



Building APIs You Won't Hate



By Phil Sturgeon

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Everyone and their dog wants an API, so you should probably learn how to build them.

Tasked with building an API for your company but don't have a clue where to start? Taken over an existing API and hate it? Built your own API and still hate it? This book is for you.

Build APIs You Won't Hate Details

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From Reader Review Build APIs You Won't Hate for online ebook

Steven Wade says

I've read this book a few times. That's saying something. Technical books are boring and I typically use them to just scan and look at code bits, but not this book. The book not only explains best practices and lessons learned, but they're explained from the point of view of someone who *earned* the knowledge.

The author presents each point to the reader as someone having a conversation with a buddy at a bar over drinks. This tone helps to engage the reader, allows them to invest in the author, and allows the flow of conversation naturally instead of being academically structured.

No matter what language, what skill level you are currently at, if you're building, maintaining, or thinking about APIs, this book is for you.

Two thumbs up!

Li Jia Li says

Great book !!! Every web developer and API architect should read it.

Fernando Paladini says

Um livro introdutório muito bom e relativamente divertido para um assunto bem importante.

O autor faz uma ótima introdução sobre APIs e passa pelos principais pontos que envolvem uma API: estruturação de recursos, REST, versionamento, segurança, tratamento de erros, entrada e saída de dados, etc. Mesmo para quem já é programador há algum tempo e já trabalhou (ou mesmo criou) algumas APIs, é um livro que pode acrescentar bastante. Tem bastante código-fonte disponível no Github do autor, o que auxilia a leitura dando exemplos reais de como APIs costumam se comportar.

As únicas críticas para este livro é que o autor poderia ter explicado com mais calma a sessão de autenticação com OAuth (para quem não conhece muito de OAuth não fica muito claro) e também quanto ao título do livro, que dá a impressão de que o livro vai falar sobre APIs de forma genérica, entretanto o livro foca completamente em APIs RESTful utilizando o protocolo HTTP/HTTPS.

Ademais, recomendado.

Adi says

Concise and pragmatic. You might like Sturgeon's style or not, but this will get you and/or your team up to speed with building RESTful(ish) APIs. Nicely done.

Dmitriy Chaban says

The same I can find by googling "REST API best practices". Not so much interesting. Also 75% of book about working with PHP that I don't like a lot.

Htain Lin says

It may be good for people who start learning how should to do API. There is no so much information and real world problem between API and mobile client. Interesting chapter is last 3 chapter , Authentication , Pagination and API Version. This three chapter gave me the idea of how should I rethink about my API.

William Anderson says

Phil Sturgeon's writing is crude and offensive. His tone constantly talks down to the reader, belittles others makes assumptions on their behalf, is belittling and condescending. This book reads like something written by the standard patriarchal dude bros of tech, which tries to be funny but ends off being more upsetting than anything else. Just a couple of quotes from this book to illustrate the tone I am talking about.

"or the developer is a moron"
"shove this in your run() method"
"(duh)"
"Southerners have one or more teeth"

There is much to be learned in these pages about API's to be sure, but I would rather do the research myself or find another book than endure what is written on these pages in between the technical bits.

Andrew Versalle says

This was a good intro into RESTful API development. Quick read.

Ravi Kumar says

Great writing!! with lots of humor specially that part **bing (lol)** and also I am not going to hate next API's project. Waiting for next release.

to Build Them

Laura Royle says

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Andrzej says

A pretty good overview on how to build RESTful APIs, on the possible pitfalls and how to avoid them. Even though the book is from 2015 (in APIs world this is quite some time ago ;)) most of its content is still very relevant. I found only the part on documentation a bit dated, as the best-practices actually went in a bit different direction. Also the code snippets are put in PHP, so not very relevant if you are not working in that environment. The book however can easily live without those examples and will prove useful for any API architect or designer.

Hong Son says

A good book with a lot of knowledge about building an API. And with a funny tone, Phil Sturgeon also shared a lot of his experience and personal thoughts.

The only thing that I think this book lacks is about JWT, a very common authentication technique for API recently.

Héctor Iván Patricio Moreno says

This is a very educative book about almost everything you need to know about API's.

I really liked the humor he puts in his writing and also the approach to the topics: he stated the common ways people are doing things and explained the pros and cons of every approach, and finally explained why he used one or another.

I would like a more comprehensive book, Phil left out topics as how to upload images or other types of content through an API.

This book is essential if you are thinking about building an API, even though there is a new type of API's (GraphQL), this book will give you useful and actionable knowledge.

Juhamatti says

Good coverage about the basics every web and backend developer should know about designing and implementing REST APIs.

Only downside was heavy use of PHP in the examples, but overall that won't bother too much.

Christian Grobmeier says

The book is quite an OK read. I would give it to younger developers or people who never worked with APIs before. For more experienced developers it has some inspiration here and there and sometimes can give you some valuable insight. Personally I found one or two things to think about. However, I could have survived without reading the book too with a little thinking myself.

The book could have been a bit shorter as it is now. Phil wrote it was edited and the style and grammar (from the view of a non-native speaker) is all well. However, some of the examples and explains are not "on topic". Also sometimes it's to deeply tied to PHP developers. A book on API design should not necessary explain how to use the Fractal PHP library. It should explain you need to take care on the data types, and that's it. At least, it does the latter, so I am happy.

In some cases I would have enjoyed a more deep dive in API design itself. So far it explained the concepts of REST very well and gave you some tools on hand to start. However this book doesn't help you that far you can build complex APIs. Maybe it was not meant that way, but I have understood it so it would help me to make great API I won't hate. Now I am able to avoid the most basic mistakes.

All in all it's not a bad book, but also one of which I expected a bit more. Again, beginners should give it a try, especially when they are working with PHP.

One final word, the humor used in this book is not for everybody. Sometimes it gave me a bad feeling, sometimes it was simply "too much" and repeating itself. Chuck Norris getting me? Phil getting me? Oh well...
