

REST

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1

browser as editor

Screenshot of Tim Berners-Lee's HyperMedia Browser/Editor removed due to copyright restrictions.

a web for shared document editing

Tim Berners Lee's web

- distributed document editing
- > like one big Wiki

HTTP methods

- GET: get a document from a server
- > POST: send a document to a server
- > PUT: update a document at a server
- DELETE: delete a document from a server

request components

- > query string: for searching
- > body: for new version of page

mosaic (1993)



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what happened?

early browsers

- just displayed pages
- > only needed GET

Mosaic

> added forms

to pass form data

- GET: in query string
- > POST: in body

uptontea.com/shopcart/toc.asp?parent=Teas&child=Green



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URLs in the late 1990s



URLs in the late 1990s



so now rather than

DELETE pages/3

we see

- > POST / deletePage
- > GET / deletePage?id=3

or

> GET /foo.asp?action=delete&page=3

4 functions of persistent storage

CRUD	SQL	HTTP
create	insert	POST
read	select	GET
update	update	PUT
delete	delete	DELETE

RESTful calls



kinds of path

collection paths

- > http://tea.com/teas
- > http://tea.com/teas/123/reviews
- > http://tea.com/teas/green

instance paths

- > http://tea.com/teas/123
- > http://tea.com/teas/123/reviews/4



actions

show reviews of tea #123

> GET http://tea.com/teas/123/reviews

create a review of tea #123

> POST http://tea.com/teas/123/reviews

update review #4 of tea #123

> PUT http://tea.com/teas/123/reviews/4

delete review #4 of tea #123

> DELETE http://tea.com/teas/123/reviews/4

generating forms

creating a review

- > step 1: display form to user
- > step 2: user submits form

how this is done

- GET http://tea.com/teas/123/reviews/new
- > POST http://tea.com/teas/123/reviews

and for update

- > GET http://tea.com/teas/123/reviews/4/edit
- > PUT http://tea.com/teas/123/reviews/4

non-CRUD actions

general strategy

- instead of calling an action, create a resource
- > instead of "login", create a "session"
- > instead of "closing account", create a "closing"

how to rate a review?

> POST http://tea.com/teas/123/reviews/4/ratings

logging in and out

option A	option B	option C
/login	POST/sessions	POST/session
/logout	DELETE / sessions/12	DELETE / session

what I'd do

- > whatever your login/authentication plugin does
- more important to have session in model than to reflect in URIs

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