

# API Design Methodology

Mike Amundsen,  
CA / Layer7  
@mamund

# Introduction



Mike Amundsen  
@mamund



**LAYER 7**  
TECHNOLOGIES



ca™



Search API Academy

API Strategy

API Design

API Management

Resources

About



Register

Sign In

Window Snip

# Your Guide to API Design & Implementation Best Practices

API Academy delivers free online lessons and in-person consulting services covering essential API techniques and tools for business managers, interface designers and enterprise architects

API Academy Overview

Your Guide to API Design & Implementation Best Practices

0:00 / 1:15



### What is an API?

Get an overview of what an API is and what it does, to help you realize the business value of APIs



### API Design Basics

Understand the API architecture process and learn basic design and implementation best practices



### Web API Architectural Styles

Get a detailed overview of the main architectural styles for Web and mobile API design



### Choosing a Solution

Choose between the various solutions that offer the basic components for enterprise API Management

*Creating Evolvable Hypermedia Applications*



*Building*

# Hypermedia APIs with HTML5 & Node

O'REILLY®

*Mike Amundsen*

*Services for a Changing World*

# RESTful Web APIs



O'REILLY®

*Leonard Richardson,  
Mike Amundsen & Sam Ruby*

O'REILLY®



# Designing APIs for the Web

---

*Mike Amundsen*

**VIDEO**





« Back to Photo Page

 Sign in with Twitter

## Goals of API Design

- Be Self-Describing
- Prevent Errors
- Make Users Fast



image from <http://www.dreamstime.com/2012/04/16/164120111.jpg>



**intalex**

Posted 3 days ago

🚩 Report Abuse

meth·od·ol·o·gy

/,meTHə'däləjē/ 

*noun*

a system of methods used in a particular area of study or activity.  
"a methodology for investigating the concept of focal points"



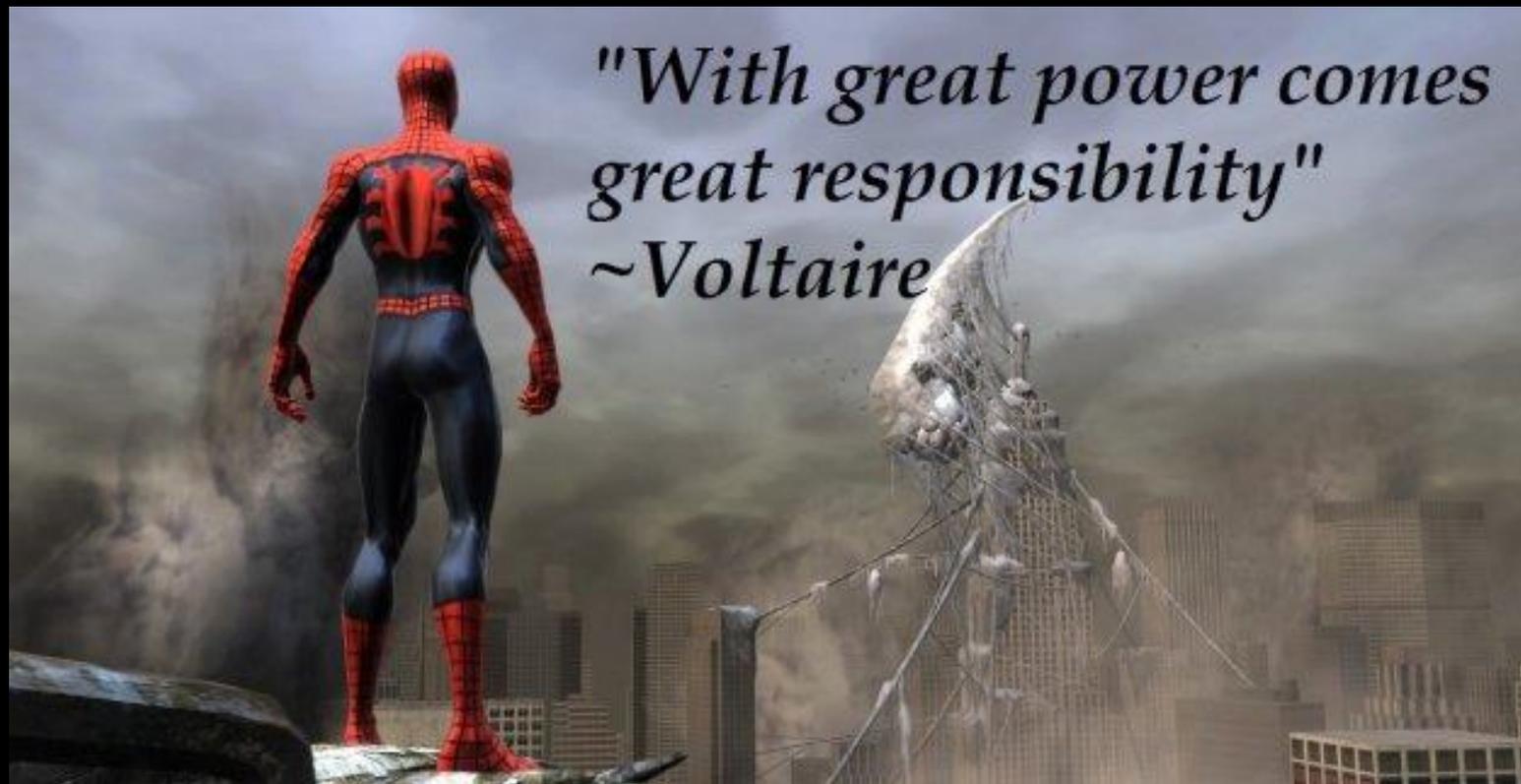
**It's so fine and yet so terrible to  
stand in front of a blank canvas.**

*Paul Cezanne*

The background of the image is a photograph of a bright blue sky filled with soft, wispy white clouds. The clouds are scattered and vary in density, creating a textured and airy appearance. The overall tone is serene and open.

**I enjoy the freedom of the blank page.**

*Irvine Welsh*



*"With great power comes  
great responsibility"  
~Voltaire*



**Actually, we have a  
methodology already...**

# Design Guidelines

- Craft [good/pretty/usable/stable] URIs

Term	Description
Authority	A URI component that identifies the party with jurisdiction over the namespace defined by the remainder of the URI.
Collection	A resource archetype used to model a server-managed <i>directory</i> of resources.
Controller	A resource archetype used to model a procedural concept.
CRUD	An acronym that stands for the four classic storage-oriented functions: create, retrieve, update, and delete.
Developer portal	A Web-based graphical user interface that helps a REST API acquire new clients.
Docroot	A resource that is the hierarchical ancestor of all other resources within a REST API's model. This resource's URI should be the advertised entry point.
Document	A resource archetype used to model a singular concept.
Forward slash separator (/)	Used within the URI path component to separate hierarchically related resources.
Opacity of URIs	An axiom, originally described by Tim Berners-Lee, that governs the visibility of a resource identifier's composition.
Parent resource	The document, collection, or store that governs a given subordinate concept by preceding it within a URI's hierarchical path.
Query	A URI component that comes after the path and before the optional fragment.
Resource archetypes	A set of four intrinsic concepts (document, collection, store, and controller) that may be used to help describe a REST API's model.
Store	A resource archetype used to model a client-managed resource repository.
URI path segment	Part of a resource identifier that represents a single node within a larger, hierarchical resource model.
URI template	A resource identifier syntax that includes variables that must be substituted before resolution.

# Design Guidelines

- Craft [good/pretty/usable/stable] URIs
- Map domain actions to HTTP methods (CRUD)

Term	Description
DELETE	HTTP request method used to remove its parent.
GET	HTTP request method used to retrieve a representation of a resource's state.
HEAD	HTTP request method used to retrieve the metadata associated with the resource's state.
OPTIONS	HTTP request method used to retrieve metadata that describes a resource's available interactions.
POST	HTTP request method used to create a new resource within a collection or execute a controller.
PUT	HTTP request method used to insert a new resource into a store or update a mutable resource.
Request-Line	RFC 2616 defines its syntax as Method SP Request-URI SP HTTP-Version CRLF
Request method	Indicates the desired action to be performed on the request message's identified resource.
Response status code	A three-digit numeric value that is communicated by a server to indicate the result of a client's request.
Status-Line	RFC 2616 defines its syntax as: HTTP-Version SP Status-Code SP Reason-Phrase CRLF
Tunneling	An abuse of HTTP that masks or misrepresents a message's intent and undermines the protocol's transparency.

# Design Guidelines

- Craft [good/pretty/usable/stable] URIs
- Map domain actions to HTTP methods (CRUD)
- Use the proper HTTP Status Codes

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
400	Bad Request	Indicates a nonspecific client error
401	Unauthorized	Sent when the client either provided invalid credentials or forgot to send them
402	Forbidden	Sent to deny access to a protected resource
404	Not Found	Sent when the client tried to interact with a URI that the REST API could not map to a resource
405	Method Not Allowed	Sent when the client tried to interact using an unsupported HTTP method
406	Not Acceptable	Sent when the client tried to request data in an unsupported media type format
409	Conflict	Indicates that the client attempted to violate resource state
412	Precondition Failed	Tells the client that one of its preconditions was not met
415	Unsupported Media Type	Sent when the client submitted data in an unsupported media type format
500	Internal Server Error	Tells the client that the API is having problems of its own

# Design Guidelines

- Craft [good/pretty/usable/stable] URIs
- Map domain actions to HTTP methods (CRUD)
- Use the proper HTTP Status Codes
- Document serialized objects as HTTP bodies

<b>Term</b>	<b>Description</b>
Field	A named slot with some associated information that is stored in its value.
Form	A structured representation that consists of the fields and links, which are defined by an associated schema.
Format	Describes a form's presentation apart from its schematic.
Link	An actionable reference to a resource.
Link formula	A boolean expression that may serve as HATEOAS calculator's input in order to determine the availability of state-sensitive hypermedia within a form.
Link relation	Describes a connection between two resources.
Schema	Describes a representational form's structure independent of its format.
State fact	A Boolean variable that communicates a condition that is relevant to some state-sensitive hypermedia.

# Design Guidelines

- Craft [good/pretty/usable/stable] URIs
- Map domain actions to HTTP methods (CRUD)
- Use the proper HTTP Status Codes
- Document serialized objects as HTTP bodies
- Use HTTP headers responsibly

<b>Code</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Content-Type	Identifies the entity body's media type
Content-Length	The size (in bytes) of the entity body
Last-Modified	The date-time of last resource representation's change
ETag	Indicates the version of the response message's entity
Cache-Control	A TTL-based caching value (in seconds)
Location	Provides the URI of a resource

# Design Guidelines

- Craft [good/pretty/usable/stable] URIs
- Map domain actions to HTTP methods (CRUD)
- Use the proper HTTP Status Codes
- Document serialized objects as HTTP bodies
- Use HTTP headers responsibly
- Describe edge cases (async, errors, authN/Z)

# Response

HTTP/1.1 202 Accepted ❶

Content-Type: application/xml; charset=UTF-8

Content-Location: http://www.example.org/images/task/1

Date: Sun, 13 Sep 2009 01:49:27 GMT

```
<status xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom">
```

```
  <state>pending</state>
```

```
  <atom:link href="http://www.example.org/images/task/1" rel="self"/>
```

```
  <message >Your request has been accepted for processing.</message>
```

```
  <ping-after>2009-09-13T01:59:27Z</ping-after> ❷
```

```
</status>
```

# Response

HTTP/1.1 409 Conflict

Content-Type: application/xml;charset=UTF-8

Content-Language: en

Date: Wed, 14 Oct 2009 10:16:54 GMT

Link: <http://www.example.org/errors/limits.html>;rel="help"

```
<error xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom">
```

```
  <message>Account limit exceeded. We cannot complete the transfer due to  
  insufficient funds in your accounts</message>
```

```
  <error-id>321-553-495</error-id>
```

```
  <account-from>urn:example:account:1234</account-from>
```

```
  <account-to>urn:example:account:5678</account-to>
```

```
  <atom:link href="http://example.org/account/1234"  
             rel="http://example.org/rels/transfer/from"/>
```

```
  <atom:link href="http://example.org/account/5678"  
             rel="http://example.org/rels/transfer/to"/>
```

```
</error>
```

# Request to obtain a request token

POST /request\_token HTTP/1.1 ❶

Host: www.example.org

Authorization: OAuth realm="http://www.example.com/photos",  
oauth\_consumer\_key=a1191fd420e0164c2f9aeac32ed35d23,  
oauth\_nonce=109843dea839120a,  
oauth\_signature=d8e19bb988110380a72f6ca33b2ba5903272fe1,  
oauth\_signature\_method=HMAC-SHA1,  
oauth\_timestamp=1258308730,  
oauth\_version=1.0 ❷

Content-Length: 0

# Response containing a request token and a secret

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded

oauth\_token=0e713d524f290676de8aff4073b1bb52e37f065c

&oauth\_token\_secret=394bc633d4c93f79aa0539fd554937760f05987c ❸

*Designing Consistent RESTful Web Service Interfaces*



# REST API

*Design Rulebook*

O'REILLY®

*Mark Massé*

*Solutions for Improving Scalability and Simplicity*



O'REILLY®

YAHOO! PRESS

*Subbu Allamaraju*

***But there's a problem here...***

**Those are not *design* guidelines..**

**They are *implementation* guidelines!**

# im·ple·men·ta·tion

/,ɪmpləmən'tāSHən/ 

*noun*

the process of putting a decision or plan into effect; execution.  
"she was responsible for the implementation of the plan"



**Ok, so what is a  
*design methodology*, then?**

# de·sign

/dēˈzīn/ 

*noun*

1. a plan or drawing produced to show the look and function or workings of a building, garment, or other object before it is built or made.  
"he has just unveiled his design for the new museum"  
*synonyms:* plan, blueprint, drawing, sketch, outline, map, plot, diagram, draft, representation, scheme, model [More](#)
2. purpose, planning, or intention that exists or is thought to exist behind an action, fact, or material object.  
"the appearance of design in the universe"  
*synonyms:* intention, aim, purpose, plan, intent, objective, object, goal, end, target; [More](#)

*Services for a Changing World*

# RESTful Web APIs



O'REILLY®

*Leonard Richardson,  
Mike Amundsen & Sam Ruby*

**Here's a simple seven-step  
procedure...**

**Here's a *simple seven-step*  
procedure...**

**Let's design a Maze game API**



# **1. List the Semantic Descriptors**

**1. List the Semantic Descriptors**  
***(the what?)***

**1. List the Semantic Descriptors**  
*(the what?)*  
**You know, the *stuff!***

# 1. List the Semantic Descriptors

- A maze
- A maze cell
- A switch
- Switch position ("up" or "down")
- The title of a maze cell
- A doorway connecting to cells
- An exit from the maze
- A list of mazes

- A list of mazes

- A maze

- A maze cell

- A title

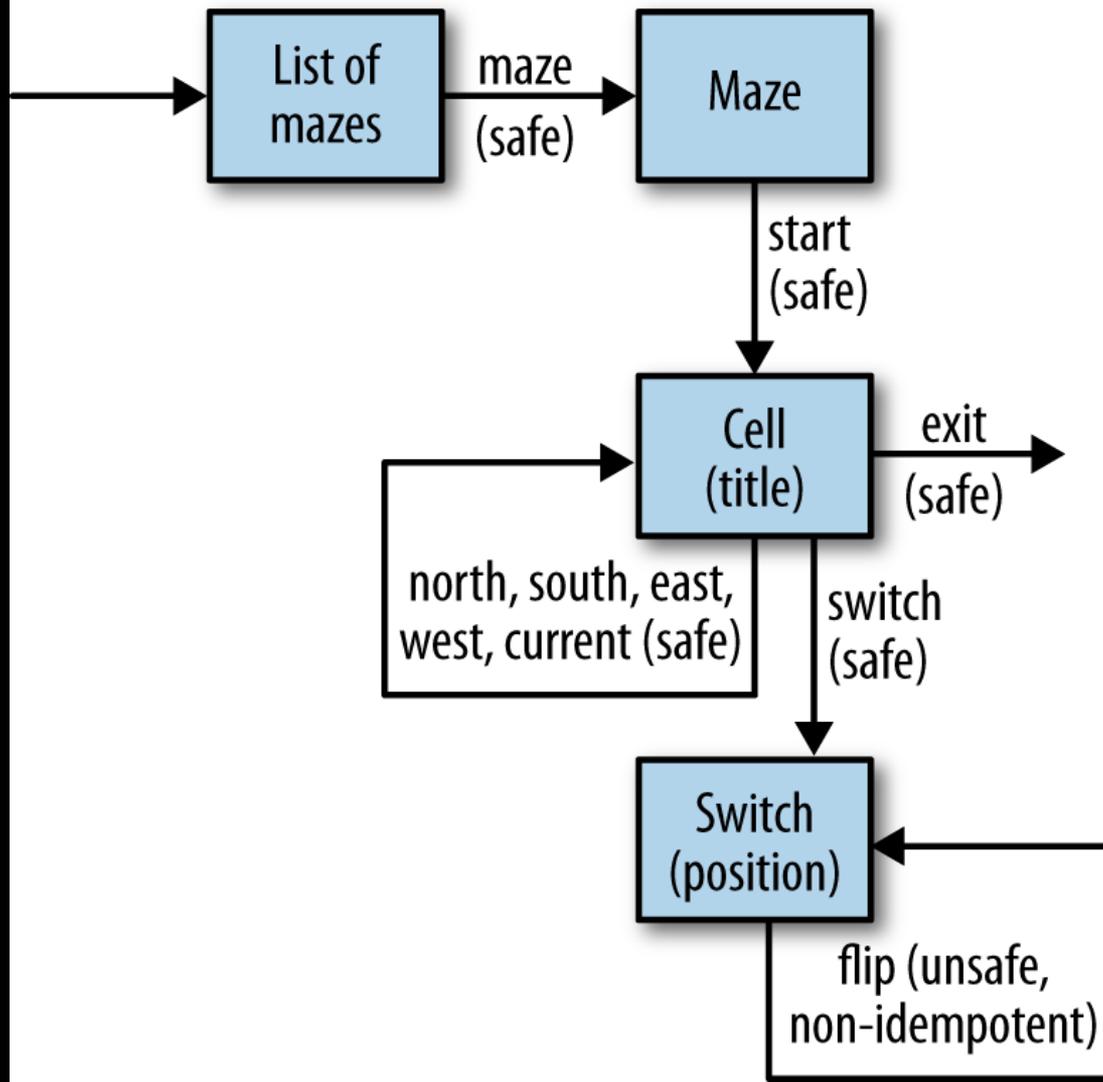
- A doorway to another cell

- An exit from the current maze

- A switch

- A position ("up" or "down")

## **2. Draw a State Diagram**



# **3. Reconcile Names**

# 3. Reconcile Names

- IANA Link Relation Values
- schema.org
- microformats
- Dublin Core
- Activity Streams

# 3. Reconcile Names

- maze
- start
- current
- exit
- north, south, east, west
- switch
- flip

# 3. Reconcile Names

- maze
- start (IANA)
- current (IANA)
- exit
- north, south, east, west
- switch
- flip

# 3. Reconcile Names

- maze
- start (IANA)
- current (IANA)
- exit (microformats)
- north, south, east, west (microformats)
- switch
- flip

# 3. Reconcile Names

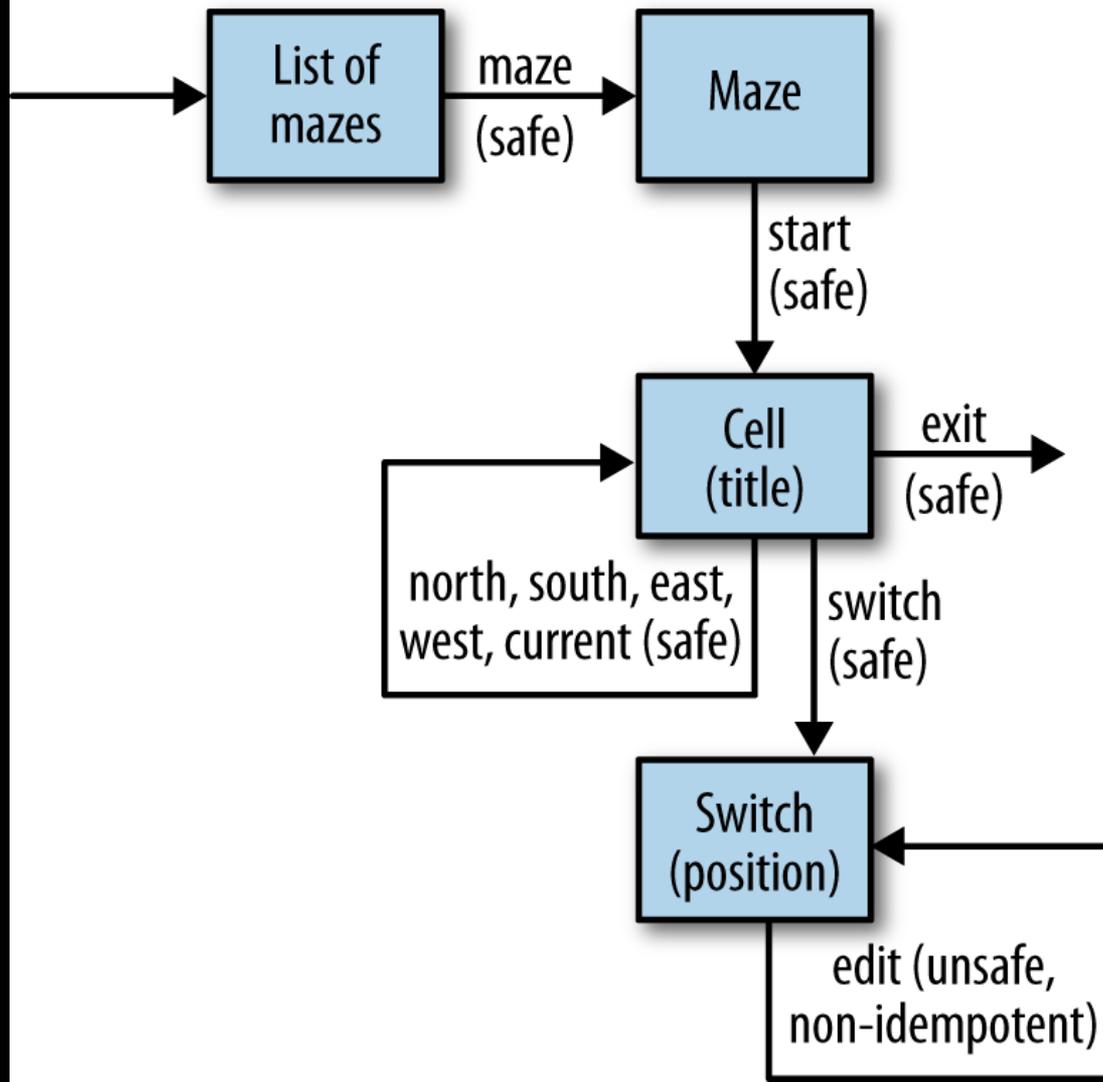
- maze
- start (IANA)
- current (IANA)
- exit (microformats)
- north, south, east, west (microformats)
- switch
- ~~flip~~ edit (IANA)

# 3. Reconcile Names

- <http://mamund.com/rels/maze> (RFC5988)
- start (IANA)
- current (IANA)
- exit (microformats)
- north, south, east, west (microformats)
- <http://mamund.com.rels/switch> (RFC5988)
- ~~flip~~ edit (IANA)

# 3. Reconcile Names

- IANA
  - edit
  - start
  - current
- microformats
  - exit
  - north, south, east, west
- RFC5988
  - <http://mamund.com/rels/switch>
  - <http://mamund.com/rels/maze>



***OK, that was the design part...***

***But I still need to implement it, right?***

## **4. Choose a Media Type**

## 4. Choose a Media Type

- Use application/json, application/xml
- Collection type: Atom, OData, Collection+JSON
- Free-form: HTML, Siren, HAL, JSON-LD
- Invent your own semantic type

## 4. Choose a Media Type

- ~~Use application/json, application/xml~~
- Collection type: Atom, OData, Collection+JSON)
- Free-form: HTML, Siren, HAL, JSON-LD)
- Invent your own semantic type

## 4. Choose a Media Type

- ~~Use application/json, application/xml~~
- Collection type: Atom, OData, Collection+JSON
- Free-form: HTML, Siren, HAL, JSON-LD
- ~~Invent your own semantic type~~

## 4. Choose a Media Type

- ~~Use application/json, application/xml~~
- Collection type: Atom, OData, Collection+JSON
- ~~Free-form: HTML, Siren, HAL, JSON-LD~~
- ~~Invent your own semantic type~~

## 4. Choose a Media Type

- ~~Use application/json, application/xml~~
- Collection type: Atom, OData, Collection+JSON
- ~~Free-form: HTML, Siren, HAL, JSON-LD~~
- ~~Invent your own semantic type~~

# Media Types

## Last Updated

2014-06-10

## Registration Procedure(s)

Expert Review for Vendor and Personal Trees.

## Expert(s)

Ned Freed, primary; Mark Baker, secondary; Bjoern Hoehrmann, secondary

## Reference

[\[RFC6838\]](#)[\[RFC4855\]](#)

## Note

Per Section 3.1 of [\[RFC6838\]](#), Standards Tree requests made through IETF documents will be reviewed and approved by the IESG, while requests made by other recognized standards organizations will be reviewed by the Designated Expert in accordance with the Specification Required policy. IANA will verify that this organization is recognized as a standards organization by the IESG.

## Note

[\[RFC2046\]](#) specifies that Media Types (formerly known as MIME types) and Media Subtypes will be assigned and listed by the IANA.

Name	Template	Reference
1d-interleaved-parityfec	<a href="#">application/1d-interleaved-parityfec</a>	[RFC6015]
3gpdash-qoe-report+xml	<a href="#">application/3gpdash-qoe-report+xml</a>	[Ozgur_Qyman][ThreeGPP]
3gpp-ims+xml	<a href="#">application/3gpp-ims+xml</a>	[John_M_Meredith]
activemessage	<a href="#">application/activemessage</a>	[Ehud_Shapiro]
activemessage	<a href="#">application/activemessage</a>	[Ehud_Shapiro]
alto-costmap+json	<a href="#">application/alto-costmap+json</a>	[RFC-ietf-alto-protocol-27]
alto-costmapfilter+json	<a href="#">application/alto-costmapfilter+json</a>	[RFC-ietf-alto-protocol-27]
alto-directory+json	<a href="#">application/alto-directory+json</a>	[RFC-ietf-alto-protocol-27]
alto-endpointprop+json	<a href="#">application/alto-endpointprop+json</a>	[RFC-ietf-alto-protocol-27]
alto-endpointpropparams+json	<a href="#">application/alto-endpointpropparams+json</a>	[RFC-ietf-alto-protocol-27]
alto-endpointcost+json	<a href="#">application/alto-endpointcost+json</a>	[RFC-ietf-alto-protocol-27]
alto-endpointcostparams+json	<a href="#">application/alto-endpointcostparams+json</a>	[RFC-ietf-alto-protocol-27]
alto-error+json	<a href="#">application/alto-error+json</a>	[RFC-ietf-alto-protocol-27]
alto-networkmapfilter+json	<a href="#">application/alto-networkmapfilter+json</a>	[RFC-ietf-alto-protocol-27]
alto-networkmap+json	<a href="#">application/alto-networkmap+json</a>	[RFC-ietf-alto-protocol-27]
andrew-inset	<a href="#">application/andrew-inset</a>	[Nathaniel_Borenstein]
applefile	<a href="#">application/applefile</a>	[Patrik_Faltstrom]
atom+xml	<a href="#">application/atom+xml</a>	[RFC4287][RFC5023]
atomcat+xml	<a href="#">application/atomcat+xml</a>	[RFC5023]
atomdeleted+xml	<a href="#">application/atomdeleted+xml</a>	[RFC6721]
atomicmail	<a href="#">application/atomicmail</a>	[Nathaniel_Borenstein]
atomsvc+xml	<a href="#">application/atomsvc+xml</a>	[RFC5023]
auth-policy+xml	<a href="#">application/auth-policy+xml</a>	[RFC4745]
bacnet-xdd+zip	<a href="#">application/bacnet-xdd+zip</a>	[ASHRAE][Dave_Robin]
batch-SMTP	<a href="#">application/batch-SMTP</a>	[RFC2442]
beep+xml	<a href="#">application/beep+xml</a>	[RFC3080]
calendar+json	<a href="#">application/calendar+json</a>	[RFC7265]
calendar+xml	<a href="#">application/calendar+xml</a>	[RFC6321]
call-completion	<a href="#">application/call-completion</a>	[RFC6910]
cals-1840	<a href="#">application/cals-1840</a>	[RFC1895]
cbor	<a href="#">application/cbor</a>	[RFC7049]
ccmp+xml	<a href="#">application/ccmp+xml</a>	[RFC6503]

## **5. Write a Profile**

Independent Submission  
Request for Comments: 6906  
Category: Informational  
ISSN: 2070-1721

E. Wilde  
EMC Corporation  
March 2013

## The 'profile' Link Relation Type

### Abstract

This specification defines the 'profile' link relation type that allows resource representations to indicate that they are following one or more profiles. A profile is defined not to alter the semantics of the resource representation itself, but to allow clients to learn about additional semantics (constraints, conventions, extensions) that are associated with the resource representation, in addition to those defined by the media type and possibly other mechanisms.

```
<alps version="1.0">
  <link href="http://amundsen.com/media-types/maze/" rel="help" />

  <!-- semantic descriptors -->
  <descriptor id="maze" type="safe" def="RFC5988"/>
  <descriptor id="switch" type="safe" def="RFC5988" />

  <descriptor id="edit" type="safe" def="http://www.iana.org/assignments/link-relations/" />
  <descriptor id="start" type="safe" def="http://www.iana.org/assignments/link-relations/" />
  <descriptor id="current" type="safe" def="http://www.iana.org/assignments/link-relations/" />

  <descriptor id="exit" type="safe" def="http://microformats.org/wiki/existing-rel-values" />
  <descriptor id="north" type="safe" def="http://microformats.org/wiki/existing-rel-values" />
  <descriptor id="south" type="safe" def="http://microformats.org/wiki/existing-rel-values" />
  <descriptor id="west" type="safe" def="http://microformats.org/wiki/existing-rel-values" />
  <descriptor id="east" type="safe" def="http://microformats.org/wiki/existing-rel-values" />
</alps>
```

# 6. Implementation

# 6. Implementation

*ta-da!*

```
public void ProcessRequest(HttpContext context)
{
    ctx = context;
    string method = ctx.Request.HttpMethod.ToLower();

    try
    {
        switch (method)
        {
            case "get":
                Get();
                break;
            case "head":
                Get(true);
                break;
            case "post":
                Post();
                break;
            case "options":
                Options();
                break;
            default:
                Options(405);
                break;
        }
    }
    catch (HttpException hex)
    {
        ctx.Response.ContentType = "text/plain";
        ctx.Response.StatusCode = hex.GetHttpCode();
        ctx.Response.StatusDescription = hex.Message;
        ctx.Response.Write(string.Format("{0} - {1}", hex.GetHttpCode(), hex.Message));
    }
    catch (Exception ex)
    {
        ctx.Response.ContentType = "text/plain";
        ctx.Response.StatusCode = 500;
        ctx.Response.StatusDescription = ex.Message;
        ctx.Response.Write(string.Format("{0} - {1}", 500, (debug==true?ex.StackTrace:ex.Message)));
    }
}
```

```
// handle CORS OPTIONS call
if(req.method==='OPTIONS') {
    var body = JSON.stringify(headers);
    showResponse(req, res, body, 200);
}

// only accept GETs
if(req.method!=='GET') {
    showError(req, res, 'Method Not Allowed', 405);
}
else {
    // route to handle requests
    switch(parts.length) {
        case 0:
            showCollection(req, res);
            break;
        case 1:
            showMaze(req, res, parts[0]);
            break;
        case 2:
            showCell(req, res, parts[0], parts[1]);
            break;
        default:
            showError(req, res, 'Not Found', 404);
            break;
    }
}
}
```

```
// check for exit link
href = findLink(links, 'exit');
if(href) {
    m.done = true;
    console.log(m.winner.replace('{m}', m.moves));
    return;
}

// check for entrance link
if(m.start===false) {
    href = findLink(links, 'start');
    if(href) {
        flag = true;
        m.start = true;
        m.facing = 'north';
        console.log(m.moves++ + ': I\'m starting the ' + room + '. My first move is:' + href)
    }
    // ok, see if we can find a maze link
    if(href===undefined) {
        href = findLink(links, 'maze');
    }
    // well, is there a collection link?
    if(href===undefined) {
        href = findLink(links, 'collection');
    }
    // ok, i give up!
    if(href===undefined) {
        console.log(m quitter);
        return;
    }
}
```

You are facing:

east



# The Game

```
12: Congratulations! you've made it out of the maze!  
11: east  
10: south  
9: south  
8: west  
7: south  
6: east  
5: east  
4: south  
3: east  
2: east  
1: start
```

You are in the: **The Exit.**

You have the following options: **maze, clear**

What would you like to do? \_\_\_\_\_

33: \*\*\* Done! <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/999:east>  
32: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/24:east>  
31: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/19:east>  
30: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/14:south>  
29: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/13:east>  
28: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/8:north>  
27: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/9:east>  
26: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/4:south>  
25: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/3:south>  
24: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/2:west>  
23: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/7:south>  
22: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/6:east>  
21: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/1:west>  
20: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/6:north>  
19: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/7:west>  
18: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/12:east>  
17: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/7:east>  
16: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/2:north>  
15: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/3:north>  
14: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/4:west>  
13: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/9:south>  
12: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/8:west>  
11: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/13:north>  
10: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/14:west>  
9: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/19:south>  
8: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/18:south>  
7: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/17:west>  
6: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/22:south>  
5: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/21:east>  
4: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/16:east>  
3: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/11:south>  
2: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/10:east>  
1: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/5:east>  
0: <http://amundsen.com/examples/mazes/2d/five-by-five/0:north>

***And now we have running code!***

***Wait, what's step seven?***

# 7. Publication

# 7. Publication

- Publish your "billboard" URL
- Publish your profile
- Register new rel values and/or media types
- Publish the documentation
- Consider "well-known" URIs

***Now, you're done!***

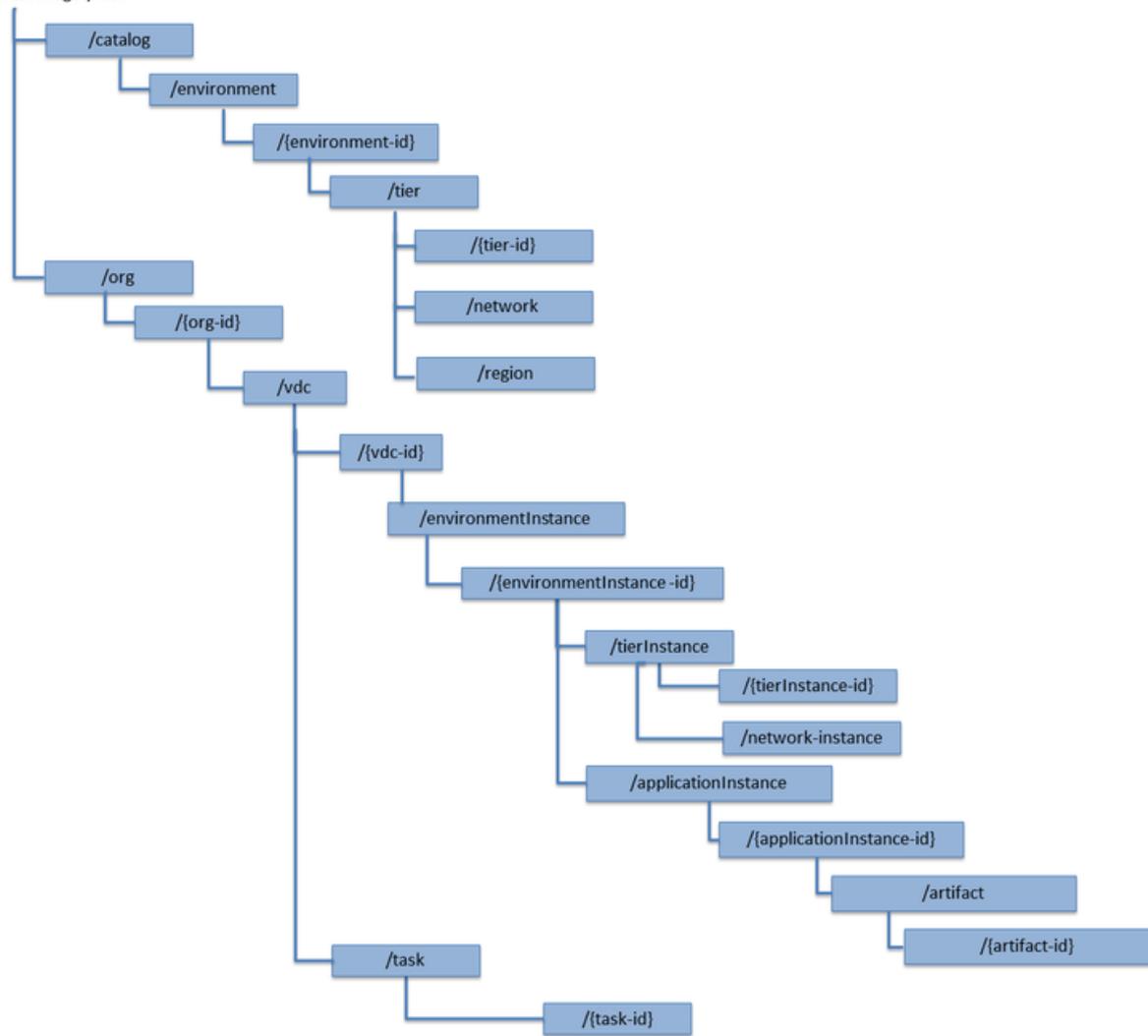
# Seven Simple Steps

1. List the Semantic Descriptors
2. Draw a State Diagram
3. Reconcile Names
4. Write a Profile
5. Select a Media Type
6. Implementation
7. Publication

# **Some Final Advice**

**Resources are an  
implementation detail**

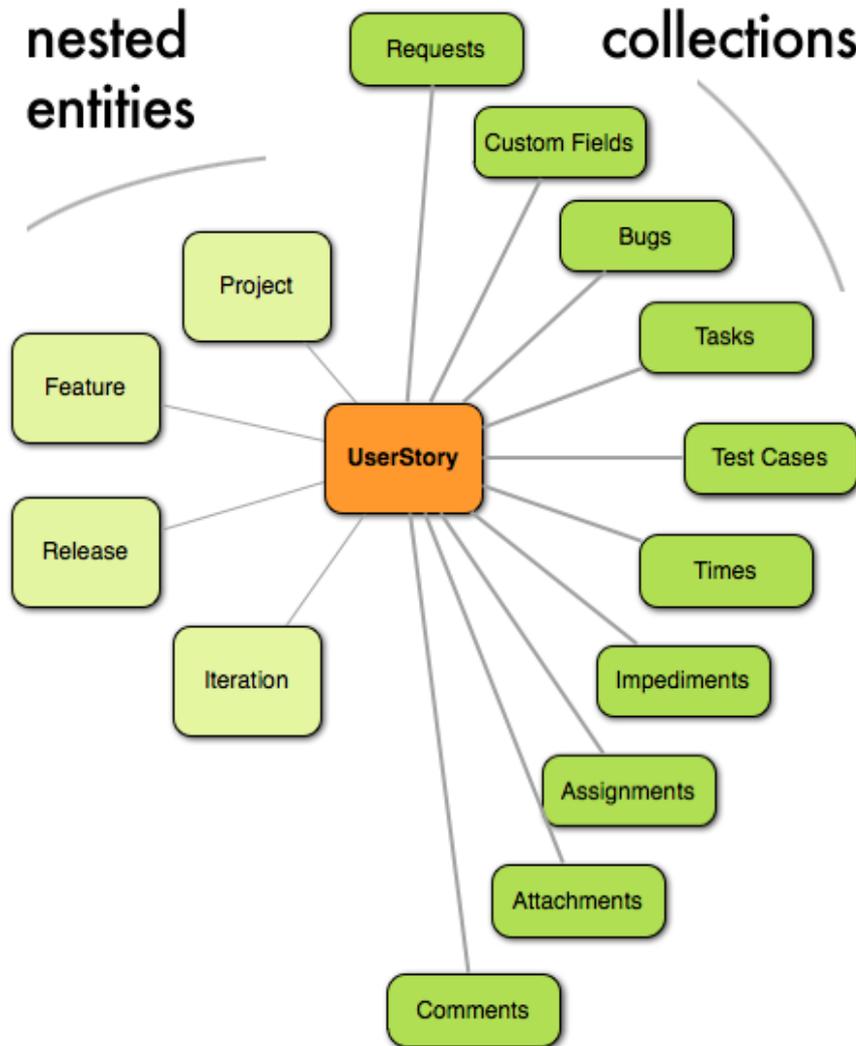
/paasmanager/rest



**Don't fall into the collection trap**

nested  
entities

collections



**Don't start with the  
representation format**

```
{ "collection" :
  {
    "version" : "1.0",
    "href" : "http://example.org/friends/",

    "links" : [
      {"rel" : "feed", "href" : "http://example.org/friends/rss"},
      {"rel" : "queries", "href" : "http://example.org/friends/?queries"},
      {"rel" : "template", "href" : "http://example.org/friends/?template"}
    ],

    "items" : [
      {
        "href" : "http://example.org/friends/jdoe",
        "data" : [
          {"name" : "full-name", "value" : "J. Doe", "prompt" : "Full Name"},
          {"name" : "email", "value" : "jdoe@example.org", "prompt" : "Email"}
        ],
        "links" : [
          {"rel" : "blog", "href" : "http://examples.org/blogs/jdoe", "prompt" : "Blog"},
          {"rel" : "avatar", "href" : "http://examples.org/images/jdoe", "prompt" : "Avatar", "render" : "image"}
        ]
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

**URL design doesn't matter**

`http://services.odata.org/OData/OData.svc`

\_\_\_\_\_ /  
|  
service root URL

`http://services.odata.org/OData/OData.svc/Category(1)/Products?$top=2&$orderby=name`

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ /  
| | |  
service root URL resource path query options

**Standard names are probably better  
than yours.**



**Don't keep all the hypermedia  
in one place**

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<definitions name="AktienKurs"
  targetNamespace="http://localhost:8080/aktienkurs"
  xmlns:xsd="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/XMLSchema"
  xmlns="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl">
  <service name="AktienKurs">
    <port name="AktienSoapPort" binding="AktienKursSoapBinding"
      <soap:address location="http://localhost:8080/aktienkurs/aktiensoap" />
    </port>
    <message name="Aktie.HoleWert">
      <part name="body" element="xsd:TradingData" />
    </message>
    ...
  </service>
</definitions>
```

**WSDL**

**Blog entry** {

*\_id*: 1

*\_rev*: 2-36d81850033da710262c21462f293703

*body*: JSON Schema (application/schema+json) has several purposes, one instance validation. The validation process may be interactive or non-interactive. For instance, applications may use JSON Schema to build a user interface enabling interactive content generation in addition to validation, or to check, or validate data retrieved from various sources. This document describes schema keywords dedicated to validation purposes.

*schema*: blog

*title*: JSON Schema

*author*: **Author** Mike

*comments*: [

**Comment** **comment** {

*author*: **Author** Mike

*id*: 2

*title*: json

}

]

*date*: Invalid Date

*tags*: [

**Tag** json

**Tag** jsonschema

# Some Final Advice

- Resources are implementation details
- Don't fall into the collection trap
- Don't start w/ the representation format
- URL design doesn't matter
- Standard names are probably better than yours
- Don't keep all the hypermedia in one place

**In Conclusion...**



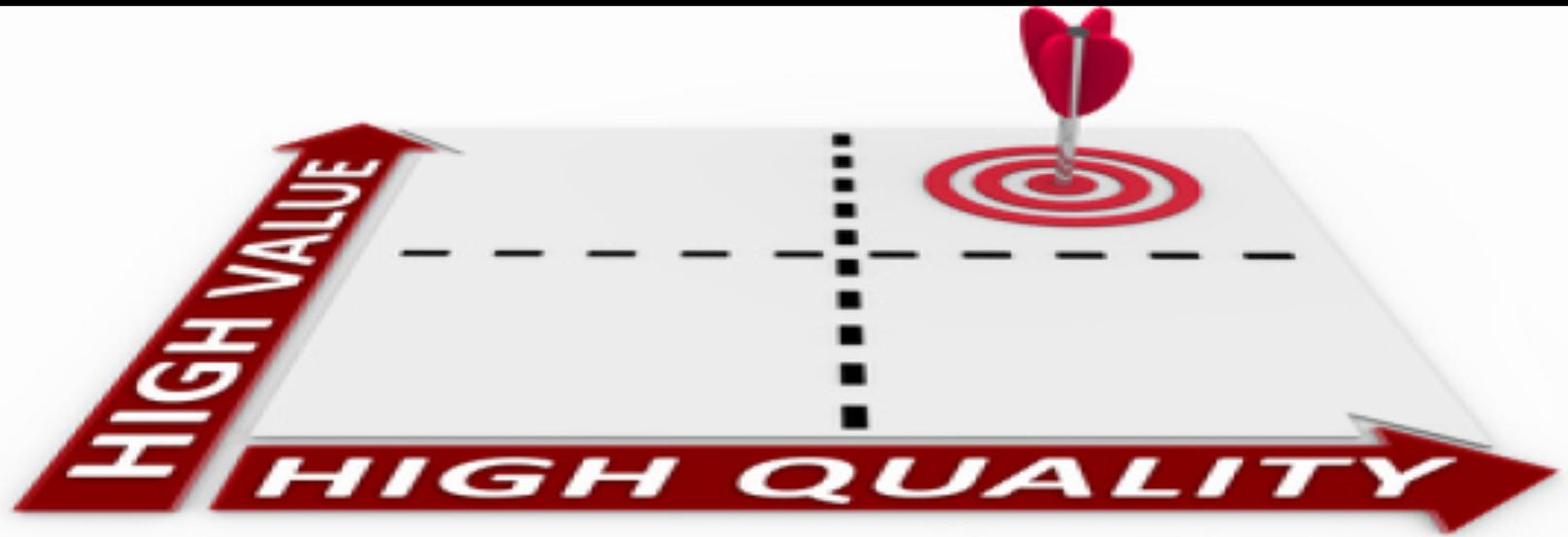
**LOST**

**CONFUSED**

**UNSURE**

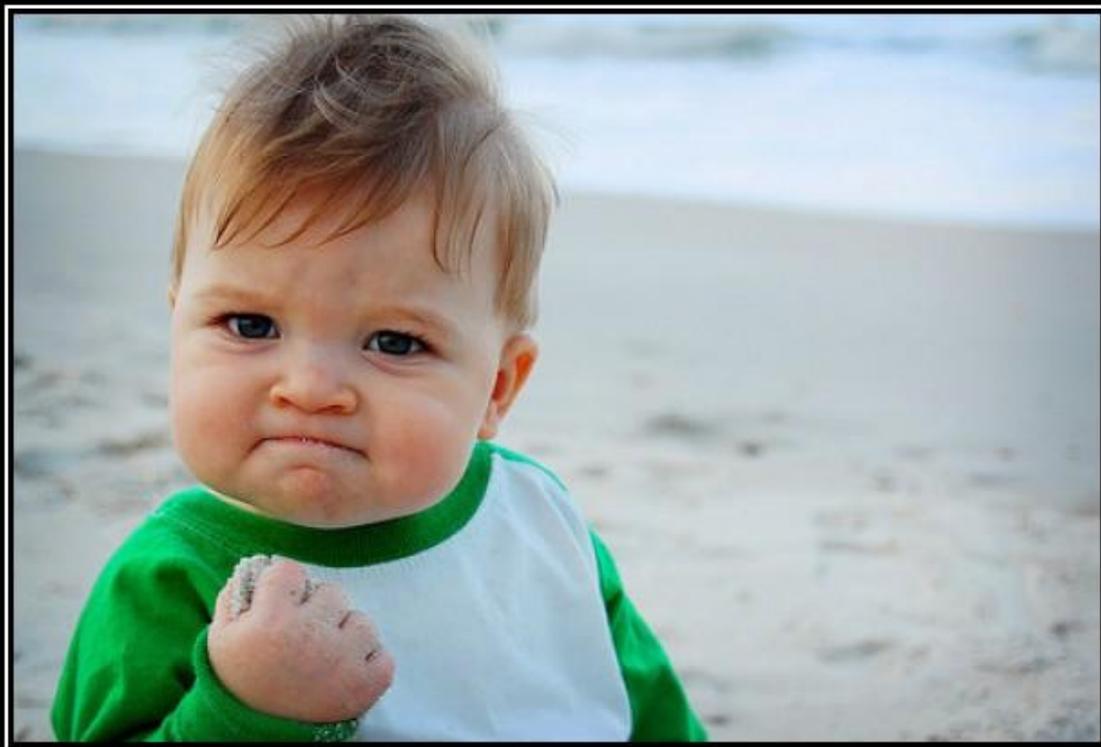
**UNCLEAR**

**PERPLEXED**









# S U C C E S S

Because you too can own this face of pure accomplishment

# In Conclusion...

- Don't confuse implementation w/ design
- Design is the hard part (high value)
- Implementation is the easy part (high speed)
- Avoid common design mistakes
- Go out and make lots of APIs!

# API Design Methodology

Mike Amundsen,  
CA / Layer7  
@mamund