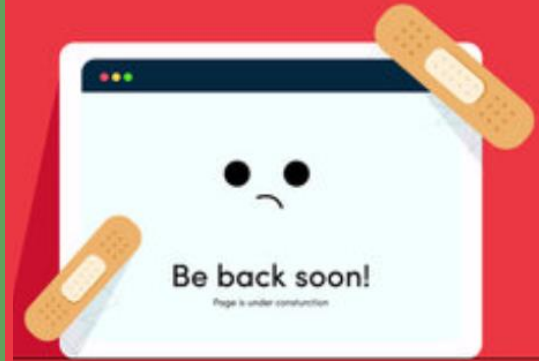


404 vs non-404 when resource not found in RESTful API

... returning a **non-404**
status code when a
resource is **not found** is a
better choice because...



404
Not Found



@bmohammadi

404 vs non-404

Returning a **non-404** status code with a message in the response body indicating "**resource not found**" instead of using a proper **404** status code can have both advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages

You can **differentiate** between an **incorrect API path** and a correct path where the **resource is not found**.

Advantages

Returning a **404** for a '**resource not found**' situation can **trigger** unnecessary **alerts** on monitoring tools, which are **not necessary** and **not** indicative of an **error or incident**.

Disadvantages

In the context of **RESTful** APIs, using the **correct** HTTP status codes is considered a **best practice** for conveying the outcome of an API request. **Clients** typically **rely** on the **status code** to understand the result of their actions.

**Please provide
additional pros and
cons in the
comments.**

Behnam Mohammadi

behnam92@gmail.com