

Open APIs & Web Services for Your Website

Offline
February 19, 2010

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A Look Ahead

Terms

Incorporating APIs into your web site

Editing APIs

Finding Additional APIs

Terms: API

What is an API?

An Application Programming Interface (or API) is a way for you to access parts of a remote web site and integrate it into your own site.

Think Mash-up...

Terms: Web Service

What is a Web Service?

- Broader term
- Public interface (API)
- Provides access to data and/or procedures
- On a remote/external system (usually)
- Use structured data for data exchange (often XML)

Terms: Structured Data

Structured data = XML and JSON

- Extensible Mark-up Language and Javascript Object Notation
- Flexible mark-up languages
- Lightweight and easy to parse
- Allow communication between disparate systems

You Already Use Sites with APIs

Sites you know

- Facebook applications
- Twitter
- iGoogle
- Flickr
- YouTube
- Delicious

Resource Management Tool

MSU Libraries Resource Management Tool API

<http://www.lib.montana.edu/resources/read.php?form=json&limit=25>

Librarians' Resource Management Tool:

<https://www.lib.montana.edu/resources/manage/index.php>

Public View:

<https://www.lib.montana.edu/resources/index.php>

Why use APIs & Web Services?

- Access to content/data stores you could not otherwise provide (zip codes, news, pictures, reviews, etc.)
- Enhance site with a service that is not feasible for you to provide (maps, search, products, etc.)
- Combine these services into a seamless service you provide (mashups)

Using APIs on Your Web Page

Demos

- Slideshows for Topics of Interest (Flickr)
- Google Maps for Local Communities
- Local News Ticker and Community Events
- Book Previews for Community Topics of Interest

Resources page with links

<http://www.lib.montana.edu/~jason/talks/offline/>

Finding Additional APIs & Tools

- Google Code Playground
 - <http://code.google.com/apis/ajax/playground/>
- ProgrammableWeb
 - <http://www.programmableweb.com/>
- Delicious tag watching
 - <http://delicious.com/tag/api+mashup+widget>
- Check your favorite sites for a "tools" or "developers" section

Questions?

Contact Us

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