Discussion 5.1 Organizing Data

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4/10/23

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There are many ways to organize data. Often its very simple such as just renaming certain properties or groups of data, grouping data, HTML status codes or organizing your API goals.

The first way of organizing data is by naming or grouping types of data appropriately. Usually when creating a data model, you want to have your most important properties at the top and less important ones down at the bottom. But you also need to think about which data can be grouped together. The book has a good example of this with their bank account. Where they put the type of account at the top, what their balance is, and lower to the bottom they also had information about overdraftprotection, which had grouped properties of Boolean value if they have overdraftprotection and what the limit is.

Another way of organizing your API is with HTML status codes. According to the book The Design of Web APIs “a well-organized API provides well-organized feedback.” Feedbacking meaning if something isn’t working correctly it may provide an HTML status code to figure out what’s going on.

A third option for a well-organized web API is by organizing the API goals. Organization my include putting specific goals into a specific category rather than just a list. For example, with our reading it discusses sorting the groups by adding tags. For example, from the book with the bank account, separating the HTTP methods by the associated group of tasks such as account or transfer but to also organize the HTTP methods so that GET is together, POST, or DELETE is with their same HTTP Methods, even though the book says this is only a “virtual organizing” (Lauret, 2019)

References:

Lauret, A. (2019b). *The Design of Web APIs*. Manning.