

Writing Beautiful RESTful APIs

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Best Practices: Error Handling



Best Practices: Error Handling

- Why is error handling important?
- Best practices
- An example



Why is error handling important?

- Often times, developers don't consider how to handle errors
- Why would we, since we all write perfect code? 😏
- However, it is important to handle expected errors and unexpected errors in a consistent way for clients to consume
- Because clients don't know how your system works, errors are critical to help them know when they've done something incorrect



Best practices

- 1) Use HTTP status codes
- 2) Provide a meaningful message
- 3) Bonus: Codify your errors and provide a link to documentation



An example

GET /api/v1/orders/123

Code: 404

```
{  
  "status": 404,  
  "message": "The requested resource [123] could not be located",  
  "code": "2001",  
  "doc", https://mysweetapi.com/api/v1/docs/errors/2001  
}
```