# API Design Conventions

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## REST Design Conventions

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| **Topic** | **Description** |
| Resources | * Use nouns, not verbs * Coarse grained, not fine grained * Architectural style for use-case scalability * Use lower case (example: /accounts) * For resources with more than 2 words   + use lowercase for both words (example: /lineitems) or   + use kebab-case (aka spinal-case) (example: /line-items) |
| Resource types | * Collection resource   + /users * Instance resource   + /users/{id}  (example: /users/123 ) |
| Behaviour | Create the resources with the right verb logic.   * GET: For obtaining data * PUT  (Idempotent): To update data (the entire instance) * POST (Not Idempotent): To store data * PATCH: To update partial data of an instance * DELETE: To delete an instance |
| Media Types | * For the request: use ‘Accept’ header * For the response: use ‘Content-Type’ |
| Base URL & Versioning | Include the “api” word and the version of the API in the base Url (e.g. domain**/api/v1**)  **(pre CROWD2 only)** If you have the same API in multiple environments, you should differentiate them in the version of the API Manager (e.g. v1-test, v1-dev ), pointing to a different implementation application (e.g. [mydomain-dev.com/api/v1](http://mydomain.com/api/v1), [mydomain-test.com/api/v1](http://mydomain-test.com/api/v1)) |
| CamelCase | Use camelCase for all the names (fields), preferably don’t use underscores. |
| Date/Time representation | * Use standard date formats: ISO8601 * Use UTC   + **2016-10-27T13:42:21+00:00    (+00:00 is the time zones hour offset)**   + **2016-10-27T13:42:21Z     (Z is place holder for local time zone)** |

## RAML Conventions

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| **Topic** | **Description** |
| Version | * Specify the RAML version:   + <https://github.com/raml-org/raml-spec/blob/master/versions/raml-10/raml-10.md/>   + <https://github.com/raml-org/raml-spec/blob/master/versions/raml-08/raml-08.md> |
| Schemas | * Use schemas in the specification to determine the format of the requests and responses. (RAML 0.8) * Separate the schemas from the base RAML file. |
| Examples | * Always include examples * Separate the examples from the base RAML file |
| DataTypes | * Use Data Types when possible (RAML 1.0) * Separate the dataTypes from the base RAML file |
| Traits | * Use traits to define common method properties such as query-parameters and responses. * Separate the traits from the base RAML file |