

Justin Tromp
CS 492
04/16/2020
Assignment 3

Link: <https://trompj-assignment-3.appspot.com/>

Modify a boat: The modify a boat endpoint, which allows a user to adjust a boat's values is definitely a RESTful endpoint. There is no use of a verb in the endpoint itself. The server also does not need or use any information from the client, other than that which is sent to the endpoint; thus, it is also stateless. This meets both of the major requirements of a RESTful service. In terms of the URL, the URL pattern follows RESTful principles and is easily understandable where you are clearly modifying a boat of that ID. I would say however that a PUT would be better than PATCH. We were required to implement a PATCH request that requires all values to be sent in the body. This does not align with a typical PATCH request, but rather a PUT request, which is used to replace all values, not change a single or more values as in PATCH.

A boat arrives at a slip: The boat arriving at a slip endpoint allows a user to set a boat at a slip location. There is no verb usage in the endpoint, which means it meets the endpoint guideline in that regard for a RESTful service. The endpoint also does not require any data from the client, other than that which is passed in the request. Thus, it is stateless. I would say that this is not a great decision for a URL however. Having a URL with `"/slips/5731076903272448/5651673292734464"` is fairly confusing and doesn't follow a good URL principle for a RESTful API. This is because it is hard to determine what the URL actually means just looking at it. A better way to phrase it could be to use a format such as `"/collection_1/id_1/collection_2/id_2"`, which would show that you PUT a boat of id_2 into a slip of id_1. The other format is not entirely wrong, I just think it could be presented in a better manner that is easier to read/understand. For example: PUT `"/slips/id_1/boats/id_2"`.

A boat departs from a slip: The boat departing from a slip endpoint allows a user to remove a boat from a slip location. There is no verb usage in the endpoint, which means it meets the endpoint guideline in that regard for a RESTful service. The endpoint also does not require any data from the client, other than that which is passed in the request. Thus, it is stateless. I would say that this is not a great decision for a URL however. Having a URL with `"/slips/5731076903272448/5651673292734464"` is fairly confusing and doesn't follow a good URL principle for a RESTful API. This is because it is hard to determine what the URL actually means just looking at it. A better way to phrase it could be to use a format such as `"/collection_1/id_1/collection_2/id_2"`, which would show that you DELETE a boat of id_2 from a slip of id_1. The other format is not entirely wrong, I just think it could be presented in a better manner that is more easily readable. For example: DELETE `"/slips/id_1/boats/id_2"`.