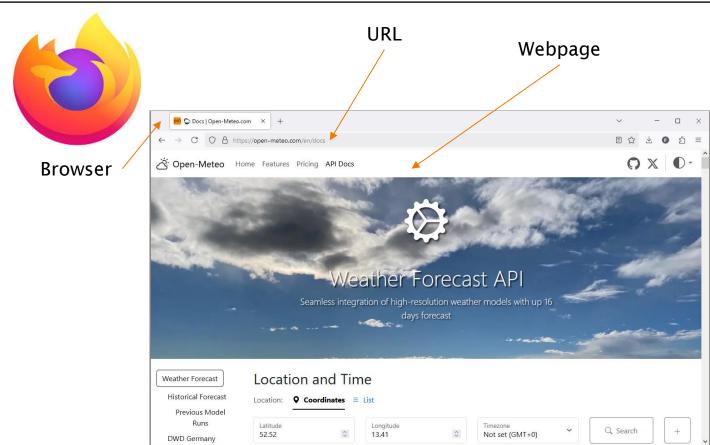


01 - Hypertext Transfer Protocol and Representational State Transfer

Web Technology Project (International Computer Science) Summer semester 2025 Prof. Dr. Felix Schwägerl

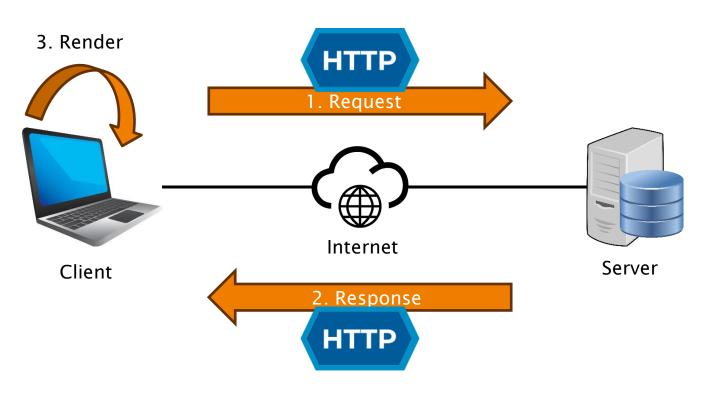


What will the weather be like this week?









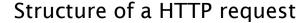


HTTP is the basis of all communication over the internet.

- Introduced 1991 by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
- Current version: HTTP/3 (published as RFC 9114 in June 2022)
- Traditionally used for transferring *HTML* documents (→ chapter 03)
- HTTPS = HTTP + SSL (secure communication)
- Built on top of existing protocols of the transport layer (TCP/IP)
 (→ Computer Networks)
- Official specification [IETF 2025] is dedicated to browser developers; a useful reference for application

developers is [Mozilla 2025]

[Mozilla 2025] Web APTs HTML CSS Client JavaScript The Web HTTP TLS DNS Application /transport UDP TCP ΙP IP layer





```
Verh
                                  Protocol version
(Method)
                 Path
GET https://open-meteo.com/en/docs HTTP/2
Host: open-meteo.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml
Accept-Language: en,de-DE;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br, zstd
Alt-Used: open-meteo.com
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
Sec-Fetch-Dest: document
Sec-Fetch-Mode: navigate
Sec-Fetch-Site: none
Sec-Fetch-User: ?1
Priority: u=0, i
```

Request headers

- The browser generates verb, protocol version, and request headers automatically (based on user preferences) when we enter the path into the address bar.
- After the headers, a request body may follow after a blank line.
 (e.g., when using verbs POST or PUT to create/update data)

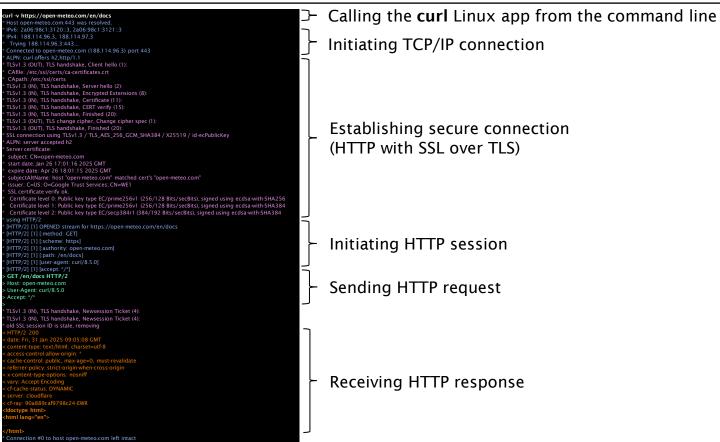




```
Protocol Status Status
version code message
    HTTP/2 200 OK
  date: Fri, 31 Jan 2025 09:25:12 GMT
  content-type: text/html; charset=utf-8
  access-control-allow-origin: *
  cache-control: public, max-age=0, must-revalidate
  referrer-policy: strict-origin-when-cross-origin
  x-content-type-options: nosniff
                                                        Response
  vary: Accept-Encoding
                                                        headers
  cf-cache-status: DYNAMIC
  server: cloudflare
  cf-ray: 90a8a732b976c356-EWR
  content-encoding: br
  alt-svc: h3=":443"; ma=86400
                                                        Blank line
  <!doctype html>
                                                        Response body
  <html lang="en">
                                                         (here: a HTML
                                                         document)
  </html>
```



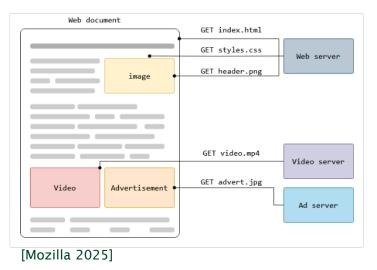
Detailed protocol trace of a HTTP request





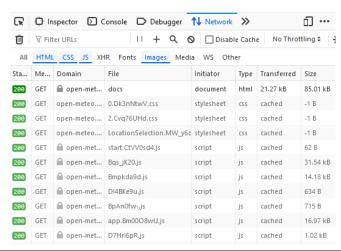


A HTML document contains links to additional resources.



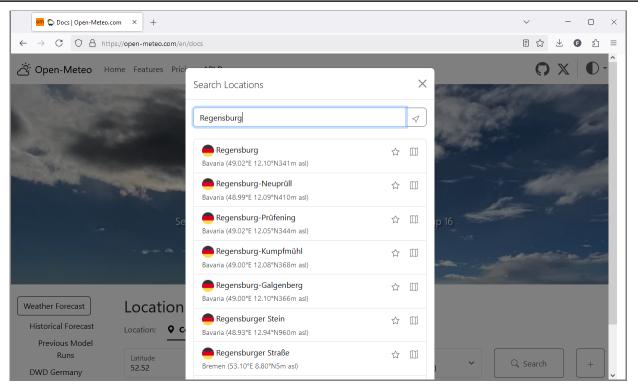
- Browser reveals all background requests
 - E.g. in Firefox: Ctrl+Shift+I
- Go to Network tab and filter by resource type (HTML, CSS, JS, Images

- · Media content: images, videos, etc.
- Additional HTML documents
 (→ chapter 03)
- CSS (→ chapter 04)
- JavaScript (→ chapter 05)





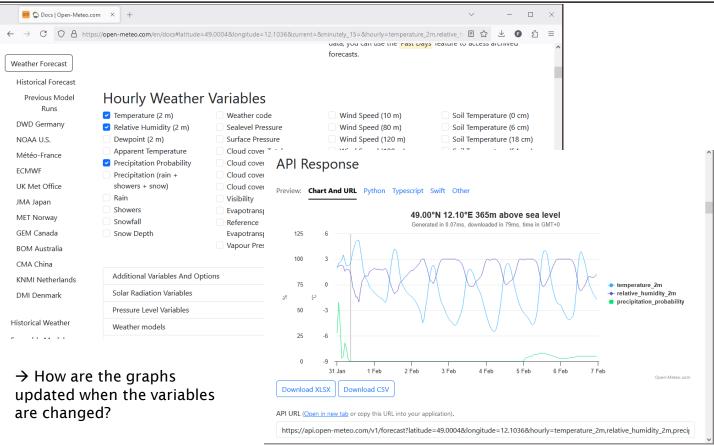
Interacting with a webpage (1)



→ Where do these suggestions come from? (We didn't request new data via the address bar.)

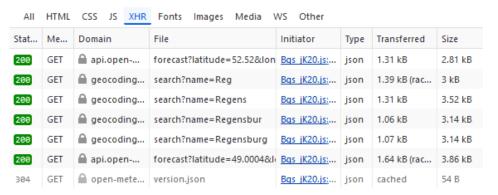


Interacting with a webpage (2)





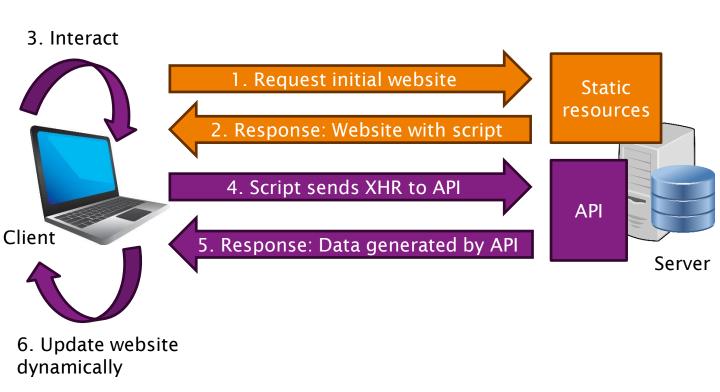
What about the XHR category in the Network tab?



- XHR is for "XML HTTP request"
 - The name is misleading since it does not require XML at all.
 - Formerly called AJAX ("asynchronous JavaScript and XML")
 - Here called dynamic HTTP requests, or API calls.
- Idea: Websites may execute scripts (→ chapter 05), which use XHRs to retrieve data from or send data to servers as the user interacts with the website.
 - Technically, XHRs are normal HTTP requests.
 - The requests/responses are not directly shown to the user.

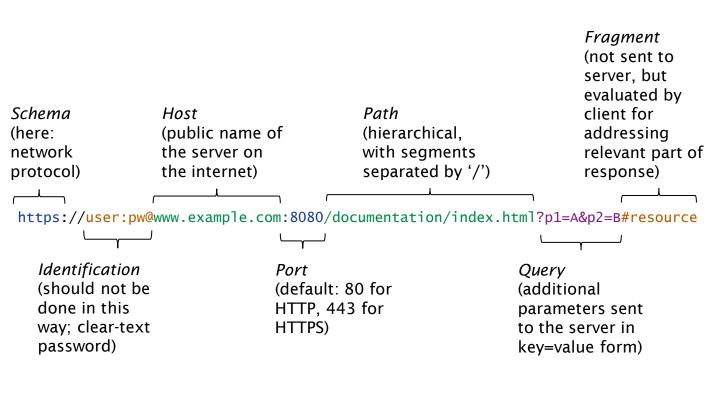


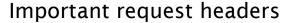
How do interactive web applications work?





HTTP Uniform Resource Locators (URLs)







Name	Meaning	Example
User-Agent	Browser/OS that originated the request	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows)
Origin	Origin server (if request is server-to-server)	http://my-api.de:8080
Referer	Server from where a link was followed	http://www.google.com
Host	Domain the request will be sent to	open-meteo.com
Accept	Accepted/preferred response content type	text/html
Accept-Language	Accepted/preferred response language	en,de-DE
Accept-Encoding	Compression formats understood by client	gzip, deflate
Authorization	Credentials for protected access (\rightarrow)	Basic dXNlcjpwdw==
Cookie	Session data stored by the client	sessionId=12345678
<pre>If-Modified-Since</pre>	Request only if modified since	19 Jan 2025 10:24:26
If-None-Match	Request if version (e.g., hash) changed	753af3c3e0
Connection	Whether HTTP connection should be kept	keep-alive

More examples: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Glossary/Request_header



Important response headers

Name	Meaning	Example
Server	Server software answering the request	Apache
Access-Control-Al	low-Origin Server whitelist	https://www.my-api.de
Date	When the server sent the response	19 Jan 2025 10:24:26
Expires	Response is considered stale after	20 Jan 2025 10:24:26
Allow	HTTP methods allowed for requested URL	GET, POST, HEAD
Location	URL supposed to be visited by requester	http://new-domain.com
Vary	Request headers that influenced response	Cookie, Accept
Content-Type	Actual type of the response body	text/html; charset=utf-8
Content-Length	Length of response body in bytes	181
Content-Language	Language used in returned content	de
Content-Encoding	Compression format applied to response	gzip
Content-Dispositi	on Download information attac	hment; filename="a.txt"
WWW-Authenticate	Scheme of requested authentication	Basic
Set-Cookie	Requests client to update session data	sessionId=12345678
Last-Modified	Modification stamp of returned data	19 Jan 2025 08:21:19
Etag	Identifier of resource version (e.g. hash)	W/"753af3c3e0"
Connection	Whether HTTP connection should be kept	keep-alive
Keep-Alive	Parameters of connection keep-alive	timeout=5 max=997

More examples: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Glossary/Response_header



JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)

```
"results": [
    "id": 2849483,
    "name": "Regensburg",
    "latitude": 49.01513.
    "longitude": 12.10161,
    "elevation": 341.0,
    "country_code": "DE",
    "timezone": "Europe/Berlin",
    "population": 129151,
    "postcodes": [
      "93057"
    ],
    "country_id": 2921044,
    "country": "Germany",
    "admin1": "Bavaria".
    "admin2": "Upper Palatinate",
    "admin3": "Regensburg"
 },
    "id": 8378695,
    "name": "Regensburg-Neuprüll",
"generationtime_ms": 0.87690353
```

- JSON is the preferred data serialization format on the web.
 - Compared to XML (eXtensible Markup Language), JSON is more lightweight and easier to read and write.
 - JSON documents may be validated with a JSON Schema (less often used than XML schema)
- Objects are structured data enclosed in { }
- The data of objects is represented as keyvalue pairs, where the key is a string.
- Values may be strings, numbers, true, false, or null.
- Objects also count as values, such that they may be nested.
- Arrays are another type of value, enclosing sequences of values in []
 - Array values are typically homogeneous, although not strictly required by JSON.



Verb Path

Name	Purpose
GET	Request a representation of the resource specified by the URL.
POST	Submit an entity to the specified resource. (Often: create a new resource under the specified resource and return the address of the created resource.)
PUT	Replace representation of the specified resource with request body.
DELETE	Permanently delete the specified resource.
CONNECT	Establish a communication tunnel to the server owning the target resource.
TRACE	Perform a message loop-back test along the path to the target resource.
OPTIONS	Communication options for specified resource (returns allowed methods).
HEAD	GET without response body (just headers)
PATCH	Apply partial modifications to the resource. (partial PUT)

Example CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete)

Request Body

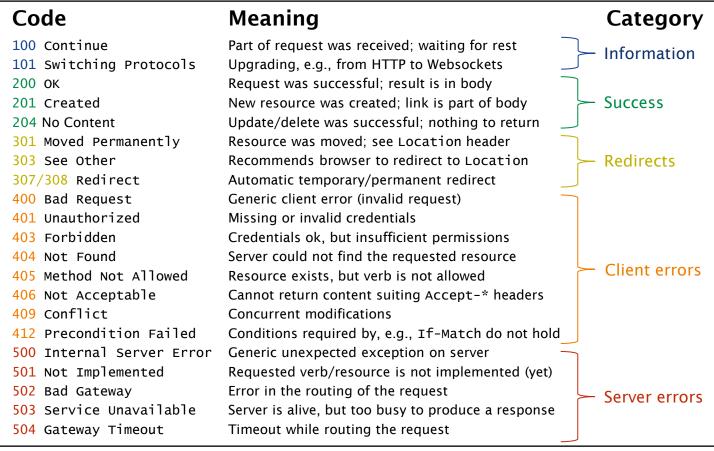
POST	/students/	{"name":	"Alice"	} >	{"id": 1.	"name":	"Alice"}
	/students/1	-	_		{"id": 1,		=
PUT	/students/1	{"name":	"Ada"}	\rightarrow	{"id": 1,	"name":	"Ada"}
DELETE	/students/1			\rightarrow			

Response Body

20.03.2025

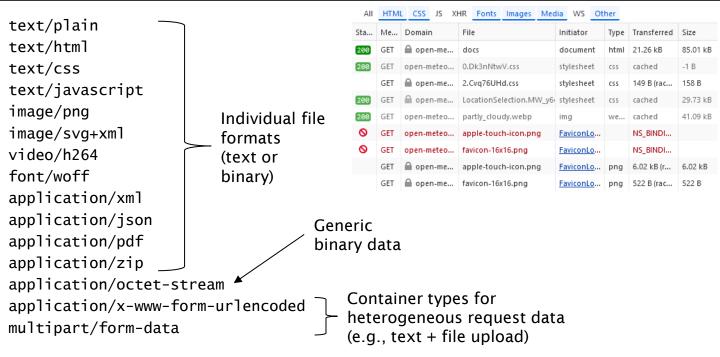








Examples of content types

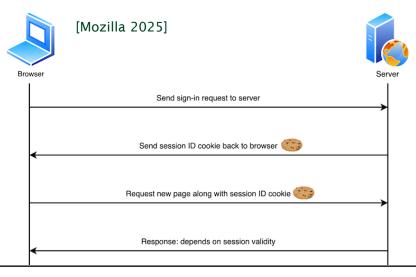


Full list see https://www.iana.org/assignments/media-types/media-types.xhtml

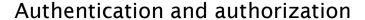


HTTP is stateless, but not strictly sessionless.

- Cookies store session data relevant for long-running applications.
- Mechanism: Client (=browser) stores a cookies string for every host.
 - Client sends current cookies with every request in Cookies header.
 - Server may modify the current cookie string and set it back in Set-Cookies header.
- · Cookies should be kept minimal.
 - Often used for session ID or short-lived credentials (→)





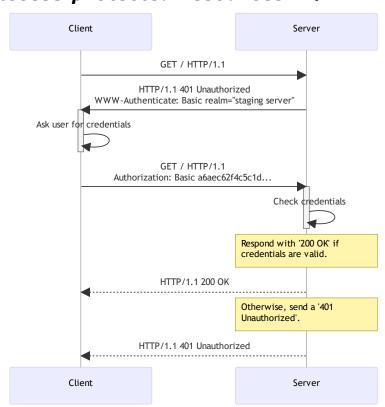




HTTP requests may try to access protected resources.

[Mozilla 2025]

- Authentication: User must log-in with valid *credentials* (e.g., username and password)
- Authorization: Depending on roles and permissions, different authenticated users may or may not have access to different resources.
- Based on an Authorization request header, the server may decide about both authentication and authorization.
- Different authentication schemes exist. The simplest (and least secure) one is Basic.
 - Base64-encoded <username>:<password>
 - E.g., hello:world → Basic aGVsbG86d29ybGQ=

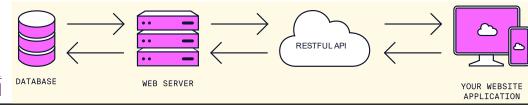




REST is an architectural style for creating web services.

Defined as a set of *constraints* over HTTP: [Fielding 2000]

- **Stateless**: The server shouldn't hold any information about the client state. (e.g., which view is currently active)
- Client-server independence: Client and server should act independently. Server should not send any information without request from client.
- Cacheable: Resources should be cacheable to improve performance.
- Uniform interface: Same requests from different clients (e.g., browsers, mobile apps)
- Layered system: Components can be added or modified without affecting the service.
- Code on demand (optional): Server may send executable code if needed (e.g., JavaScript).
- → REST describes how HTTP should be used. REST was a reaction to inefficient usage of HTTP for web services (e.g., verbs were not used in a semantically correct way, causing hidden dependencies, caching and scalability problems).
- → Popular variant of REST architectural style: RESTful API

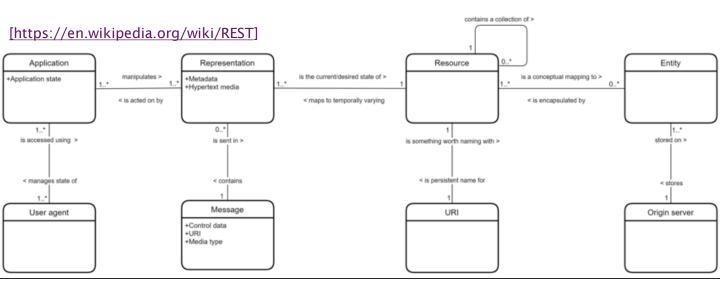


[https://www.codecademy. com/article/what-is-rest]



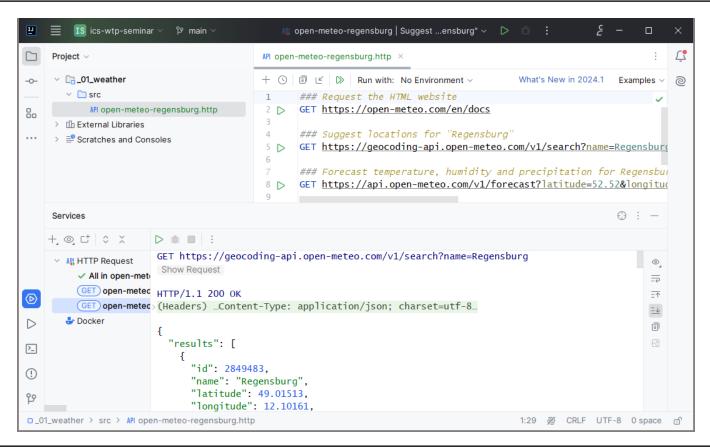
REST: Representations, Resources, and entities

- Resource <u>Identification</u>: Resources should be identified by unique identifiers, e.g., URLs. REST resources should expose easily understood directory-structure-like URLs.
- Manipulation through <u>representation</u>: When making a request to a resource, the server should respond with a representation of the resource. (Typically, JSON or XML)
- **Self-descriptive** <u>messages</u>: Messages should contain enough information such that the server knowns how to process them. (e.g., using content headers)
- Hypermedia as the Engine of Application State (HATEOAS, optional): Responses should contain links to other areas of the services.





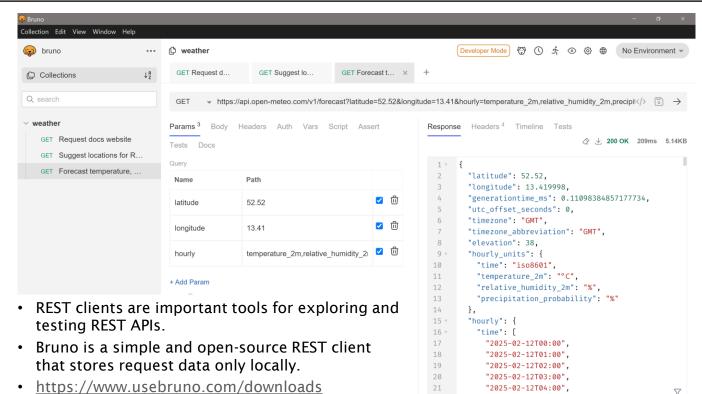
Managing HTTP requests with IntelliJ



\$ 24







Postman, Insomnia

Alternatives (store data in a public cloud):

"2025-02-12T05:00",

7



APIs should be documented

API Documentation

The API endpoint /v1/forecast accepts a geographical coordinate, a list of weather variables and responds with a JSON hourly weather forecast for 7 days.

Time always starts at 0:00 today and contains 168 hours. If &forecast_days=16 is set, up to 16 days of forecast can be returned. All URL parameters are listed below:

Parameter	Format	Required Default	Description	
latitude, longitude	Floating point	Yes	Geographical WGS84 coordinates of the location. Multiple coordinates can be comma separated. E.g. &latitude=52.52,48.85&longitude=13.41,2.35. To return data for multiple locations the JSON output changes to a list of structures. CSV and XLSX formats add a column location id.	
daily	String array	No	A list of daily weather variable aggregations which should be returned. Values can be comma separated, or multiple &daily= parameter in the URL can be used. If daily weather variables are specified, parameter timezone is required.	

Daily Parameter Definition

Aggregations are a simple 24 hour aggregation from hourly values. The parameter &daily= accepts the following values:

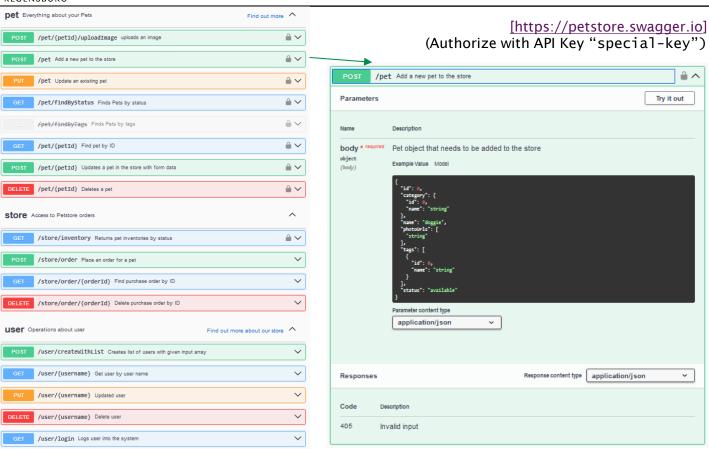
Variable	Unit	Description
temperature_2m_max temperature_2m_min	°C (°F)	Maximum and minimum daily air temperature at 2 meters above ground
apparent_temperature_max apparent_temperature_min	°C (°F)	Maximum and minimum daily apparent temperature
precipitation_sum	mm	Sum of daily precipitation (including rain, showers and snowfall)
rain_sum	mm	Sum of daily rain

docs]

[https://openmeteo.com/en/



API documentation with Swagger







```
"host": "petstore.swagger.io",
"basePath": "/v2",
                                      Metadata
"schemes": [ "https", "http" ],
"paths": {
  "summary": "Add a new pet to the store",
      "operationId": "addPet".
      "consumes": [ "application/json", "application/xml" ],
      "produces": [ "application/json", "application/xml" ],
      "parameters": [{
          "in": "body".
          "name": "body",
          "description": "Pet object added to the store",
          "required": true.
          "schema": { "$ref": "#/definitions/Pet" }
      }].
      "responses": {"405":{ "description":"Invalid input"}}
  }}
"definitions": {
  "Pet": {
    "type": "object".
    "required":["name", "photoUrls"],
    "properties": {
      "id": {"type":"integer", "format":"int64"},
      "category": {"$ref":"#/definitions/Category"}.
      "name": {"type":"string", "example": "doggie"},
      "photoUrls": {"type":"array","items":{"type":"string"}},
      "tags": {"type":"array", "$ref":"#/definitions/Tag"}
```

OpenAPI is the standard for documenting REST APIs.

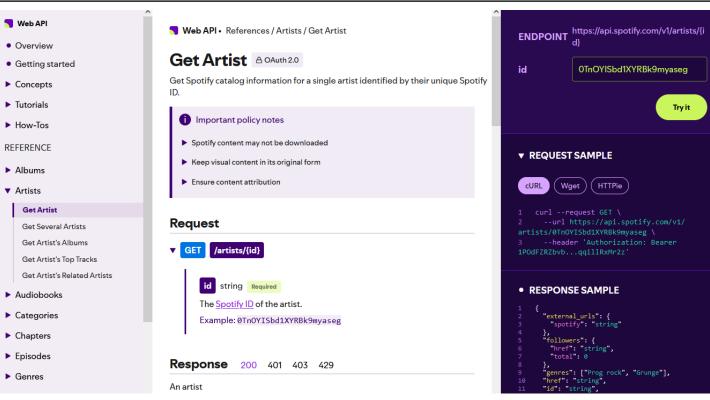
- Basis: JSON-based API definition
- Swagger interprets this definition for rendering the UI.

Paths (with verbs, content types, possible responses

Schema definition (for representations used in request/response bodies above)



A real-world interactive API documentation

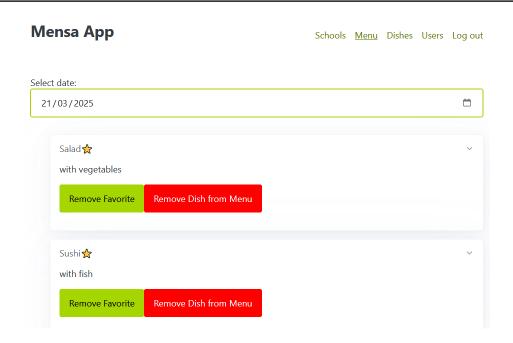


[https://developer.spotify.com/documentation/web-api/reference/get-an-artist]

5 29



The Mensa example app



- → Chapter 02: Backend development (Spring Boot)
- → Chapter 06: Frontend development (React)



Live task: Explore the Mensa example app

OTH-LAN connection required (e.g., via VPN)!

- Frontend (based on React): http://im-vm-123.hs-regensburg.de
- Swagger API documentation: http://im-vm-123.hs-regensburg.de:8080/swagger-ui/index.html

Task: Explore the app! Which REST calls are made for UI actions? Check browser console.

- Create an admin and a school.
 - Select the school and create some dishes.
- · Create a manager and create more dishes.
 - Create menus for the next few days in your school.
 - Add some dishes as favorites.
- Create a normal user.
 - Add some dishes as favorites and write some comments for existing menus.
- · Re-login as admin.
 - Delete a comment.
 - Delete a dish
 - Delete a user
 - · Delete a school.





- [Hinkula 2022] Juha Hinkula: Full Stack Development with Spring Boot 3 and React, Packt, 2022
- [Fielding 2000] Roy Fielding: Architectural Styles and the Design of Network-based Software Architectures, Dissertation, University of California, Irvine, 2000
- [Mozilla 2025] Mozilla Developer Network (MDN): HTTP web docs, https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP
- [IETF 2025] Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF): HTTP Semantics (RFC 9110), https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9110.html