**Discussion 8.1 – Webhooks**

Patrick Cuauro

Bellevue University

WEB 420-307O RESTFul APIs

Professor Krasso

July 11, 2023

# Webhooks

As we already know what an API is, I would like to take advantage of it to explain what a Webhook is. The difference between them is easier to explain than explaining the whole concept of the Webhook itself, the main reason for this is that the Webhooks are subsets of APIs.

## What is the key difference between a webhook and an API?

APIs are manual—they need to be asked to pull or modify data. Webhooks automatically send data in response to a specific event, without any request from another software.

Webhooks are a subset of APIs and are therefore far more limited than APIs—they can only send information. APIs are more versatile. They're the intermediary between different software, so when you as the user attempt to learn or modify something in another software, the API verifies whether you have the right to do that and either approves or denies the request.

## Conclusion

Webhooks and APIs are both widely used across the software we use on a daily basis, and they're so similar that their individual uses can get confusing. Since a webhook is just a specific type of API, the confusion makes sense.

To summarize, webhooks enable lightweight data sharing between software when a specific action takes place, whereas APIs require user input on one end to request or modify data on the other end.

If you're looking to send a notification or update information as soon as a certain criterion is met, avoid the hassle of an API—just implement a simple webhook. If you're dealing with fluctuating data or want to modify data rather than merely push a notification, you'll probably need to implement an API.

When choosing between the two, the most important question to ask is whether the data you want to access is constantly being updated. If it is, an API will likely make more sense than a webhook. If it isn't, consider implementing a webhook instead.

Sources:

* Webhook vs. API: differences - Zapier

<https://zapier.com/blog/webhook-vs-api/>