OpenAPI: REST API Generation

Introduction to Middleware

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Outline

1 Technology Overview

2 Assignment Details
REST: Representational State Transfer

**Features**

REST compliant web services allow requesting systems to access and manipulate textual representations of web resources using a uniform and predefined set of stateless operations.

... Wikipedia

Practically: each object (for example each database record) has its own URL and each action on the object a specific method or a specific child URL.

- List people with GET at http://example.com/people
- Add new person with POST at http://example.com/people
- Get person info with GET at http://example.com/people/42
- Update person info with POST at http://example.com/people/42
- Delete person info with DELETE at http://example.com/people/42
REST: Motivation

**Motivation**

Strike balance between need for *explicit interfaces* and need for *loose coupling*.

- Standard communication protocol (HTTP)
  - Already defines CRUD operations
  - Provides security and reliability
  - Is easy to deploy across internet
- Encourages separating model from view
- Supports independent implementation technology between client and server
REST and CRUD

**CRUD**

- **Create** to create an object
- **Read** to query object attributes
- **Update** to update object attributes
- **Delete** to delete an object

- The recommended minimum set of operations
- Corresponds reasonably well to HTTP methods
- Anything beyond CRUD is not considered pure REST

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Debates on pure REST vs pragmatic REST can get quite heated ...
REST: Data Representation

Data exchange format is application specific but there are obvious choices

- XML because of existing library support
- JSON because of JavaScript in the browser
- YAML because it is the cool version of JSON

```json
{
    "name": "Jane Doe",
    "email": "jane.doe@example.com",
    "url": [
        "http://example.com/~jane.doe",
        "http://example.com/people/jane.doe"
    ],
    "address": {
        "street1": "Our Street One",
        "street2": "Street Line Two",
        "city": "The City",
        "postal": "12345"
    },
    "room": 123
}
```
REST: Data Representation

Using links to make API more self contained is often encouraged

- Links to express relationships
- Links to explore the API

```json
{
    "name": "Jane Doe",
    "email": "jane.doe@example.com",
    "address": {
        "street1": "Our Street One",
        "street2": "Street Line Two",
        "city": {
            "href": "/cities/123"
        }
    },
    "links": {
        "self": {
            "href": "/users/123"
        },
        "connections": {
            "href": "/users/123/connections"
        }
    }
}
```
### Interface Description

- **Paths** to identify data model classes
- **Actions** to operate on class instances
- **Attributes** with types to describe class instances
- **Security** defines access rules
- **Comments** provide human readable description

#### Code generation
- Client libraries
- Server stubs
- Documentation
- Miscellaneous

- Editor at [http://editor.swagger.io](http://editor.swagger.io)
- Tools gallery at [http://openapi.tools](http://openapi.tools)
Outline

1. Technology Overview
2. Assignment Details
Assignment

**Inventory Application**

Keeps track of *users* and *assets*.
Basic user related operations are already defined.
Define similar operations for assets and implement everything.

- **Interface**
  - Elementary CRUD operations for assets
  - One to many relationship between users and assets

- **Server**
  - Python implementation using Flask, or
  - Java implementation using Spring

- **Client**
  - TypeScript implementation using Angular, or
  - R and bash helper scripts
openapi: 3.0.0

info:
  description: Inventory database
  version: 1.0.0
  title: Inventory
  termsOfService: ''
  license:
    name: Apache 2.0
    url: 'http://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0.html'

servers:
  - url: 'http://localhost:8080/v1'

...
Assignment Interface: Defining Users

components:
schemas:
  UserBase:
    type: object
    properties:
      id:
        type: integer
      firstname:
        type: string
        description: First name
      lastname:
        type: string
        description: Last name
  User:
    allOf:
      - $ref: '#/components/schemas/UserBase'
      - type: object
        properties:
          mail:
            type: string
            description: Mail
...
Assignment Interface: Listing Users

paths:
  /users:
    get:
      summary: List all users
      operationId: readUsers
      x-openapi-router-controller: controllers.users
      responses:
        '200':
          description: Success
          content:
            application/json:
              schema:
                type: array
                items:
                  $ref: '#/components/schemas/UserBase'

...
Assignment Interface: Querying User Data

paths:
  '/users/{user_id}':
    get:
      summary: Query user
      operationId: readUser
      x-openapi-router-controller: controllers.users
      parameters:
        - in: path
          name: user_id
          description: User identifier
          required: true
          schema:
            type: integer
      responses:
        '200':
          description: Success
          content:
            application/json:
              schema:
                $ref: '#/components/schemas/User'

...
Assignment Interface: Updating User Data

paths:
'/users/{user_id}':
  post:
    summary: Update user
    operationId: updateUser
    x-openapi-router-controller: controllers.users
    parameters:
      - in: path
        name: user_id
        description: User identifier
        required: true
        schema:
          type: integer
    requestBody:
      $ref: '#/components/requestBodies/User'
    responses:
      '405':
        description: Invalid input
...
Some day we won’t even need coders any more. We’ll be able to just write the specification and the program will write itself.

Oh wow, you’re right! We’ll be able to write a comprehensive and precise spec and bam, we won’t need programmers any more!

And do you know the industry term for a project specification that is comprehensive and precise enough to generate a program?

Uh... no...

Code

It’s called code

Assignment Details

Interface
Extend with operations and definitions related to assets.
- Same operations as already exist for users
- Additionally querying assets per user

Server
Pick one and extend it with asset related operations.

Client
Pick one and extend it as suggested.
- Angular: All asset operations and per user listing
- bash: Population and per user asset listing
- R: Plot average asset cost per department
Submission

GitLab


Requirements

- Use the assignment subdirectory.
- Write brief report in SOLUTION.md.
- Include build scripts with instructions.
- Do not commit binaries or temporary build artifacts.