Writing Beautiful RESTful APIs

Ethan Ballinger

Advanced Topics:
Pagination & Partials

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- What makes pagination important?

- Pagination example

- What makes partials important?

- Partial example

What makes pagination important?

- Pagination allows the user to retrieve a subset of a particular resource

- This is particularly useful when dealing with large data sets and the user may only want to display the first x number of values

- The service should include data as to how many total records there are, so that the client knows how many "pages" of data to request

Pagination example

Pagination includes the following:

- Offset - Index of the resource to begin with

- Limit (Page Size) - The number of resource records to return

A typical pagination default would be an offset of 0 and a limit of 10 to grab the first 10 records. The next request would have an offset of 10 and a limit of 10.

- /api/v1/orders?offset=0&limit=10

- /api/v1/orders?offset=10&limit=10

What makes partials important?

- A partial result is a result that only returns select parts of the response body

- This can be helpful if the user only cares about certain fields

- A user may want a list of order ids instead of viewing all of the order contents.

Partial example

```
GET /api/v1/orders
[
    {

        "id": 123,

        "type": "WEB",

        "location": "TX"

    },
    {

        "id": 456,

        "type": "IN STORE",

        "location": "TX"

    }
]
```

Partial example (cont.)

```
GET /api/v1/orders?fields=id


[
   {
      "id": 123
   },
   {
      "id": 456
   }
]
```