

Writing Beautiful RESTful APIs

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Best Practices: REST Formats



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- JSON
- XML
- Personal opinion



JSON

Pros:

- Easily deserializes to JavaScript objects
- Good support for most browsers
- Terse formatting and easy to read

Cons:

- No formal definition
- Not as powerful as XML



XML

Pros:

- Ability to define specific grammar
- Very powerful
- Good tooling to serialize/deserialize

Cons:

- Requires tools and code to serialize or deserialize to objects
- Verbose and many features are not typically used



Personal opinion

- JSON is winning the battle due to readability and ability for clients to easily parse and consume data
- I have yet to run into a case where JSON failed me