

71 REST API interview questions and answers to assess candidates

Questions

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- Can you explain the concept of idempotency in REST APIs?
- How would you design a RESTful API endpoint for creating a new user account?
- What's the difference between authentication and authorization in REST APIs?
- How do you handle pagination in a RESTful API?
- Can you describe the purpose of the OPTIONS HTTP method in REST?
- What are the benefits of using JSON Web Tokens (JWT) in REST APIs?
- How would you implement rate limiting in a REST API?
- Can you explain what CORS is and why it's important for REST APIs?
- What's the significance of the Accept and Content-Type headers in REST API requests?
- How would you design a RESTful API endpoint for updating a user's profile information?
- Can you describe the difference between synchronous and asynchronous API calls?
- What are some best practices for naming REST API endpoints?
- How would you handle file uploads in a RESTful API?
- Can you explain the concept of idempotency in REST APIs?
- What's the purpose of using status codes in REST API responses?
- How would you implement search functionality in a RESTful API?
- Can you describe the difference between REST and GraphQL?
- What are some common tools or libraries you've used for testing REST APIs?
- How would you handle long-running operations in a RESTful API?
- Can you explain the concept of API throttling and when it's useful?
- How would you handle caching in a REST API to improve performance?
- Can you explain the concept of hypermedia-driven REST APIs?
- How would you implement API versioning, and what are the trade-offs of different approaches?
- Explain the concept of idempotency in REST APIs and why it's important.
- How would you design a RESTful API for a social media platform's newsfeed feature?
- What are the key considerations when designing a RESTful API for mobile applications?
- How would you implement rate limiting in a REST API, and why is it important?
- Explain the concept of content negotiation in REST APIs and how it's implemented.
- How would you design a RESTful API to handle long-running operations?
- What are the best practices for error handling and communicating errors in REST APIs?
- How would you ensure backward compatibility when making changes to an existing REST API?
- Can you explain how you would implement OAuth 2.0 in a REST API and why it's used?
- What strategies do you use to document REST APIs effectively for other developers?
- How do you approach the design of a RESTful API to support multiple client types, such as web and mobile?
- Can you discuss the trade-offs between REST and other API architectural styles, like gRPC or SOAP?
- How do you handle API deprecation, and what communication strategies do you use to inform your users?
- What are some techniques you can implement to enhance the performance of a REST API?
- Can you explain how you would implement a search filter in a RESTful service?
- What is the role of API gateways in a microservices architecture, particularly for REST APIs?
- How would you manage database transactions in a RESTful API to ensure data integrity?
- Can you explain what URI templating is in the context of REST APIs?
- What is the difference between URI and URL in the context of REST APIs?
- Can you explain the concept of idempotency in REST APIs and provide an example?
- What is content negotiation in REST APIs and why is it important?
- Explain the concept of resource expansion in REST APIs.
- What is the difference between statelessness and statefulness in the context of REST APIs?
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