

APIs for the rest of us

A beginner's guide to working with REST APIs



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This week's post is a long one – it's about REST APIs (the ones that power almost every single app that we use), and how to work with them. You can read it on the Technically site:



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APIS FOR THE REST OF US

October 15th, 2020

API HTTP REQUEST POSTMAN

Understanding what APIs are, let alone actually using and getting value out of them, is usually a topic reserved for engineers or otherwise technical people. But that doesn't need to be true! This guide will walk through everything you need to get started, from a technical foundation down to debugging common errors.

- [What's an API, exactly?](#)
- [Common API types: SOAP, REST, gRPC](#)
- [Basics of an API request](#)
- [Where and how to call APIs](#)
- [The advanced stuff: authentication, error handling, and such](#)
- [Where to learn more](#)

Like a database, each API has its own specifics and quirks; no guide is going to cover them all. But use this as a jumping off point, ask engineers when you have questions, and you'll be golden.

WHAT'S AN API EXACTLY?

Applications are just a bunch of functions that get things done: APIs **wrap** those functions in **easy to use interfaces** so you can work with them without being an

If you liked [SQL for the rest of us](#), then this is for you. And as always, let me know what you think by responding to this email!

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