More on HTTP, and APIs

sebinbenjamin

What we'll do learn today

- Recap

- Using Postman

- APIs

    - API Endpoints

- Request Object

    - Parameters

- Nodemon

What are APIs?

An application programming interface (API) is a computing interface which defines **_interactions_** between multiple software intermediaries.

API use cases include:

- Integrate with third party APIs
- Build APIs for _internal_ use
- Build APIs and expose APIs for _external_ use

APIs adds value to your business for customers and employees alike
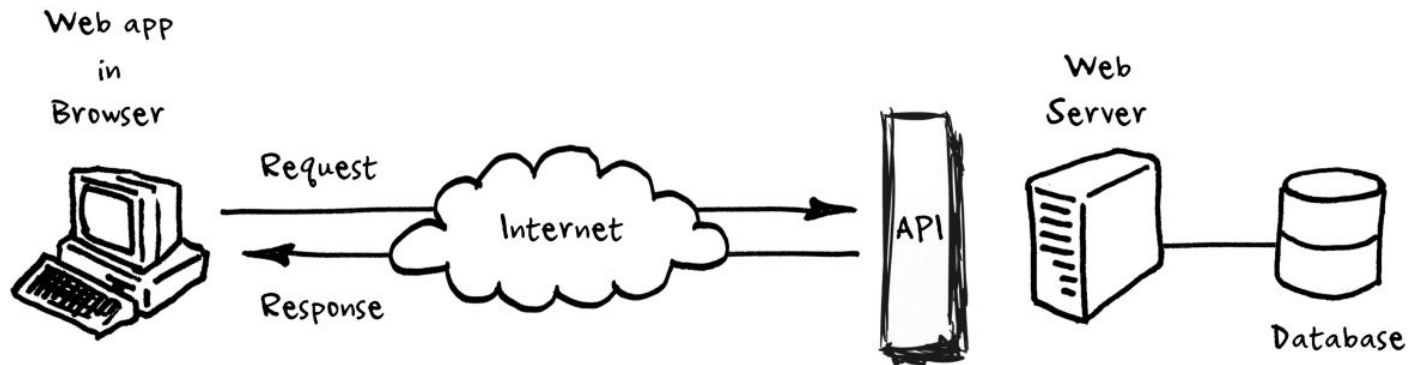
Refer - _What is an API? In English, please._

What are APIs?

API Endpoints

- An endpoint is one end of a communication channel.

- When an API interacts with another system, the **touchpoints** of this
  communication are considered endpoints
    - An endpoint is a ***URL pattern*** used to communicate with an API.

/this-is-an-endpoint	https://example.com/this-is-an-endpoint
/another/endpoint	https://example.com/another/endpoint
/some/other/endpoint	https://example.com/some/other/endpoint
/login	https://example.com/login
/accounts	https://example.com/accounts
/cart/items	https://example.com/cart/items

Endpoint can be different for different HTTP methods

API endoint parameters

If you have path parameters in your endpoint, represent them through curly braces.

Path parameters - parts of the endpoint itself and are not optional. Curly braces for path parameters are a documentation convention.

```
/campaigns/{campaign_id}/actions/send
/rewards
/rewards/{rewardId}
/users/{userId}/rewards
/users/{userId}/rewards/{rewardId}
```

Nodemon

- Nodemon is a utility that will monitor for any changes in your source and automatically restart your node server.

- Use nodemon instead of node to run your code.

- To install, run

        npm install -g nodemon

- To start

        nodemon myNodeProgram.js

Thank you