

Internet Technologies

RESTful API Client

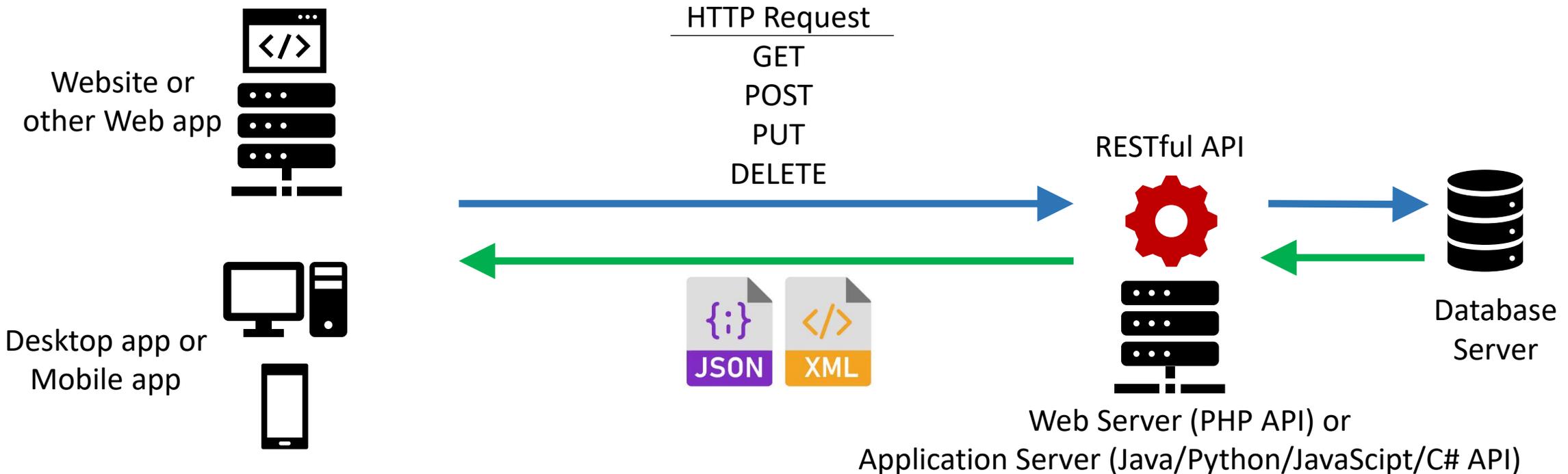


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What is RESTful API?



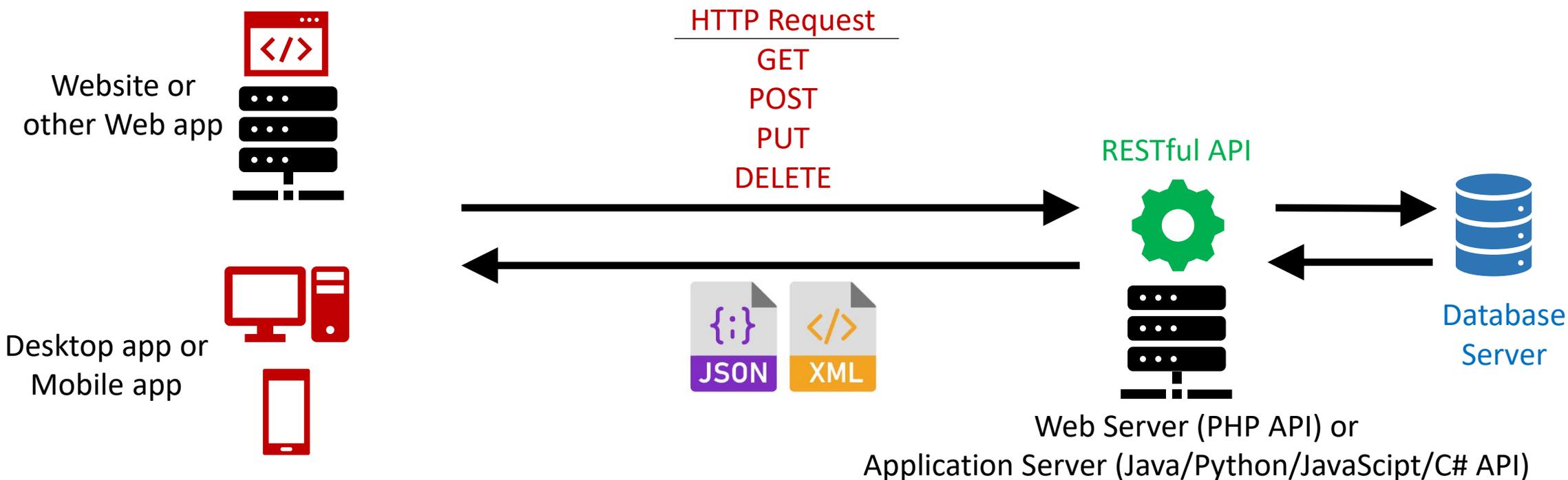
- RESTful API is an **interface between software components** (e.g. apps and databases) **communicating over the Internet** that want to exchange (**upload / download**) data





What is RESTful API?

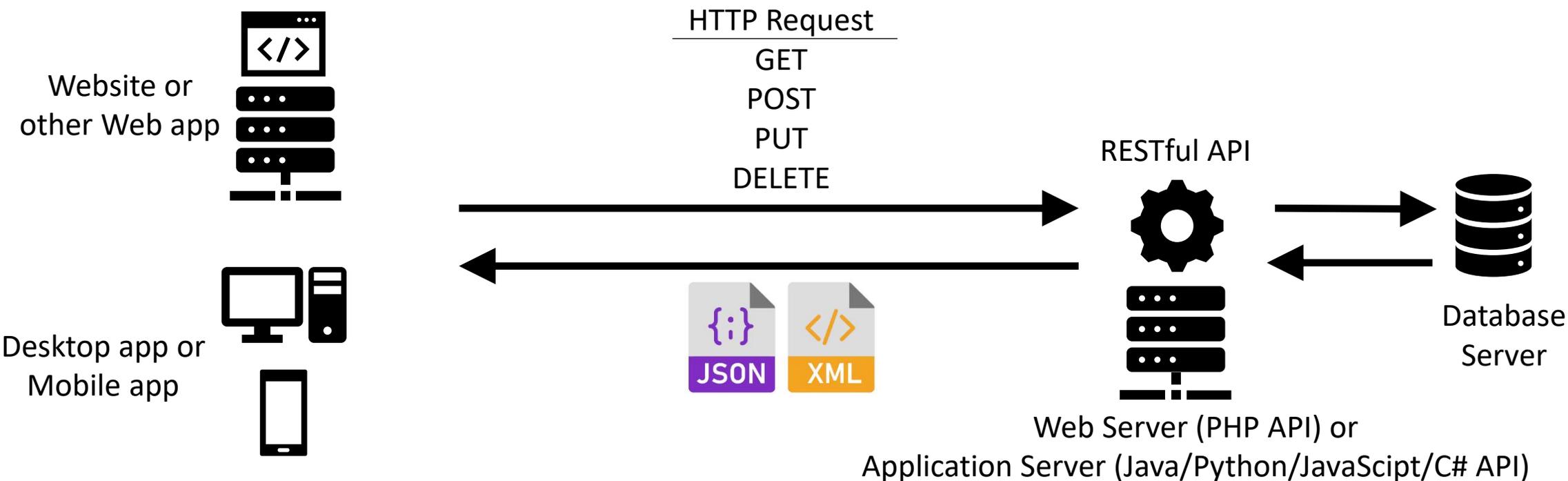
- Apps send HTTP messages (e.g. **GET** to download data, **POST** to upload data) to **RESTful API**
- **RESTful API** pushes/pulls data to/from **database** and replies to apps appropriately





What is RESTful API?

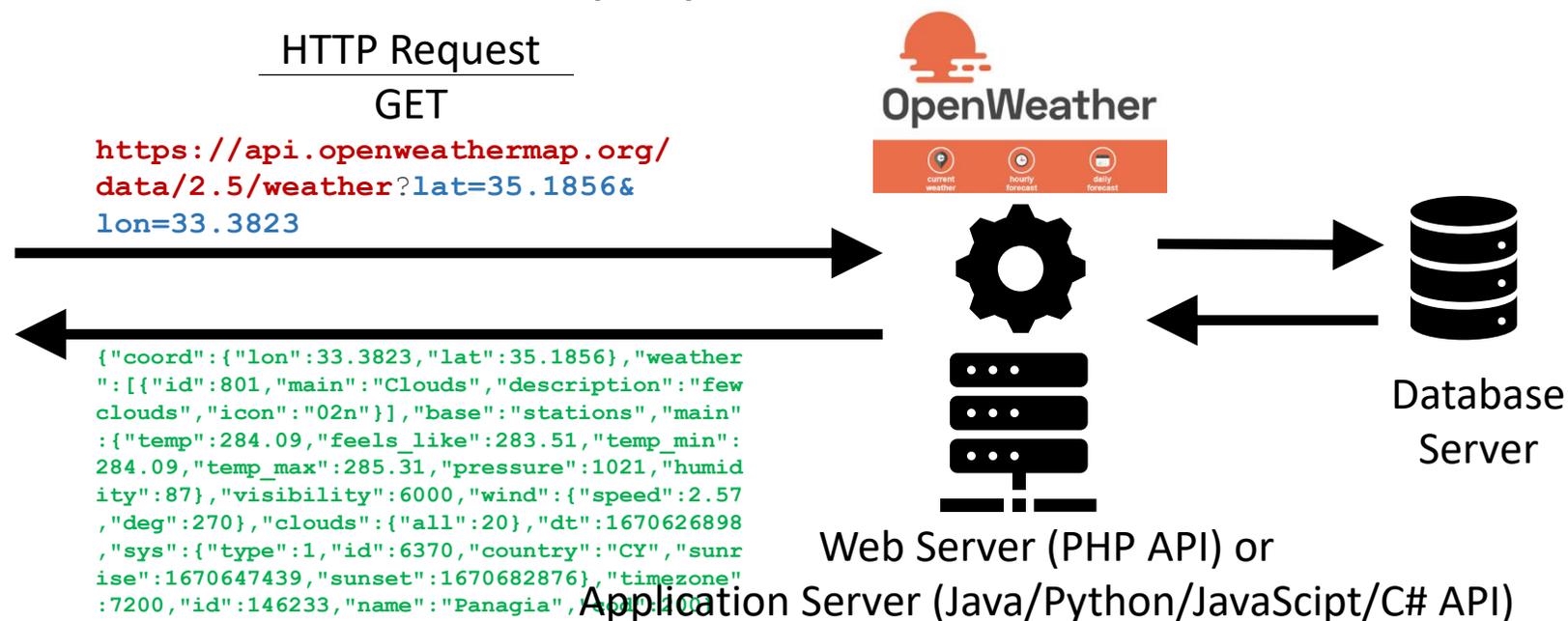
- Exchanged data is described using specific formats such as **JSON** and **XML** (JSON is more popular because it is more lightweight & easier to parse)





What is RESTful API?

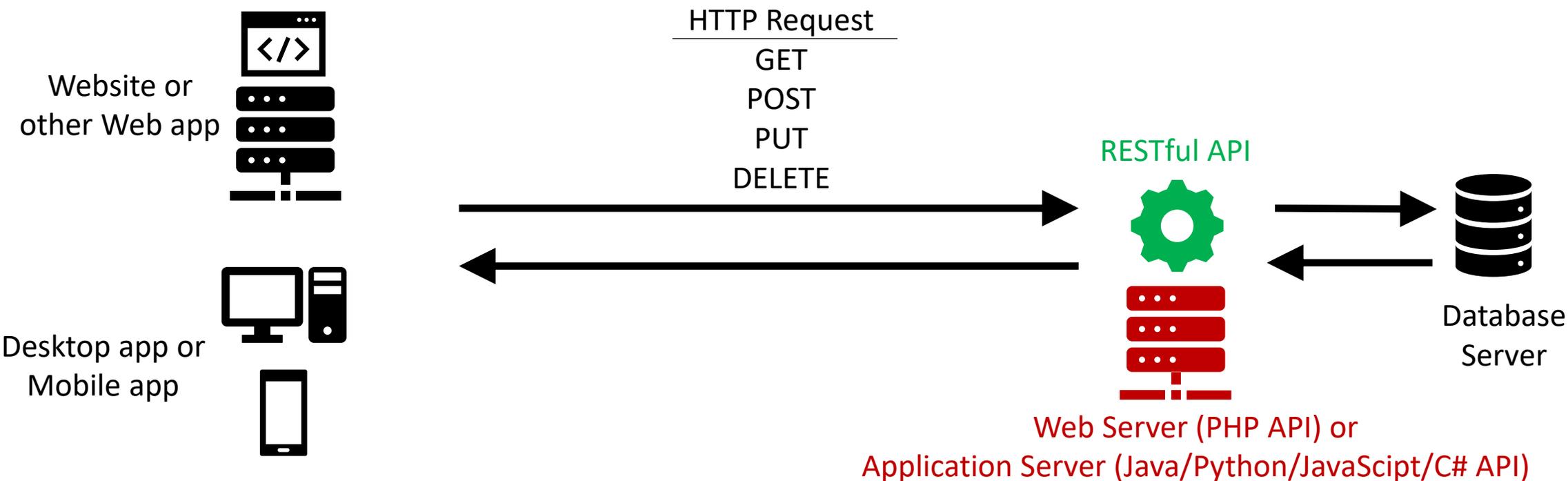
- Example: a mobile application calls a **Weather API function (endpoint)** to get the current weather conditions of a **given location**. Weather API queries the database, formats **query results as JSON** and sends it back to app
- App extracts data from JSON to display on its UI





What is RESTful API?

- **RESTful APIs** can be built with server-side programming languages such as Java, Python, JavaScript, C# (hosted on **application servers**) or PHP (hosted on **web servers**)



RESTful API Usage

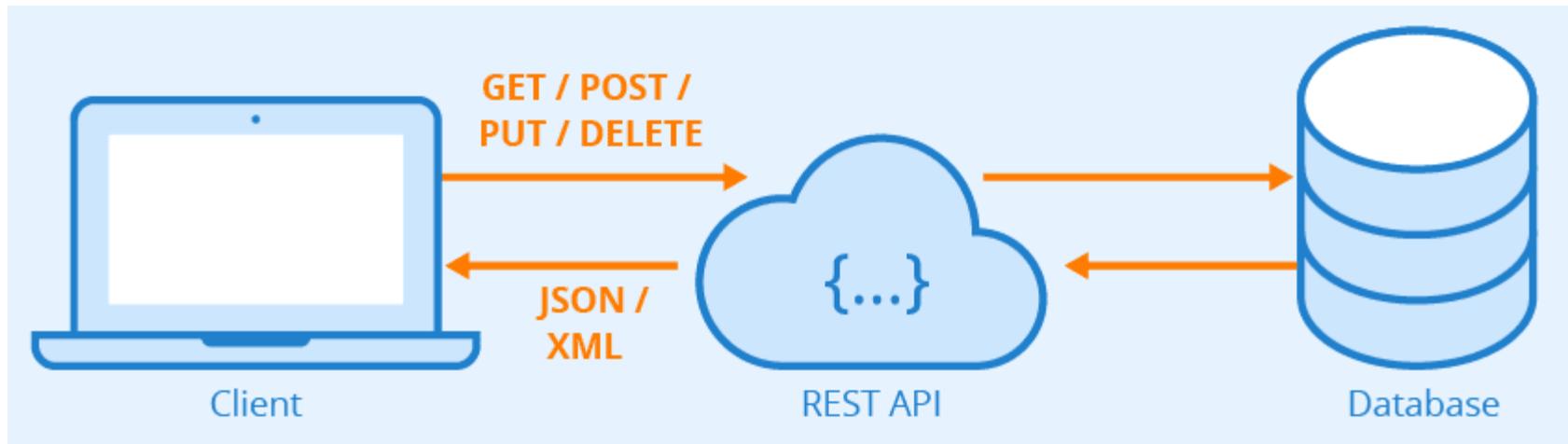


- Over the past few years, RESTful APIs have gained popularity in the market
 - For instance, each time you check the weather or book a travel ticket, one or more APIs are involved for pulling data from databases
- RESTful APIs enable businesses to open their applications' data and functionality to external third-party developers, it eventually grows business partnerships, driving more revenue.

4 Commonly Used RESTful API Methods



- Each request is sent as an **HTTP request**
 - **GET:** Receive information about an API resource
 - **POST:** Create a new API resource
 - **PUT:** Update an existing API resource
 - **DELETE:** Delete an API resource
- Requests are sent to base URL, also known as an "API Endpoint"



RESTful API Endpoint example



```
api.openweathermap.org X + v
api.openweathermap.org/data/2.5/weather?q=Nicosia,cy&units=metric&APPID=1
{"coord":{"lon":33.37,"lat":35.17},"weather":[{"id":803,"main":"Clouds","description":"broken clouds","icon":"04d"}],"base":"stations","main":{"temp":8.1,"feels_like":5.12,"temp_min":6,"temp_max":10,"pressure":1022,"humidity":70},"visibility":10000,"wind":{"speed":2.1,"deg":80},"clouds":{"all":75},"dt":1581411145,"sys":{"type":1,"id":6370,"country":"CY","sunrise":1581395865,"sunset":1581434635},"timezone":7200,"id":146268,"name":"Nicosia","cod":200}
```

- `api.openweathermap.org/data/2.5/weather?q=Nicosia,cy&units=metric&APPID=xxxx`

- **weather**: Tells the server that we are requesting the “**current weather**” resource

parameters {

- **q=Nicosia,cy&units=metric** : Query the server to return weather about Nicosia,cy location in metric system of measurement (Celsius, meters)

- **APPID=xxxx** : Tells the server the identifier of the API caller (caller authentication)

*** [OpenWeatherMap API](#) offers weather information for locations across the globe. Create account and get APIID from [here](#).

3rd-Party RESTful APIs



- Many websites expose RESTful APIs to outside developers. These are often called "3rd-party APIs" or "Developer APIs"
- Examples:
 - Spotify
 - Giphy
 - GitHub
 - Google APIs
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - etc...

Try Googling

"<product name> API"
to see if one exists for a
given company!

Open API Example: Cyprus Water



- Cyprus Water is an open [RESTful API](#) that developers can query to get data and functionality on water reservoirs in Cyprus
- Available endpoints:

Base URL: `https://cyprus-water.appspot.com`

Method	Endpoint	Usage	Returns	Required parameters
GET	<code>/api/dams</code>	Static information about the main water reservoirs	json	
GET	<code>/api/date-statistics</code>	Statistics of water reservoirs on a specific date	json	<code>date=[yyyy-MM-dd]</code>
GET	<code>/api/percentages</code>	Storage percentages of the main water reservoirs on a specific date	json	<code>date=[yyyy-MM-dd]</code>
GET	<code>/api/monthly-inflows</code>	Historical monthly inflows throughout time	json	

How to consume/build RESTful APIs?



- **Consume RESTful Web Services (RESTful API client)**

- The easiest way to start using an API is by finding a RESTful client application online, like [Postman](#), or [Paw](#) (for MAC). These ready-made (and often free) tools help you structure your HTTP requests to consume existing REST APIs
- Develop **JAVA** RESTful API client: **Jersey** (<https://eclipse-ee4j.github.io/jersey/>), **Spring Boot** (<https://spring.io/guides/gs/consuming-rest/>)

- **Serve RESTful Web Services (RESTful API server): (NEXT LABs)**

- Develop **JAVA** RESTful API server: **Jersey** (<https://eclipse-ee4j.github.io/jersey/>), **Spring Boot** (<https://spring.io/guides/gs/rest-service/>)
- Develop **JavaScript** RESTful API server: **Node.js** (<https://nodejs.org/>) and **Express** (<https://expressjs.com/>)
- Develop **Python** RESTful API server: **Flask** (<https://flask-restful.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>), **Django REST framework** (<https://www.django-rest-framework.org/>)

Java or Python for serving RESTful APIs?



- Java is recommended for enterprise-level, high-load APIs
 - Slower development time
 - Heavier resource (RAM) usage
 - Easier application packaging (.jar)
 - Significant version dependence => expensive system support
- JavaScript is recommended for fast-prototyping, medium-load APIs
 - Use the same familiar syntax for both client and server-side tasks (faster development time)
 - Lightweight resource usage, ideal for real-time data processing
 - Slower than Java
- Python is recommended for fast-prototyping, low-load, personal-use APIs
 - Faster development time
 - No compilation, faster testing
 - Minimal version dependence (given than Python 2.x is deprecated and rarely used)

Postman: RESTful API client to generate HTTP requests and receive data



- Complete toolchain for API developers
- Offers a lot of features to simplify generating web server requests
- Used by over 20 million developers worldwide to access million of APIs every month
- Available for Windows, Linux, Mac
- Can downloaded [for free from the project website](#)
 - You can install it on your Windows (host machine) as a Windows APP or as a plugin of your web browser
 - Available as a snap package in Ubuntu VM
 - Installation command: `sudo snap install postman`

The screenshot displays the Postman web interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Workspaces', and 'Explore' menus, a search bar labeled 'Search Postman', and buttons for 'Sign In' and 'Create Account'. Below the navigation bar, the 'Scratch Pad' section is active, showing 'New' and 'Import' buttons. The left sidebar contains a vertical menu with icons and labels for 'Collections', 'APIs', 'Environments', 'Mock Servers', 'Monitors', and 'History'. The main content area features a large illustration of a Postman character holding boxes, with the text 'You don't have any collections' and a subtext 'Collections let you group related requests, making them easier to access and run.' Below this is a blue 'Create Collection' button. To the right, a large grey circle contains a white icon of a pen writing on a notepad, with a button below it labeled 'Open Scratch Pad Overview'. The bottom status bar includes a 'Find and Replace' search icon, a 'Console' icon, and icons for 'Runner', 'Trash', and help.

Use Postman to send GET message to /date-statistics endpoint in Cyprus Water RESTful API



Scratch Pad

Home Workspaces Explore Search Postman Sign In Create Account

GET https://cyprus-water.a

No Environment

https://cyprus-water.appspot.com/api/date-statistics?date=2022-03-01 Save

GET https://cyprus-water.appspot.com/api/date-statistics?date=2022-03-01 Send

Params Authorization Headers (7) Body Pre-request Script Tests Settings Cookies

Query Params

	Key	Value	Description	...	Bulk Edit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	date	2022-03-01			
	Key	Value	Description		

Response

You don't have any collections
Collections let you group related requests, making them easier to access and run.
Create Collection

Either enter the parameter (date) within the URL OR in the Params window

RESTful Client Application: Postman

The screenshot shows the Postman interface with a REST client request and its response. The request is a GET request to `https://cyprus-water.appspot.com/api/date-statistics?date=2022-03-01`. The response is a 200 OK status with a body containing JSON data. A red arrow points to the 'Send' button, and a red box highlights the 'Body' tab in the response section. The response data is displayed in the 'Body' tab.

Home Workspaces ▾ Explore Search Postman Sign In Create Account

Scratch Pad New Import GET https://cyprus-water.a... No Environment

https://cyprus-water.appspot.com/api/date-statistics?date=2022-03-01 Save

GET https://cyprus-water.appspot.com/api/date-statistics?date=2022-03-01 Send

Params Authorization Headers (7) Body Pre-request Script Tests Settings Cookies

Query Params

	Key	Value	Description	...	Bulk Edit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	date	2022-03-01			
	Key	Value	Description		

Body Cookies (1) Headers (7) Test Results 200 OK 281 ms 1.34 KB Save Response ▾

Pretty Raw Preview Visualize JSON ▾

```
1
2  "timestamp": 1646132408598,
3  "date": "Mar 1, 2022 12:00:00 AM",
4  "storageInMCM": {
5    "Angaka": 0.99,
6    "Kouris": 89.174,
7    "Germasoyeia": 11.902,
8    "Arminou": 1.553,
9    "Evretou": 20.711,
10   "Pomos": 0.86,
11   "Kalopanagiotis": 0.363,
12   "Kannaviou": 15.477,
13   "Mavrokolympos": 1.128,
14   "Vyzakia": 1.69,
15   "Xyliatos": 1.43,
```

Response Data

RESTful Client Application: Postman

The screenshot shows the Postman interface with a REST client request and its response. The request is a GET request to `https://cyprus-water.appspot.com/api/date-statistics?date=2022-03-01`. The response is a 200 OK status with a 281 ms response time and 1.34 KB of data. The response headers are displayed in a table below.

Request: GET `https://cyprus-water.appspot.com/api/date-statistics?date=2022-03-01`

Response: 200 OK, 281 ms, 1.34 KB

Key	Value	Description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> date	2022-03-01	
Key	Value	Description
Content-Type ⓘ	application/json;charset=utf-8	Content-Type is application/json
Access-Control-Allow-Origin ⓘ	*	
X-Cloud-Trace-Context ⓘ	fc5d532296e5e039638e69ce0a674bda;o=1	
Date ⓘ	Thu, 30 Mar 2023 20:31:36 GMT	
Server ⓘ	Google Frontend	API is served by Google Frontend
Content-Length ⓘ	954	
Alt-Svc ⓘ	h3=":443"; ma=2592000,h3-29=":443"; ma=2592000,h3-Q050=":443...	



Prerequisites

- [Download and install Java/JDK](#) (if JDK 17 or later is not already installed on your machine)
- [Set the JAVA_HOME environment variable](#)
- [Download and install latest Maven package](#)
- [Set the MAVEN_HOME environment variable](#)
- [Download and Install Python](#) (if Python 3.x or Anaconda is not already installed on your machine)
- Open VS Code and install the following extensions:
 - Project Manager for Java by Microsoft
 - Maven for Java by Microsoft

RESTful API Client in Java using Spring Boot



- [Spring Boot](#) makes it easy to create stand-alone, production/enterprise-level applications easily that you can "just run"
 - Provides **boilerplate** (pre-written) code (that may be reuse on various projects with little or no modification) to save developers from repeating common steps
- Getting Started
 - Super quick — try the [Quickstart Guide](#).
 - More general — try [Building an Application with Spring Boot](#)
 - More specific — try [Consuming a RESTful Web Service](#) (REST Client).
 - More specific — try [Building a RESTful Web Service](#) (REST Server) – NEXT LAB
 - Or search through all guides on the [Guides](#) homepage.

RESTful API Client in Java using Spring Boot



- Build an application that uses Spring's `RestTemplate`
- **Start from scratch:** [Spring Initializr](#)
 - Web-based, fast way to pull in all the dependencies we need for an application
 - In this project, we need to include only the “**Spring Web**” dependency
 - After we set the parameters (see next slide) we press Generate at the bottom of the page to download the zip folder of the project



Project

Gradle - Groovy

Gradle - Kotlin

Maven

Language

Java

Kotlin

Groovy

Spring Boot

3.0.1 (SNAPSHOT)

3.0.0

2.7.7 (SNAPSHOT)

2.7.6

Project Metadata

Group

Artifact

Name

Description

Package name

Packaging Jar War

Java 19

17

11

8

Dependencies

ADD DEPENDENCIES... CTRL + B

Spring Web

WEB

Build web, including RESTful, applications using Spring MVC. Uses Apache Tomcat as the default embedded container.



"Spring Web" dependency



Generate project (RestClientBoot.zip will be downloaded)

GENERATE CTRL + G

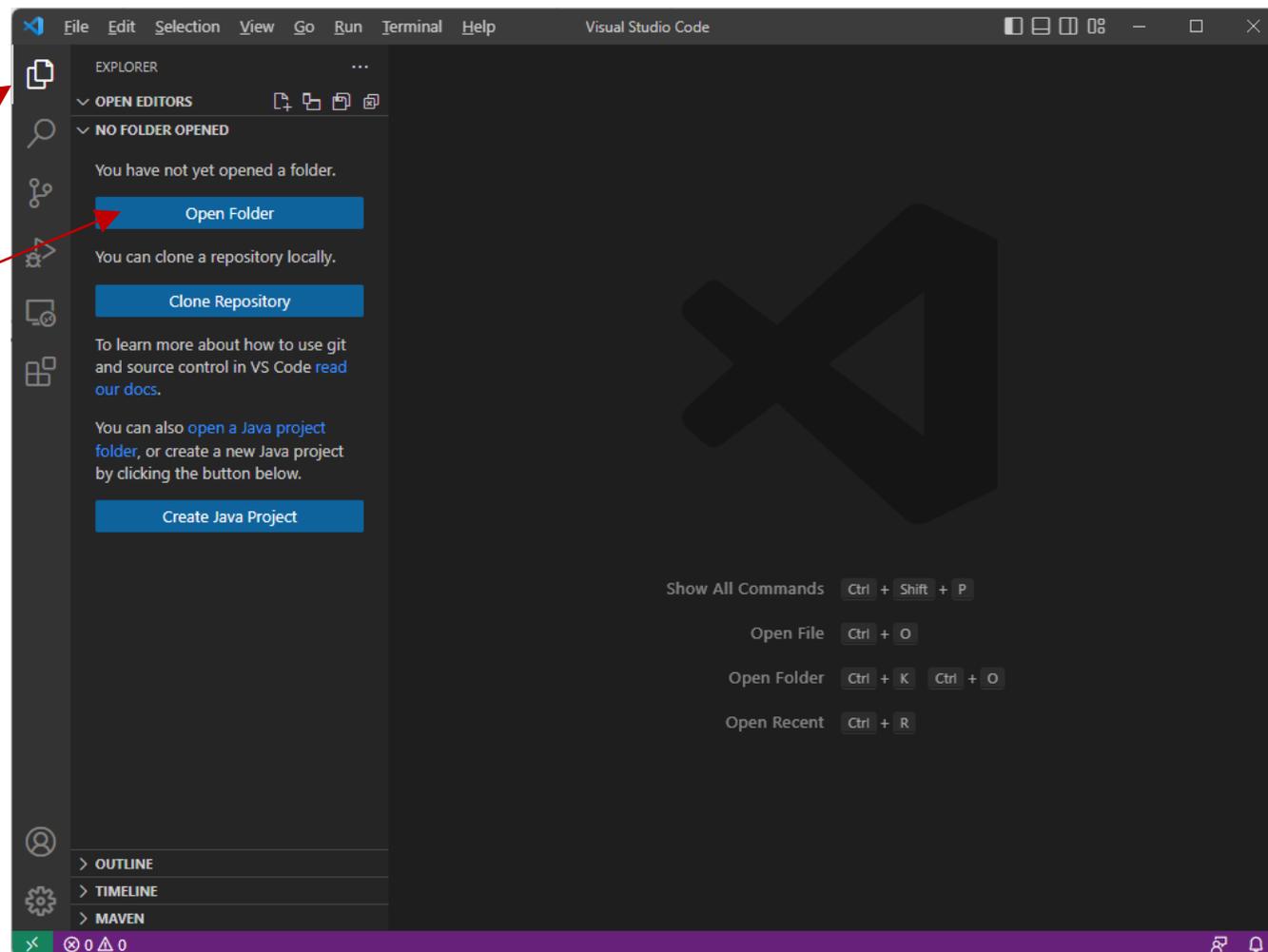
EXPLORE CTRL + SPACE

SHARE...



Open Spring Boot Project in VS Code

- Extract RestClientBoot.zip
- Open VS code
- Click on Explorer tab
- Click on Open Folder
- Select the RestClientBoot directory



RESTful API Client in Java using Spring Boot



- Use <https://nationalize.io/> RESTful API to predict the nationality of a name

`https://api.nationalize.io?name=pavlos`

REQUEST

```
{
  "name": "pavlos",
  "country": [
    {
      "country_id": "CY",
      "probability": 0.6239777660881337
    },
    {
      "country_id": "GR",
      "probability": 0.3572708199586962
    },
    {
      "country_id": "CZ",
      "probability": 0.00612225866824608
    }
  ]
}
```

REPLY

RESTful API Client in Java using Spring Boot



- Initializr created class `RestClientBootApplication.java` with a `main()` at `src/main/java/cy/ac/ucy/cs/epl425/restclient/RestClientBoot/`
- We need to add a few other things (shaded below)

```
@SpringBootApplication
public class RestClientBootApplication {
    // A logger, to send output to the log (the console, in this example)
    private static final Logger log = LoggerFactory.getLogger(RestClientBootApplication.class);

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        SpringApplication.run(RestClientBootApplication.class, args);
    }
    // A RestTemplate, which uses the Jackson JSON processing library to process the incoming data.
    @Bean
    public RestTemplate restTemplate(RestTemplateBuilder builder) {
        return builder.build();
    }
    // A CommandLineRunner that runs the RestTemplate (and, consequently, fetches data) on startup.
    // Deserialize response bytes into a JAVA class: Nationalize class
    @Bean
    public CommandLineRunner run(RestTemplate restTemplate) throws Exception {
        return args -> {
            Nationalize nationalize = restTemplate.getForObject(
                "https://api.nationalize.io?name=pavlos", Nationalize.class);
            log.info(nationalize.toString()); // print object with REST data in logs
        };
    }
}
```

- Create a model class e.g. Nationalize.java to accomodate the data that we will consume in

src/main/java/cy/ac/ucy/cs/epl425/restclient/RestClientBoot

```
{
  "name": "pavlos",
  "country": [
    {
      "country_id": "CY",
      "probability": 0.6239777660881337
    },
    {
      "country_id": "GR",
      "probability": 0.3572708199586962
    },
    {
      "country_id": "CZ",
      "probability": 0.00612225866824608
    }
  ]
}
```

Country.java (next slide)

Nationalize.java

```
package cy.ac.ucy.cs/epl425.restclient.RestClientBoot;

import com.fasterxml.jackson.annotation.JsonIgnoreProperties;
import java.util.List;
import java.util.ArrayList;

@JsonIgnoreProperties(ignoreUnknown = true) See Here
public class Nationalize {

    private String name;
    private List<Country> country = new ArrayList<>();

    public Nationalize() {
    }

    public String getName() {
        return this.name;
    }

    public List<Country> getCountry() {
        return this.country;
    }

    public void setName(String name) {
        this.name = name;
    }

    public void setCountry(List<Country> country) {
        this.country = country;
    }

    @Override
    public String toString() {
        return "{" +
            "name : " + name + " " +
            ", countries : " + country + " " +
            "'}";
    }
}
```

- Additional class to capture the inner country info e.g. `Country.java`, in the same folder:

```
src/main/java/cy/ac/ucy/cs/ep1425/restclient/RestClientBoot
```

```
{
  "name": "pavlos",
  "country": [
    {
      "country_id": "CY",
      "probability": 0.6239777660881337
    },
    {
      "country_id": "GR",
      "probability": 0.3572708199586962
    },
    {
      "country_id": "CZ",
      "probability": 0.00612225866824608
    }
  ]
}
```

Country.java

```
package cy.ac.ucy.cs.ep1425.restclient.RestClientBoot;

import com.fasterxml.jackson.annotation.JsonIgnoreProperties;
import com.fasterxml.jackson.annotation.JsonProperty;
import com.fasterxml.jackson.databind.annotation.JsonNaming;
import com.fasterxml.jackson.databind.PropertyNamingStrategy;

@JsonIgnoreProperties(ignoreUnknown = true)
@JsonNaming(PropertyNamingStrategy.SnakeCaseStrategy.class)
public class Country {

    private String country_id;
    private Float probability;

    public Country() {
    }

    //@JsonProperty("country_id")
    public String getCountryId() {
        return this.country_id;
    }

    public Float getProbability() {
        return this.probability;
    }

    //@JsonProperty("country_id")
    public void setCountryId(String country_id) {
        this.country_id = country_id;
    }

    public void setProbability(Float probability) {
        this.probability = probability;
    }

    @Override
    public String toString() {
        return "{ country_id : " + country_id + ", probability : " +
    }
}
```

[See Here](#)

RESTful API Client in Java using Spring Boot



- `RestClientBootApplication.java` libraries to be imported:

```
import org.slf4j.Logger;
import org.slf4j.LoggerFactory;
import org.springframework.boot.CommandLineRunner;
import org.springframework.boot.SpringApplication;
import org.springframework.boot.autoconfigure.SpringBootApplication;
import org.springframework.boot.web.client.RestTemplateBuilder;
import org.springframework.context.annotation.Bean;
import org.springframework.web.client.RestTemplate;
```

Create, Compile & Run in VS Code

Run Spring Boot RESTful API Client



- `unzip RestClientBoot.zip` you created through Spring Initializr
- Download from lab's website the following files:
 - [Nationalize.java](#)
 - [Country.java](#)
 - [RestClientBootApplication.java](#)and place them into
`src/main/java/cy/ac/ucy/cs/ep1425/restclient/RestClientBoot/`
- Compile and run application (see next slide)

Create, Compile & Run in VS Code

Run Spring Boot RESTful API Client



```
src > main > java > cy > ac > ucy > cs > epl425 > restclient > RestClientBoot > RestClientBootApplication.java
```

```
21 @Bean
22 public RestTemplate restTemplate(RestTemplateBuilder builder) {
23     return builder.build();
24 }
25 // A CommandLineRunner that runs the RestTemplate (and, consequently,
26 // Deserialize response bytes into a JAVA class: Nationalize class
27 @Bean
28 public CommandLineRunner run(RestTemplate restTemplate) throws Except
29     return args -> {
30         Nationalize nationalize = restTemplate.getForObject(
31             url: "https://api.nationalize.io?name=pavlos", respon
32         log.info(nationalize.toString());
33     };
34 }
35
36
37
```

```
2022-12-10T23:01:53.237+02:00 INFO 35228 --- [main] o.a.c.c.C.[Tomcat].[localhost].[/] : Initializing Spring embedded WebApplicationContext
2022-12-10T23:01:53.242+02:00 INFO 35228 --- [main] w.s.c.ServletWebServerApplicationContext : Root WebApplicationContext: initialization completed in 2373 ms
2022-12-10T23:01:54.102+02:00 INFO 35228 --- [main] o.s.b.w.embedded.tomcat.TomcatWebServer : Tomcat started on port(s): 8080 (http) with context path ''
2022-12-10T23:01:54.135+02:00 INFO 35228 --- [main] c.a.u.c.e.r.R.RestClientBootApplication : Started RestClientBootApplication in 4.171 seconds (process running for 5.04)
2022-12-10T23:01:55.487+02:00 INFO 35228 --- [main] c.a.u.c.e.r.R.RestClientBootApplication : {name : pavlos , countries : [{ country_id : GR, probability : 0.663 }, { country_id : CY, probability : 0.266 }, { country_id : DE, probability : 0.007 }, { country_id : CZ, probability : 0.007 }, { country_id : GB, probability : 0.006 }]}
```

APPENDIX A

JSON related



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@JsonIgnoreProperties ignoreUnknown



- When we pass `true` to `ignoreUnknown` element, then in deserialization if JSON document has a field (property) for which there is no logical property then that JSON field will be ignored, and no error will be thrown.
- Consider the following class:

```
@JsonIgnoreProperties(ignoreUnknown = true)
public class Book {
    @JsonProperty("bookId")
    private String id;

    @JsonProperty("bookName")
    private String name;

    @JsonProperty("bookCategory")
    private String category;
} I
```

In this class we have `bookId`, `bookName` and `bookCategory` logical properties.

@JsonIgnoreProperties ignoreUnknown



- Suppose we have a JSON document with some unknown fields (properties).

```
{
  "bookId" : "A101",
  "bookName" : "Learning Java",
  "bookCategory" : "Java",
  "pubYear" : "2018",
  "price" : "200",
}
```

- In the above JSON fields, `pubYear` and `price` has no corresponding logical properties in `Book` class. In deserialization, we will not get exception because we are using `ignoreUnknown = true` in `@JsonIgnoreProperties` annotation.



@JsonNaming and @JsonProperty



- PROBLEM: Jackson (JSON library) ignores snake case JSON fields
- SOLUTIONS (any of the two):
 1. Use `@JsonNaming(PropertyNamingStrategy.SnakeCaseStrategy.class)` to define a global naming convention for JSON deserialization
 2. To directly bind your data to your custom types, you need to specify the **variable name** to be **exactly the same as the field (property) in the JSON document** returned from the API. In case your variable name and field in JSON doc do not match, you can use `@JsonProperty` annotation to specify the exact key of the JSON document



APPENDIX B

Instructions on how to Download and Install
Java and Apache Maven



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Download and Install JDK

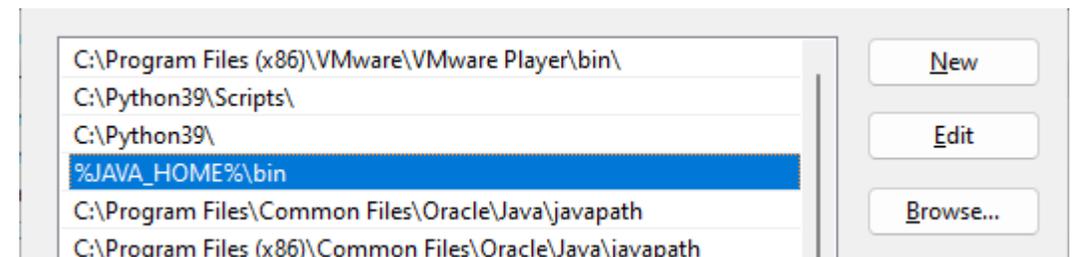
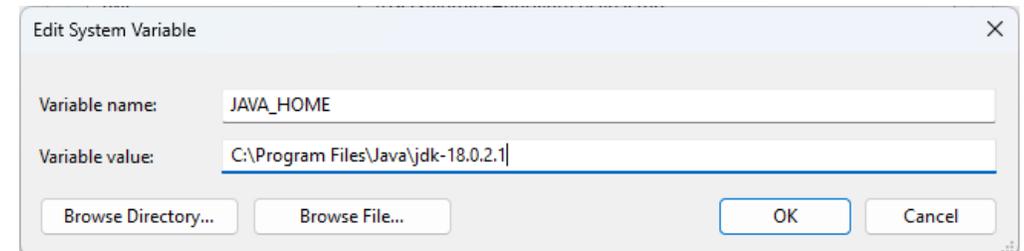


- Latest JDK installer (.exe for Windows):
<https://www.oracle.com/java/technologies/downloads>
- Double click to install it
- For MAC users: see [here](#) for installation and for setting the environmental variable

Set JAVA_HOME (for Windows)



1. Locate your JDK installation directory
 - If you didn't change the path during installation, it'll be something like C:\Program Files\Java\jdk-18.0.2.1
2. In Windows 10/11, Search for Environment Variables then select “Edit the system environment variables”
3. Click the Environment Variables button: 
4. Under System Variables, click New.
5. In the Variable Name field enter JAVA_HOME
6. In the Variable Value field, enter your JDK installation path (step 1)
7. Click OK
8. In System Variables, double-click on “Path”
9. Click on New and enter %JAVA_HOME%\bin
10. Click OK
11. Installation verification: open cmd and type `java -version` and `javac -version`





Download and Install MAVEN

- Go to <https://maven.apache.org/download.cgi>
- For Windows, download binary .zip archive
- For MAC, download binary .tar.gz archive
- Extract binaries and note the path
 - For Windows e.g. C:\Program Files\apache-maven-3.8.6
 - Check that the folder bin\ is within the above maven folder
- For MAC users: see [here](#) for installation and for setting the environmental variable

Set MAVEN_HOME (for Windows)



1. Locate your MAVEN installation directory
 - E.g. C:\Program Files\apache-maven-3.8.6
2. In Windows 10/11, Search for Environment Variables then select “Edit the system environment variables”
3. Click the Environment Variables button:
4. Under System Variables, click New.
5. In the Variable Name field enter MAVEN_HOME
6. In the Variable Value field, enter your MAVEN installation path (step 1)
7. Click OK
8. In System Variables, double-click on “Path”
9. Click on New and enter %MAVEN_HOME%\bin
10. Click OK
11. Installation verification: open cmd and type `mvn -v`

