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WEB 420: Discussion 8.1

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Webhooks

Webhooks are used to send automated messages or information from one application to another. Take PayPal, with webhooks PayPal can tell your bank app when clients send you money. Webhooks are a way for all your apps to communicate with each other and notify you of any changes that occur between the apps.

In general, there are two ways applications can communicate. Polling or webhooks. Polling is manual and webhooks is more automated. The official term of the ‘messages’ that get sent are called payloads. Each payload is sent to a unique URL. A good parallel to payloads are SMS messages. If you get notifications from your banking app, you will get an SMS message when you make a new purchase. To get that text, you needed to tell the bank what phone number to text. For webhooks you need to tell the app, whether its PayPal, Amazon, or Netflix, which URL you want the notifications for the changes to be sent.

When all is said and done, webhooks are messages that are sent from one app to another, through the HTTP instead of the command line.

There are many benefits to using webhooks. They are automatic and efficient. Webhooks have great integration which is useful if you want to build an application that has events or notifications based on the processes of other apps.

Webhooks are a great way to stay on top of the communication between your apps. Webhooks are mainly used in banking, sales, programming, marketing and business development.

Resources:

*What are webhooks?* (n.d.). Zapier.com. https://zapier.com/blog/what-are-webhooks/

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*Webhooks: Definition, Usage, Benefits, When to Use, and More*. (2022, September 5). DevOps and Software Engineering Glossary Terms | Atatus. https://www.atatus.com/glossary/webhooks/#how-do-webhooks-work?

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