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WEB 420 RESTFul API's

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Discussion 1.1 – What is API Design

What is API Design?

Have you ever wondered how different software systems are able to communicate with each other? That's where API design comes in! APIs or Application Programming Interfaces are basically a set of definitions and protocols for building and integrating software applications. When designing an API, it is important to consider the needs of the end-user who will be interacting with the API. This means thinking about the information that will be exchanged between different software systems, as well as how this information will be structured and formatted. The rules that are defined for API design ensure that different software systems can "talk" to each other in a way that's reliable and efficient.

One important part of API design is creating clear and easy-to-understand documentation. This helps developers who are using the API understand how to use it and what kind of information it returns. There is nothing worse than wanting to build an integration but having to sift through crappy documentation or being unable to find documentation to figure it out.

APIs also need to be scalable and adaptable so that they can be modified over time to meet changing needs. And, of course, security is a big consideration too. Developers need to make sure that APIs are designed in a way that keeps unauthorized users out and protects against common security threats such as SQL injection attacks.

Overall, API design is a really important part of software development. By designing APIs that are user-friendly, scalable, and secure, developers can create software systems that work together effectively.

References

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