**Project Question**

by [Touqir Sajed](https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/user/view.php?id=201462&course=31986) - Tuesday, 25 October 2016, 3:52 PM

Suppose a user wants to look up someone's account by searching using his display name on other servers. What API call should we use for that?? The only API for accessing profiles is : GET http://service/author/{AUTHOR\_ID}  . I am referring to Line 249 of https://github.com/abramhindle/CMPUT404-project-socialdistribution/blob/master/example-article.json. But for that we need to know the id beforehand which we are not supposed to know as the account is hosted in another server.

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**Re: Project Question**

by [Abram Hindle](https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/user/view.php?id=1001&course=31986) - Tuesday, 25 October 2016, 11:05 PM

You can add support for that yourself, but by default, no browsing authors. You can browse public posts of authors though.

If you want to suggest an author search RESTful endpoint or POST query be my guest.

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[Picture of Brandon Williams](https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/user/view.php?id=155825&course=31986)

**Re: Project Question**

by [Brandon Williams](https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/user/view.php?id=155825&course=31986) - Wednesday, 26 October 2016, 12:02 AM

Does that mean that in order to follow an author or browse their public posts, you first need their AUTHOR\_ID? Or am I misunderstanding this reply?

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**Re: Project Question**

by [Abram Hindle](https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/user/view.php?id=1001&course=31986) - Wednesday, 26 October 2016, 12:33 AM

You'll need their authorid, yes.

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**Re: Project Question**

by [Touqir Sajed](https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/user/view.php?id=201462&course=31986) - Saturday, 29 October 2016, 9:27 AM

I was thinking of this API call:

Request : GET http://service/authorByName/?first=<FIRST\_NAME>&last=<LAST\_NAME>

for example: GET http://service/authorByName/?first=Lara&last=Smith

Response:

{  
  "id":"9de17f29c12e8f97bcbbd34cc908f1baba40658e",  
  "host":"http://127.0.0.1:5454/",  
  "displayName":"Lara",  
  "url":"http://127.0.0.1:5454/author/9de17f29c12e8f97bcbbd34cc908f1baba40658e",  
  "friends": [  
    {  
      "id":"8d919f29c12e8f97bcbbd34cc908f19ab9496989",  
      "host":"http://127.0.0.1:5454/",  
      "displayName":"Greg",  
      "url": "http://127.0.0.1:5454/author/8d919f29c12e8f97bcbbd34cc908f19ab9496989"  
    }  
  ],  
  
  # Optional attributes  
  "github\_username": "lara",  
  "first\_name": "Lara",  
  "last\_name": "Smith",  
  "email": "lara@lara.com",  
  "bio": "Hi, I'm Lara"  
  
}

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**Re: Project Question**

by [Abram Hindle](https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/user/view.php?id=1001&course=31986) - Monday, 31 October 2016, 6:02 PM

That's perfectly fine example of a customAPI call

Alternatively you can do something cheesy like elasticsearch and add an endpoint on the objects you want to search on

like

GET http://service/authors/\_search?first=Lara&last=Smith

But your command endpoint is obvious.

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**Re: Project Question**

by [Touqir Sajed](https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/user/view.php?id=201462&course=31986) - Saturday, 29 October 2016, 9:38 AM

And for any API call like posts, comments, etc, if no matched entity(post, comments, etc) are found in the server, an empty returned string should suffice right?

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**Re: Project Question**

by [Abram Hindle](https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/user/view.php?id=1001&course=31986) - Monday, 31 October 2016, 6:01 PM

You should return an empty whatever it is. Empty string is inappropriate for lacking comments.

If something like a list of things is missing, return an empty list.