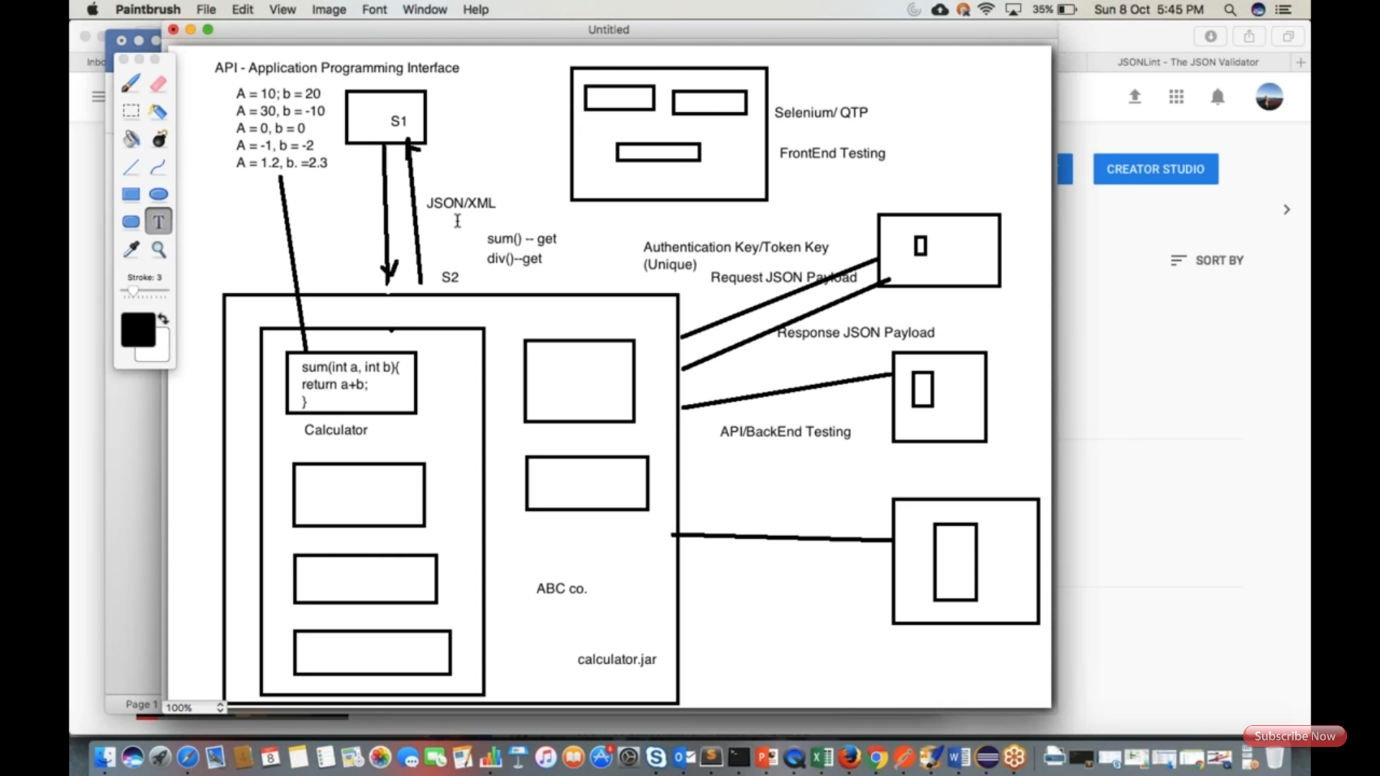
API

Application programming interface is a Java class available in the form of JRA’s.

A set of functions and procedures that allow the creation of applications which access the features or data of an operating system, application, or other service.



### Three basic types of APIs

APIs take three basic forms: local, web-like and program-like.

Local APIs are the original form, from which the name came. They offer OS or [middleware](https://searchmicroservices.techtarget.com/definition/middleware)services to application programs. Microsoft's [.NET](https://searchwindevelopment.techtarget.com/definition/NET) APIs, the [TAPI (Telephony API)](https://searchexchange.techtarget.com/definition/TAPI) for voice applications, and database access APIs are examples of the local API form.

Web APIs are designed to represent widely used resources like [HTML](https://searchmicroservices.techtarget.com/definition/HTML-Hypertext-Markup-Language) pages and are accessed using a simple [HTTP](https://searchwindevelopment.techtarget.com/definition/HTTP) protocol.  Any web [URL](https://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/URL) activates a web API.  Web APIs are often called [REST (representational state transfer)](https://searchmicroservices.techtarget.com/definition/REST-representational-state-transfer) or [RESTful](https://searchmicroservices.techtarget.com/definition/RESTful-API) because the publisher of REST interfaces doesn**'**t save any data internally between requests. As such, requests from many users can be intermingled as they would be on the internet.

Program APIs are based on [remote procedure call (RPC)](https://searchmicroservices.techtarget.com/definition/Remote-Procedure-Call-RPC) technology that makes a remote program component appear to be local to the rest of the software. [Service oriented architecture (SOA)](https://searchmicroservices.techtarget.com/definition/service-oriented-architecture-SOA) APIs, such as Microsoft**'**s WS-series of APIs, are program APIs.

https://searchmicroservices.techtarget.com/definition/application-program-interface-API