

What are Web APIs?

Application Program Interfaces (APIs) are constructs written in programming languages and made widely available to developers to build complex functionality in programs without rewriting already written code in a lower level language. Think of electrical sockets in your home. If you want to plug in a lamp, for example, you don't wire it to the power supply but rather plug it into the socket. Wiring it to the power supply would be inefficient and unnecessary. Similarly, Web APIs serve to expand browser functionality, simplify more complex functions, and can provide simple syntax for complex code. A Web API is an Application Programming Interface for the Web. A commonly used Web API is the Geolocation API, which can return the coordinates of where the browser is located. APIs save developers precious time and resources while also offering functionality to web apps developers might not have even attempted to implement due to their complexity.