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API

What is an API?

- Application Program Interface
- An interface provided by developers which allows software to interact with other software
- Language independent

API Example Types

- External Libraries
 - DLL
 - Dynamic Link Library
- COM
- ActiveX
- Web Services

External Libraries

- Executable file that contains importable instructions
- Can be imported into a program to inherit functionality

COM

- Component Object Model
- A language independent method of sharing objects
- COM Object installed on an operating system can be imported into a program to inherit functionality
- Example
 - Microsoft Office API
 - CuteFTP API

ActiveX

- Similar to COM except it utilizes OLE
- Object Linking and Embedding (OLE)
 - A technology that allows embedding documents into other objects

Web Services

- The usage of Internet URLs to send and receive data from a web server
- Typically returns XML or binary data that can be inserted into a program

API Examples

- Google Maps
- Adobe Acrobat
- Microsoft Office
- Flickr
- Facebook

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The End?