CS 240: cURL Alternatives Transcript

[00:00:01] Now cURL is just one example of uh a family of tools that you can use to debug your, your web applications and your web API S.

[00:00:10] So cURL like we learned is a command line tool. It runs entirely in the terminal, very powerful, universally available, but uh maybe not the most convenient um to use. Um There, there are other tools that have graphical interfaces that you might prefer.

[00:00:27] And so I just want to introduce you to a couple of alternatives.

[00:00:30] So you can maybe search around for the tool that you like the best.

[00:00:35] Um one graphical application that you can use that provides cURL like capabilities is called Postman. So, you can uh it's a website you can go to. So, if I go to postman.com, you can create an account on their website. Now, I've already got an account. So, I didn't have to do that.

Start visual description. The professor demonstrates how to use Postman, a graphical application that provides cURL-like capabilities. The professor navigates to postman.com, creates an account, and introduces the concept of workspaces for organizing HTTP requests. End visual description.

[00:01:02] And then um once you have an account, you can create what are called workspaces. So, workspace is just um different kinds of http requests that that you want to, to test on an application.

[00:01:15] So I'm going to go to my personal workspace and in my personal workspace. I've got um http requests that I've used for various reasons uh in the CS 240 section.

[00:01:31] If I want to send a get request, for example, I can create um a request and you can add new requests like you can just say add request.

Start visual description. The professor demonstrates how to create a GET request in Postman. The professor specifies the request type, URL, and authorization header, then sends the request and shows the response details, including a JSON object with three games. End visual description.

[00:01:42] Um but I've already got one. So, so I'm going to remove this one and so what you can do is you can specify the kind of HTTP request you want to do, I'm going to do a get and I'm going to do a local host, 8080 slash game.

[00:02:02] So I want to get that list of games again.

[00:02:05] Now to do that, I have to specify a header.

[00:02:09] Its name is authorization so I can pass in the off token.

[00:02:12] Let's see if I still have that off token.

[00:02:15] Ah I do let's see get request to that URL. Here's the authorization token.

[00:02:23] So let's just send it and see what we get.

[00:02:26] Ok? So, you can see down here at the bottom up the top, you create the request at the bottom.

[00:02:30] You can see all the details of the response.

[00:02:33] And so down here, I can, I can see that, and the server returned adjacent object that has three games in it.

[00:02:42] And so um it's just that easy to, to make an HTTP request and, and send it.

[00:02:51] Let's see. Um Let's try to create a game.

[00:02:55] So we're going to do a post, we've already got the authorization header. The other thing we need to do is specify a body for the request and to type in the JSON data that I want to put in the request body. I'm going to just select raw.

[00:03:11] I guess I could select Jason if I wanted, but I'll go and select draw.

Start visual description. The professor demonstrates how to create a POST request in Postman. The professor specifies the request type, authorization header, and request body with JSON data, then sends the request to create a new game. End visual description.

[00:03:15] Let's see. And I'm just going to type in game name.

[00:03:24] Um And that should hopefully be enough.

[00:03:30] So now if I send it, so I was able to create a new game, so you can, you can see that it, it's pretty easy through this graphical interface to do the same things you can do with, with cURL.

[00:03:42] Now, uh another tool you can use it, it's actually the same tool.

[00:03:47] Postman also has an extension for VS code because I know a lot of people like to use VS code as their editor.

[00:03:54] And so in VS code, you can install extensions that enhance the capabilities of VS code.

[00:04:01] And so over here on the left, you can go to the extensions area, and you can search for uh different extensions that you can install. Postman is one of those extensions.

Start visual description. The professor demonstrates how to use the Postman extension in VS Code. The professor installs the extension, navigates to the

Postman icon in VS Code, and shows how to create and send HTTP requests within the editor. End visual description.

[00:04:13] So in this case, uh my search for Postman, I can select that I've already got it installed.

[00:04:19] But if, if I didn't, it would give me an install button that I could just click.

[00:04:23] And once the Postman extensions installed, then on the left-hand side here, there'll be a new icon.

[00:04:30] I'm not even sure what that icon is supposed to represent.

[00:04:33] But that's the, that's the Postman icon.

[00:04:36] And so if I click on the Postman extension, um you can see it, it essentially opens up the same thing that I saw on the Postman website.

[00:04:45] It shows the same view, and I can type in my A URL, I can type in my off token and I can get the list of games.

[00:05:06] Oops, I don't want to do that. I want to do this.

[00:05:13] Oh, I typed in the wrong section. That's the reason it didn't do the right thing.

[00:05:18] I have to put it in the header area and then send it and I get back my list of games.

[00:05:27] So that's what postman looks like in VS code if you want to want to do that.

[00:05:31] So those are just some alternatives.

[00:05:33] You can, you can Google for lots of other tools that do essentially the same kinds of things.

[00:05:37] So I just encourage you to find a tool you like and become proficient with it.

[00:05:40] And that’ll be a blessing to you as you work on the project.