10 API Protocols Every Developer Should Know  
  
APIs are the backbone of modern software systems.   
  
From real-time interactions to large-scale integrations, the right protocol can make or break your architecture.  
  
Here is a crisp guide to the most important ones:  
  
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𝟏. 𝐑𝐄𝐒𝐓  
The go-to architectural style for HTTP-based CRUD operations. Simple, stateless, and widely adopted.  
  
𝟐. 𝐆𝐫𝐚𝐩𝐡𝐐𝐋  
Lets clients ask for exactly what they need - no more, no less. Great for reducing payloads and optimizing frontend performance.  
  
𝟑. 𝐖𝐞𝐛𝐡𝐨𝐨𝐤𝐬  
Trigger real-time notifications when an event occurs - perfect for async workflows like Stripe payments or GitHub commits.  
  
𝟒. 𝐖𝐞𝐛𝐒𝐨𝐜𝐤𝐞𝐭𝐬  
Maintains a persistent, two-way connection. Ideal for chat apps, multiplayer games, and trading dashboards.  
  
𝟓. 𝐒𝐎𝐀𝐏  
XML-based, schema-heavy, and enterprise-friendly. Still relevant for systems requiring strict contracts and guaranteed delivery.  
  
𝟔. 𝐠𝐑𝐏𝐂  
A fast, language-neutral RPC framework using Protocol Buffers. Tailor-made for micro services and internal APIs.  
  
𝟕. 𝐌𝐐𝐓𝐓  
Ultra-lightweight publish/subscribe protocol. Built for intermittent connections - think IoT sensors and embedded devices.  
  
𝟖. 𝐀𝐌𝐐𝐏  
Robust messaging protocol with features like routing, queuing, and guaranteed delivery. Powers complex workflows in distributed systems.  
  
𝟗. 𝐒𝐒𝐄 (𝐒𝐞𝐫𝐯𝐞𝐫-𝐒𝐞𝐧𝐭 𝐄𝐯𝐞𝐧𝐭𝐬)  
Simple one-way push from server to client over HTTP. Ideal for dashboards, notifications, and live updates.  
  
𝟏𝟎. 𝐄𝐃𝐈 (𝐄𝐥𝐞𝐜𝐭𝐫𝐨𝐧𝐢𝐜 𝐃𝐚𝐭𝐚 𝐈𝐧𝐭𝐞𝐫𝐜𝐡𝐚𝐧𝐠𝐞)  
Legacy, but critical. Used for structured B2B data exchange in logistics, healthcare, and finance.  
  
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𝐇𝐨𝐧𝐨𝐫𝐚𝐛𝐥𝐞 𝐌𝐞𝐧𝐭𝐢𝐨𝐧:  
EDA (Event-Driven Architecture)  
Not a protocol per SE, but a powerful style where systems publish and react to events. Enables real-time, decoupled, and scalable apps.  
  
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Whether you are optimizing performance, simplifying communication, or building distributed systems - knowing when and why to use these matters.  
  
Which protocol is your go-to for modern system design?  
  
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