What is an API?

Quick Answer

An **API** refers to the code running on the server that handles a specific HTTP method and URL request (e.g., `GET https://www.examples.org/customers/1`).

Digging Deeper

Most developers already know that API means *Application Programming Interface*. There are many articles on the web that provide various levels of commentary on the subject, but in simple terms an API is a set of definitions, protocols, and tools for building software.

In the context of the SRP HTTP Framework, we are working with *web* APIs. At a high-level, web APIs are composed of the following:

- A *URL* (or *endpoint*) that identifies a resource on a server. (Required)
- The *HTTP method* that informs the server what action is to be taken by the server. (Required)
- A *payload body* that the server is expected to act upon. (Required for certain HTTP methods like POST, PUT, and PATCH)
- *HTTP request header(s)* and corresponding value(s) to provide additional meta data to the server. (Optional)

The SRP HTTP Framework handles web APIs through OpenInsight stored procedures referred to as *Resource API modules* (or just API modules). API modules always follow this naming pattern: ***<ResourceName>*_API**. Thus, if the resource name is "customers" then the API module would be named **CUSTOMERS_API**.