptor href="#goProductList"/>
46 </descriptor>
47
48 <descriptor id="ProductDetail" def="https://schema.org/Product" title="Product Detail" tag="item"
49 <descriptor href="#id"/>
50 <descriptor href="#name"/>
51 <descriptor href="#description"/>
52 <descriptor href="#price"/>
53 <descriptor href="#goProductList"/>
54 <descriptor href="#doAddToCart"/>
55 </descriptor>
56
57 <descriptor id="Cart" def="https://schema.org/Cart" title="Shopping Cart" tag="collection">
58 <descriptor href="#id"/>
59 <descriptor href="#goProductList"/>
60 <descriptor href="#goCheckout"/>
61 <descriptor href="#doUpdateQuantity"/>
62 <descriptor href="#doRemoveItem"/>
```

ALPS Online Shopping

This is a sample ALPS profile demonstrating the semantic descriptors and operations for a basic e-commerce system. It includes product listing, shopping cart management, and checkout process, serving as an educational sample for ALPS implementation in online shopping contexts.




```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <!--
3 Welcome to Alps Editor! Let's make API design fun and effective.
4
5 Quick tips:
6 - Press Ctrl + Space to show snippets for auto-completion (suggested terms are from Schema.org)
7 - To start from scratch, delete all content and press Ctrl + Space, then select "Skeleton"
8 - Drag and drop an ALPS file (JSON, XML, or HTML) into the editor to open it
9
```

Command Line Options

asd [options] [alpsFile]

Options:

-w, --watch Watch mode
-m, --mode Drawing mode
--port Port to use (default 3000)

```
<descriptor id="address" def="https://schema.org/address" title="address" />
<!-- Taxonomy -->
<descriptor id="ProductList" def="https://schema.org/ItemList" title="Product List" tag="collection">
  <descriptor href="#id" />
  <descriptor href="#name" />
  <descriptor href="#description" />
  <descriptor href="#goProductDetail" />
  <descriptor href="#goCart" />
  <descriptor href="#goProductList" />
</descriptor>
<descriptor id="ProductDetail" def="https://schema.org/Product" title="Product Detail" tag="item">
  <descriptor href="#id" />
  <descriptor href="#name" />
  <descriptor href="#description" />
  <descriptor href="#price" />
  <descriptor href="#goProductList" />
  <descriptor href="#doAddToCart" />
</descriptor>
<descriptor id="Cart" def="https://schema.org/Cart" title="Shopping Cart" tag="collection">
  <descriptor href="#id" />
  <descriptor href="#goProductList" />
  <descriptor href="#goCheckout" />
  <descriptor href="#doUpdateQuantity" />
  <descriptor href="#doRemoveItem" />
</descriptor>
```

ALPS Online Shopping

This is a sample ALPS profile demonstrating the semantic descriptors and operations for a basic e-commerce system. It includes product listing, shopping cart management, and checkout process, serving as an educational sample for ALPS implementation in online shopping contexts.

ALPS Prompt Brewery

AI prompt generator for ALPS and implementation code

Step 1: User Story

Step 2: ALPS

ALPS Prompt Creation

Create from User Story

Convert Existing ALPS

Need inspiration?

Enter your user story or system requirements here...

ALPS Format: ☒ JSON ☐ XML

Documentation Language:

ProductDetail

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <!--
3 Welcome to Alps Editor! Let's make API design fun and effective.
4
5 Quick tips:
6 - Press Ctrl + Space to show snippets for auto-completion (suggested terms are from Schema.org)
7 - To start from scratch, delete all content and press Ctrl + Space, then select "Skeleton"
8 - Drag and drop an ALPS file (JSON, XML, or HTML) into the editor to open it
9
```

Command Line Options

asd [options] [al

Options:

-w, --watch
-m, --mode
--port

```
<descriptor id="address" def="https://schema.org/Address" title="Address" tag="collection">
  <!-- Taxonomy -->
  <descriptor id="ProductList" def="https://schema.org/ProductList" title="Product List" tag="collection">
    <descriptor href="#id"/>
    <descriptor href="#name"/>
    <descriptor href="#description"/>
    <descriptor href="#goProductDetail"/>
    <descriptor href="#goCart"/>
  </descriptor>
  <descriptor id="ProductDetail" def="https://schema.org/Product" title="Product Detail" tag="collection">
    <descriptor href="#id"/>
    <descriptor href="#name"/>
    <descriptor href="#description"/>
    <descriptor href="#price"/>
    <descriptor href="#goProductList"/>
    <descriptor href="#doAddToCart"/>
  </descriptor>
  <descriptor id="Cart" def="https://schema.org/Cart" title="Shopping Cart" tag="collection">
    <descriptor href="#id"/>
    <descriptor href="#goProductList"/>
    <descriptor href="#goCheckout"/>
    <descriptor href="#doUpdateQuantity"/>
    <descriptor href="#doRemoveItem"/>
  </descriptor>
</descriptor>
```

ALPS Online Shopping

This is a sample ALPS profile demonstrating the semantic descriptors and operations for a basic e-commerce system. It includes product listing, shopping cart management, and checkout process, serving as an educational example of ALPS contexts.



ALPS Assistant

By AKIHITO KORIYAMA

Creating an ALPS profile in accordance with best practice

Please create an ALPS for the TODO app in JSO...

Please create an e-commerce ALPS in XML format.

What kind of formats can be output from ALP...

Please list the semantic words necessary to...

ALPS Format: ☒ JSON ☐ XML

Documentation Language: English

ProductDetail

Akihito Koriyama

Creator of [BEAR.Sunday](#), a resource-oriented PHP framework. He [explores](#) API architecture and REST through the lens of [semantic architecture](#) and philosophical insight.



"Traditionally, business-side requirements have been interpreted and formalized by API engineers. I'd be happy if this tool could help bridge that gap."



Writing API Stories

API Story



- APIs start with a story
 - "We need..."
 - "Our customers requested..."
 - "I have an idea..."
- Stories are shared understanding
 - Our brains are wired for stories, not data
 - Stories are accessible
 - Stories are repeatable

Task Management

Purpose

We need to track 'Task' records in order to improve both timeliness and accuracy of customer follow-up activity.

Data

In this first pass at the application, we need to keep track of the following data properties:

- **id** : a globally unique value for each record
- **title** : the text content of the record
- **description** : the description of the record
- **dueDate** : the date the record is due to be completed
- **priority** : the priority of the task
- **assignedUser** : the user assigned to handle the task

Actions

This edition of the application needs to support the following operations:

create tasks, update status, and mark them complete.

- **List** : return a list of all active ToDo records in the system
- **Create** : add a new ToDo record to the system
- **UpdateStatus** : update the status of a single record
- **MarkComplete** : mark a single record as completed

Rules

None

Task Management - Distilled

As a project manager, I need a task tracking system.

Tasks have a title, description, due date, priority, and assigned user.

Users should be able to create tasks, update status, and mark them complete.

The system should display task lists filtered by status or assigned user.



Stories are shared understanding



Building the ALPS Description

Build the ALPS Description

- Convert the User Story into an LLM prompt
- Pass prompt to LLM to generate draft ALPS document
- Apply review tips to update the ALPS document
- Load ALPS document into validator/editor for final review



ALPS Prompt Brewery

AI prompt generator for ALPS and implementation code

Step 1: User Story

Step 2: ALPS

ALPS Prompt Creation

Create from User Story

Convert Existing ALPS

Need inspiration? Task Management App



As a project manager, I need a task tracking system.
Tasks have a title, description, due date, priority, and assigned user.
Users should be able to create tasks, update status, and mark them complete.
The system should display task lists filtered by status or assigned user.

ALPS Format: ☒ JSON ☐ XML

Documentation Language: English



Generate ALPS Prompt

Step 1: User Story

Step 2: ALPS

Convert ALPS to Implementation Format



Generated ALPS Prompt


Copy ALPS Prompt

ALPS Profile Creation Prompt

Please create an ALPS profile based on the following requirements. This profile should represent a complete and consistent application state design.

- * Format: JSON
- * Language: English
- * Content:

 **Pro Tip:** After receiving your ALPS profile from the AI, consider asking: "Please review this ALPS profile to verify that there are no isolated states (unreachable or exit-less states) and that all state transitions are properly connected. Also check if all semantic descriptors are consistently tagged and grouped." 

 **Next Step:** After confirming that ALPS is rendered correctly at <https://editor.app-state-diagram.com/>, Paste your ALPS profile into textarea and proceed directly to the format conversion step.



ALPS Assistant

By AKIHITO KORIYAMA  

Creating an ALPS profile in accordance with best practice

Please create
an ALPS for the
TODO app in JSO...

Please create an
e-commerce ALPS
in XML format.

What kind of
formats can be
output from ALP...

Please list the
semantic words
necessary to...

ALPS Profile Creation Prompt

Please create an ALPS profile based on the following requirements. This profile should represent a complete and consistent application state design.

- * Format: JSON
- * Language: English
- * Content:





ALPS Assistant

By AKIHITO KORIYAMA

Creating an ALPS profile in accordance with best practice

Please create
an ALPS for the
TODO app in JSO...

Please create an
e-commerce ALPS
in XML format.

ALPS Profile Creation Prompt

Please create an ALPS profile based on t
should represent a complete and consis

- * Format: JSON
- * Language: English
- * Content:



✓ Naming Conventions & Format

- All semantic IDs are in `lowerCamelCase`.
- State IDs are in `UpperCamelCase`.
- Transition IDs follow `goX` or `doX` conventions based on `safe`, `unsafe`, or `idempotent`.

✓ Final Verdict

The ALPS profile is **logically sound, connected, and follows best practices**.

Only action item:

Add `tag` attributes to taxonomy descriptors (`Task`, `TaskList`, `FilteredByUser`, `FilteredByStatus`) for grouping consistency.

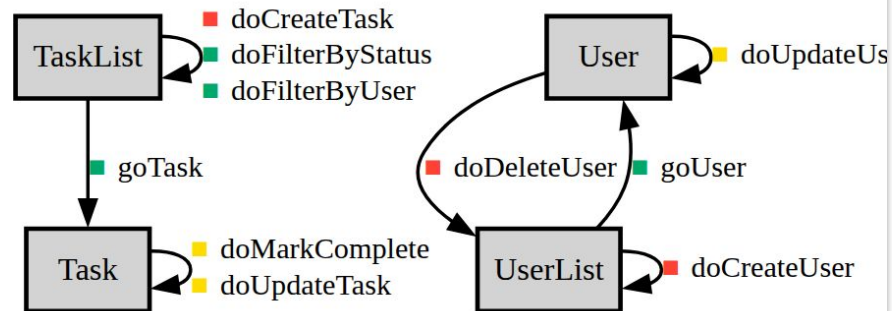
Would you like me to revise the profile JSON and include the missing tags?




```
1 {
2   "$schema": "https://alps-io.github.io/schemas/alps.json",
3   "alps": {
4     "version": "1.0",
5     "descriptor": [
6       {
7         "id": "title",
8         "title": "Title",
9         "def": "https://schema.org/name"
10      },
11      {
12        "id": "description",
13        "title": "Description",
14        "def": "https://schema.org/description"
15      },
16      {
17        "id": "dueDate",
18        "title": "Due Date",
19        "def": "https://schema.org/dueDate"
20      },
21      {
22        "id": "priority",
23        "title": "Priority",
24        "doc": "Task importance level, such as low, medium, high"
25      },
26      {
27        "id": "status",
28        "title": "Status",
29        "doc": "Current state of the task (e.g., open, in-progress, completed)"
30      }
31    ]
32  }
33 }
```

```
1 {
2   "$schema": "https://alps-io.github.io/schemas/alps.json",
3   "alps": {
4     "version": "1.0",
5     "descriptor": [
6       {
7         "id": "title",
8         "title": "Title",
9         "def": "https://schema.org/name"
10      },
11      {
12        "id": "description",
13        "title": "Description",
14        "def": "https://schema.org/description"
15      },
16      {
17        "id": "dueDate",
18        "title": "Due Date",
19        "def": "https://schema.org/dueDate"
20      },
21      {
22        "id": "priority",
23        "title": "Priority",
24        "doc": "Task importance level, such as low, medium, high"
25      },
26      {
27        "id": "status",
28        "title": "Status",
29        "doc": "Current state of the task (e.g., open, in-progress, completed)"
30      },
31      {
32        "id": "assignedUser",
33        "title": "Assigned User",
34        "doc": "User to whom the task is assigned"
35      },
36      {
37        "id": "userName",
38        "title": "User Name",
39        "def": "https://schema.org/name"
40      }
41    ]
42  }
43 }
```

ALPS



+ - 1:1

View: ☒ id ☐ title

Tags: ☐ task-tracking ☐ user-management

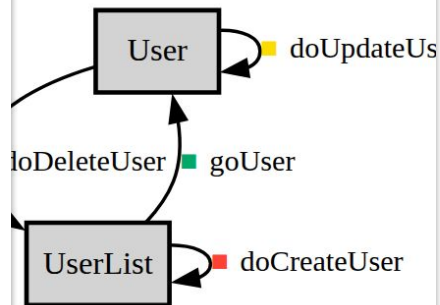
☐ Semantic ☒ Safe ☒ Unsafe ☐ Idempotent

```
1 {
2   "$schema": "https://alps-io.github.io/schemas/alps.json",
3   "alps": {
4     "version": "1.0",
5     "descriptor": [
6       {
7         "id": "title",
8         "title": "Title",
9         "def": "https://schema.org/Title",
10       },
11       {
12         "id": "description",
13         "title": "Description",
14         "def": "https://schema.org/Description",
15       },
16       {
17         "id": "dueDate",
18         "title": "Due Date",
19         "def": "https://schema.org/DueDate",
20       },
21       {
22         "id": "priority",
23         "title": "Priority",
24         "doc": "Task importance level",
25       },
26       {
27         "id": "status",
28         "title": "Status",
29         "doc": "Current state of task",
30       },
31       {
32         "id": "assignedUser",
33         "title": "Assigned User",
34         "doc": "User to whom the task is assigned",
35       },
36       {
37         "id": "userName",
38         "title": "User Name",
39         "def": "https://schema.org/Person",
40       },
41     ]
42   }
43 }
```

ALPS

Semantic Descriptors

Type	ID	Title	Contained	Extra Info
<input type="checkbox"/>	assignedUser	Assigned User		doc: User to whom the task is assigned
<input type="checkbox"/>	description	Description		def: schema.org/description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	doCreateTask	Create Task		tag: task-tracking rt: TaskList
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	doCreateUser	Create User		tag: user-management rt: UserList
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	doDeleteUser	Delete User		tag: user-management rt: UserList
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	doFilterByStatus	Filter Tasks by Status		tag: task-tracking rt: TaskList
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	doFilterByUser	Filter Tasks by Assigned User		tag: task-tracking rt: TaskList
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	doMarkComplete	Mark Task as Complete		tag: task-tracking rt: Task
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	doUpdateTask	Update Task		tag: task-tracking rt: Task
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	doUpdateUser	Update User Profile		tag: user-management rt: User



management

Idempotent



*Describe the **design**, not the Implementation*



Creating the NodeJS API

Creating the NodeJS API

- Use the API Design Description as a reference
 - Your ALPS is your map
- Focus on a working proof of concept (PoC)
 - Don't over-work the PoC code
- Share / Test the working PoC
 - PoC's are for feedback, not production





task-tracking-alps.json

File



temnplate-notes.md

File

now, let's generate a simple NodeJS API from this ALPS design.

i've attached the ALPS document, the template notes, and additional consideraetions for you to use when generating the API.

Lets|do it.



Task Api Nodejs



```
1 // app.js - Node.js API generated from ALPS profile
2 const express = require('express');
3 const bodyParser = require('body-parser');
4 const app = express();
5 const PORT = 3000;
6
7 app.use(bodyParser.json());
8
9 let users = [
10   { id: 1, userName: "Alice", userEmail: "alice@example.com" },
11   { id: 2, userName: "Bob", userEmail: "bob@example.com" }
12 ];
13
14 let tasks = [
15   { id: 1, title: "Write report", description: "Weekly report", dueDate: "2025-05-13", priority: "High" },
16   { id: 2, title: "Fix bug", description: "UI bug fix", dueDate: "2025-05-13", priority: "Medium" }
17 ];
18
19 // Root
20 app.get('/', (req, res) => {
21   res.json({
22     _links: {
23       users: { href: "/users" },
24       tasks: { href: "/tasks" }
25     }
26   });
27 });
28
29 // Users
30 app.get('/users', (req, res) => {
31   res.json(users.map(u => ({ ...u, _links: userLinks(u.id) })));
32 });
33
34 app.get('/users/:id', (req, res) => {
35   const user = users.find(u => u.id == req.params.id);
36   if (user) res.json({ user, links: userLinks(user.id) });
37 }
```



Working code and rough consensus

And so ...

Summary

- Writing PI Stories
 - Stories are shared understanding
- Building the ALPS Design Document
 - Describe the design, not the implementation
- Creating the NodeJS API
 - Working code and rough consensus



Finally ...



Andrej Karpathy ✓

@karpathy



There's a new kind of coding I call "vibe coding", where you fully give in to the vibes, embrace exponentials, and forget that the code even exists. It's possible because the LLMs (e.g. Cursor Composer w Sonnet) are getting too good. Also I just talk to Composer with SuperWhisper so I barely even touch the keyboard. I ask for the dumbest things like "decrease the padding on the sidebar by half" because I'm too lazy to find it. I "Accept All" always, I don't read the diffs anymore. When I get error messages I just copy paste them in with no comment, usually that fixes it. The code grows beyond my usual comprehension, I'd have to really read through it for a while. Sometimes the LLMs can't fix a bug so I just work around it or ask for random changes until it goes away. It's not too bad for throwaway weekend projects, but still quite amusing. I'm building a project or webapp, but it's not really coding - I just see stuff, say stuff, run stuff, and copy paste stuff, and it mostly works.

6:17 PM · Feb 2, 2025 · **4.9M** Views



1.3K



5K



29K



15K



Andrej Karpathy

"Ultimately, vibe coding full web apps today is kind of messy and [not a good idea](#) for anything of actual importance."

— [Andrej Karpathy](#)



An aerial, grayscale photograph of the New York City skyline, featuring numerous skyscrapers and the Hudson River. The image is used as a background for the text.

ALPS + AI = API

Mike Amundsen
@mamund

An aerial photograph of the New York City skyline, featuring numerous skyscrapers and the Hudson River. The Chrysler Building is prominent on the left. The text "ALPS + AI = API" is overlaid in large, bold, black letters.

ALPS + AI = API

Mike Amundsen
@mamund