What is an API?

aRapid_API

APIs (application programming interface) are the intermediary between two programs, and allow data to be transferred. APIs are very versatile and can be used on the web, databases, and operating systems.

Request



An API call is initiated.

This is the process of the client app submitting a request to a server. APIs can be used to share data, embed content, and More.

HEY!

We need some more nectar (data) to make our honey (app).



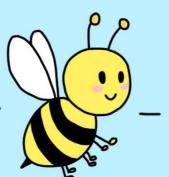




Server





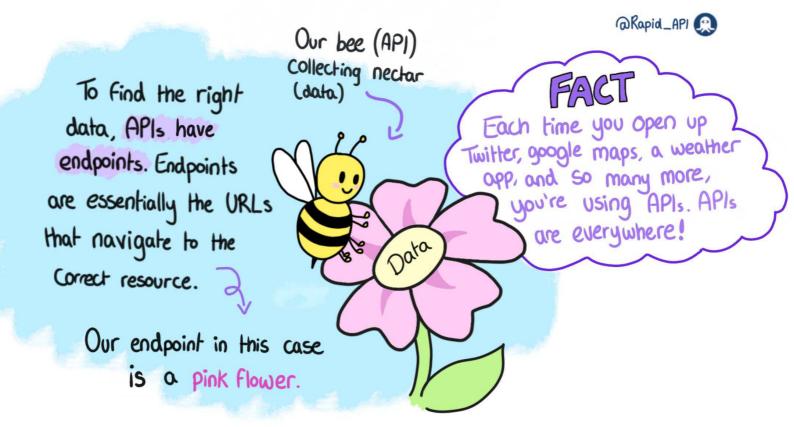




Our worker bee acts like an API going to fetch the needed data for the client.

APIs use HTTP protocols to transfer data.

GET/nectar/pinkflower





Response

As long as the server (flower)

can return the requested data

(nectar) to the client successfully, then

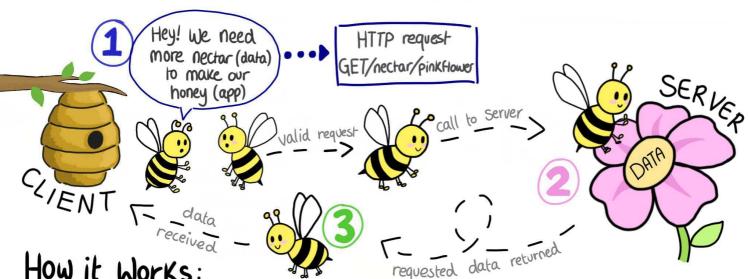
mission accomplished!

If the server can not return what the client asked for, the API will return the appropriate error message.

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what is an

An application programming interface allows two programs to communicate. On the web, APIs sit between an application and a web server, and facilitate the transfer of data.



How it Works:

1) Request

API call is intiated by by the Client application via a HTTP request

Receive

Our worker bee acts as an API, going to a flower (server) to collect nector (data)

Response

The API transfers the requested data back to the requesting application, usually in JSON format