Some websites are about more than just serving pages

e.g. accept user feedback submission, newsletter signups, ...

What Is An API?

Application Programming Interface

REST API = Representational State Transfer *(a specific form / structure for web APIs)*

URL / Path	Http Method	Action
my-domain.com/some-path	POST, GET, …	Server-side code executes – possibly different code for different Http methods

Data is typically transferred in JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) format

{ "some-field": "some-value" }

Client
(Browser, Mobile App, Shell, …)

Request with Data

Response with Data

Server
(REST API)

What are API Routes?

URLs that **don't return pages** (HTML) but instead **provide a (REST) API**

/api/feedback	POST	Send request to store feedback
/api/feedback	GET	Send request to get feedback
/api/feedback/f1	GET	Send request to get feedback by id

Requests are typically not sent by entering URL in browser but via JavaScript code (Ajax)

API Routes & CORS

CORS = Cross-Origin Resource Sharing

A security concept (kind of) that control who's able to send requests to an API

Don't rely on it, it's only enforced by browsers!

my-page.com/api/my-route

POST

Request sent from page on my-page.com → Allowed

Request sent from page on other-page.com → Denied