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Web 420: Discussion 1.1

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API Design

In the simplest terms, APIs are best described as building blocks. They simplify code that performs tasks for the users and can be easily integrated into an application multiple times. There are many benefits for developers to use APIs’. They increase speed and scalability and reduce the risks of bugs. However, integrating APIs into your application comes with a big risk. Many APIs are designed poorly. It is crucial, as a developer, to go through each API and research how they are created. Creating a good API design boils down to one thing. Perspective. It is important to make sure while creating an API that you have the perspective of the user not the provider. Having the correct perspective will lead to the API being both easy to understand and use.

Many objects that consumers use include an interface, which is where all the interactions happen. APIs are the interfaces of software. The user interacts with the API (for example, takes a picture) and the software implements the action. Making sure the API is easy to understand and use is the first step of design. No one likes an app (or physical machine) that does not do its job efficiently.

While designing an API its important to define your goals. the easiest way to define your goals is to ask 5 basic questions. Who can use the API? This can be multiple users, for example, consumer and admin. What can they do? How can they do it? What do they need in order to do it? What do they get in return? These questions can serve as a great outline for defining the goals of your API.

Resource:

Lauret, A. (2019). *The design of web APIs*. Manning Publications Co.

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