What is **JSON:API** and how can I use it well?



### Hi!

#### I am Mateu

I am here because I am a decoupling nerd

You can find me at @e0ipso



#### You will learn about...

#### **JSON API**

What is it? Why use it?

#### **Drupal module**

What's the status?

What are the limitations?

#### **Extend it**

Solutions to hard problems





```
"type": "articles",
"id": "1",
"attributes": {
  "title": "Rails is Omakase"
"relationships": {
  "author": {
    "links": {
      "self": "/articles/1/relationships/author",
      "related": "/articles/1/author"
    "data": { "type": "people", "id": "9" }
```

# Defines: Transport Interaction

GET /articles/1/relationships/comments HTTP/1.1

Accept: application/vnd.api+json

## **Creative Commons specification**

Strongly driven by FE & UX experts

Steve Klabnik, Yehuda Katz, Dan Gebhardt, Tyler Kellen, Ethan



## Why this one?

Since there are others, and there is GraphQL as well.

## 141 repos That's a lot of traction

## 18 languages And a lot of range

Client & Server

Total success!



## With a highlight on its flexibility

Stays neutral on implementation details and gives you space. Also provides extension system.



## Response to the typical problems

- Multiple round trip requests
- Bloated responses
- Content discovery

They all have known solid solutions!

#### 1. TRANSPORT FORMAT

The shape of the JSON object

Resource data Info (ID)

Supporting Structure (GLUE) Attributes & Relationships (DATA)

HATEOAS & Metadata (HYPERMEDIA)



```
"data": {
  "type": "articles",
  "id": "1",
  "attributes": {...},
  "relationships": {...},
"links": {...},
"meta": {...}
                     FORMAT
```

```
"attributes": {
  "title": "Drupal 8!",
  "body": "Lorem ipsum"
```

**FORMAT** 

```
"relationships": {
   "links": {
      "self": "articles/1/relationships"
   "tags": {
      "data": [{
          "type": "tags",
          "id": "2"
```

**FORMAT** 

## 2. RESOURCE INTERACTION

How do we get and update data

## USES RESTORES GET, POST, PUT, PATCH, DELETE, ...

#### **Typical request**

GET /articles HTTP/1.1
Accept: application/vnd.api+json



**RESPONSE** 





## Response to the typical problems

- Multiple round trip requests
- Bloated responses
- Content discovery

They all have known solid solutions!

#### The typical solutions

- Multiple round trip requests
- Resource embedding

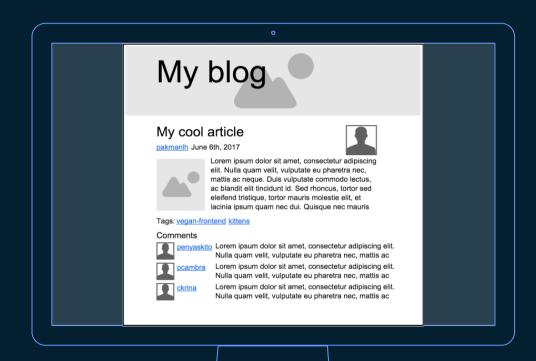
- Bloated responses
- Sparse fieldsets

- Content discovery
- Collections and filters



#### **EXTREMELY SIMPLE**

Your project will have way more stuff than this!



```
1: GET articles/12
 2: GET articles/12 = \frac{1}{2}
 3: GET articles/12 = \frac{12}{12}
 4: GET articles/12 => users/88
  5: GET articles/12 => users/88 => images/5
 6: GET articles/12/comments
 7: GET articles/12 => comment/2
  8: GET articles/12 => comment/2 => user/8
   9: GET articles/12 => comment/2 => user/8 => image/9
 10: GET articles/12 => comment/7 [...]
  11: GET articles/12 => comment/7 [...]
   12: GET articles/12 => comment/7 [...]
MORE!
```

```
GET /articles/12?
include=
  author, author.pic,
  tags,
  comment, comment.author,
  comment.author.pic
```

Resource embedding

GET /articles/12?
fields[articles]=
 title,
 created

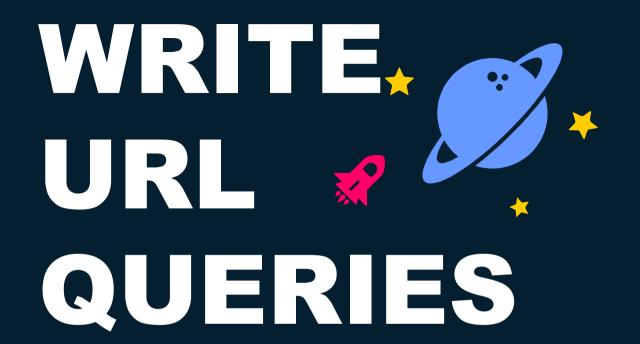


```
. . .
"attributes": {
  "title": "My article",
  "uuid": "12345-1234-34"
  "created": "10-05-2012",
  "status": "1",
  "body": {...},
  <u>"langcode": "en"</u>
```

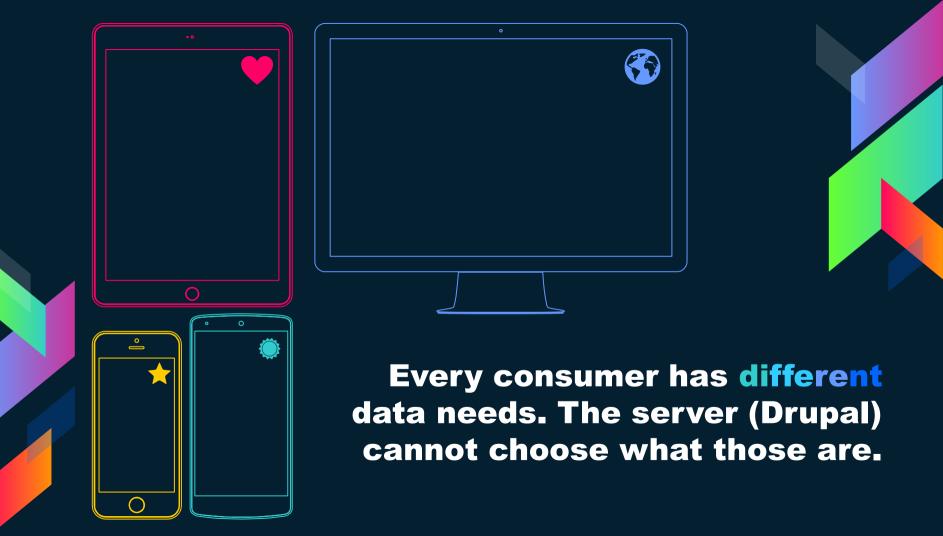
"Give me the cover image and the publication year of all the albums of all the bands having one of the members under 35 currently living in Murcia.

Oh! And while you're at it, output the name of the band and that member as well."

```
GET /bands?
filter[members.city][value]=Murcia&
filter[members.age][value]=35&
filter[members.age][operator]="<="&
include=albums,albums.cover,members&
fields[bands] = name, albums, members&
fields[members]=name&
fields[albums]=publication&
fields[images]=uri
                        Collections
                         and filters
```



Every **API consumer** requests the resource data it needs. It can be different every time.



#### Every resource 4 "endpoints"

- 1. /bands/1234
  - GET, PUT, PATCH, DELETE
- 2. /bands
  - → GET, POST
- 3. /bands/1234/albums
  - → GET
- 4. /bands/1234/relationships/albums
  - > GET, PATCH

## 3. PERFORMANCE

How fast is the Drupal module?



#### **Benchmarking JSON API**

- ab -v4 -k -c8 -n10 -A u:p
- > node:2100
- > include
  - Author
    - Author image
  - Tags (2 tags)

### Benchmarking core HAL JSON

- ab -v4 -k -c8 -n10 -A u:p
- > node:2100
  - > user:1105
    - > file:156 (slow path)
  - > tag:11
  - > tag:18

#### Results (core): anonymous



**Using Keep Alive** 

### Results (jsonapi): anonymous

node: 2100

user:1105

file:156

tag:11

tag:18

node:2100

include:author,author.pic,tags

~ 7 ms

	Core (ms)	{json:api} (ms)
Anonymous	21	7
Auth	320	115
Uncached	392	182





# AVOID \*\* BOOTSTRAPS

And unnecessary HTTP round trips.

### 4. DRUPAL MODULE

Our implementation of the standard.



## It is in Drupal core!

#### Oriented to entity bundles

- Each resource is a bundle (content type)
- /jsonapi/node/page
- Automatically enabled (can be disabled)
- You can do any entity query as filter

#### **Customize your API with JSON:API Extras**

- /node/page → /pages
- field text → text
- ➤ Disable fields < </p>
- Disable resources (—)
- Fields enhancers (preprocessors) /////



#### **JSON:API** cross bundles

- Separate contrib
- Allows you to have bundles per entity type:
  - https://.../jsonapi/node
  - https://.../jsonapi/media

#### JSON:API hypermedia

- > Enhances support for *links*
- Enables HATEOAS
  - Let's you define custom behaviors about the returned data.

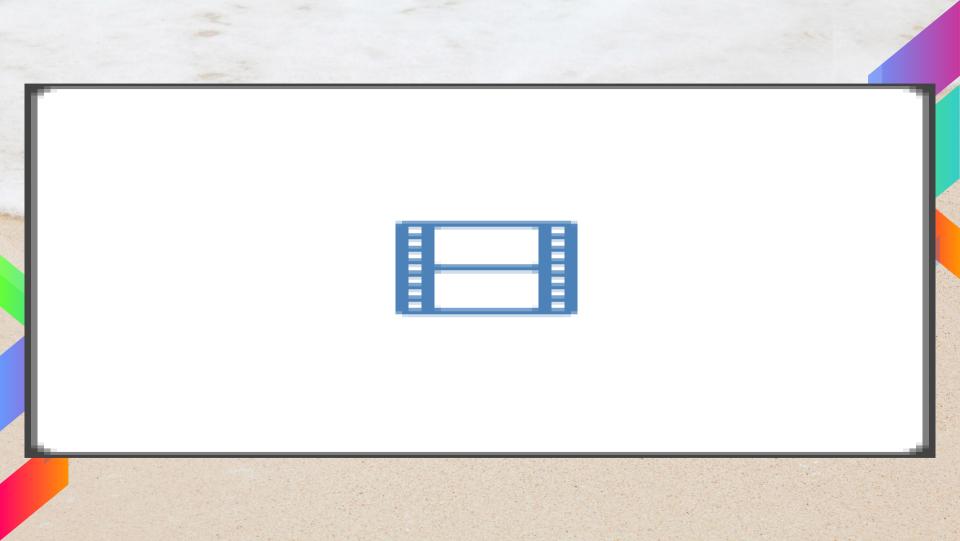
```
"data": {
  "type": "product",
 "id": "1234-...-abcd",
"links": {
  "add-to-cart": {
    "href": "/purchases",
    "rel": "add"
```

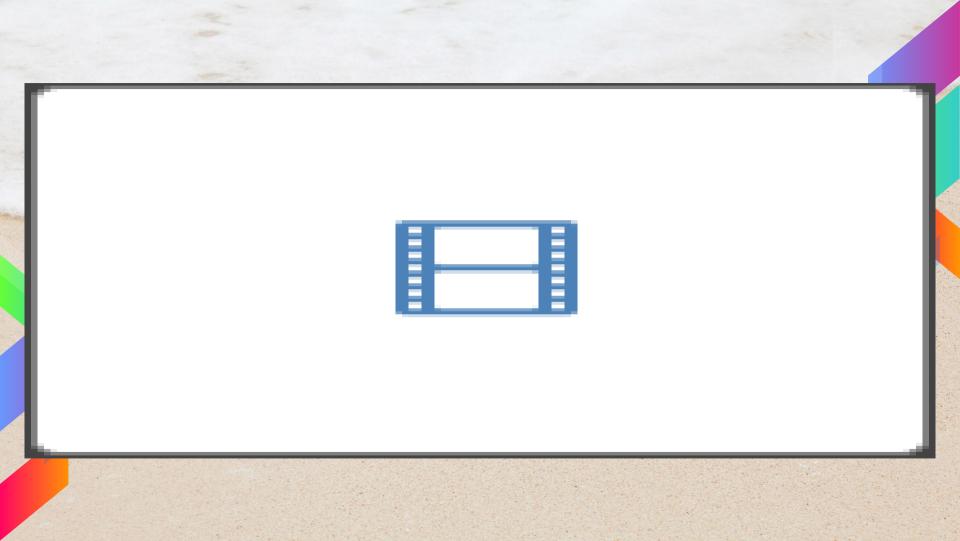
#### **HYPERMEDIA**

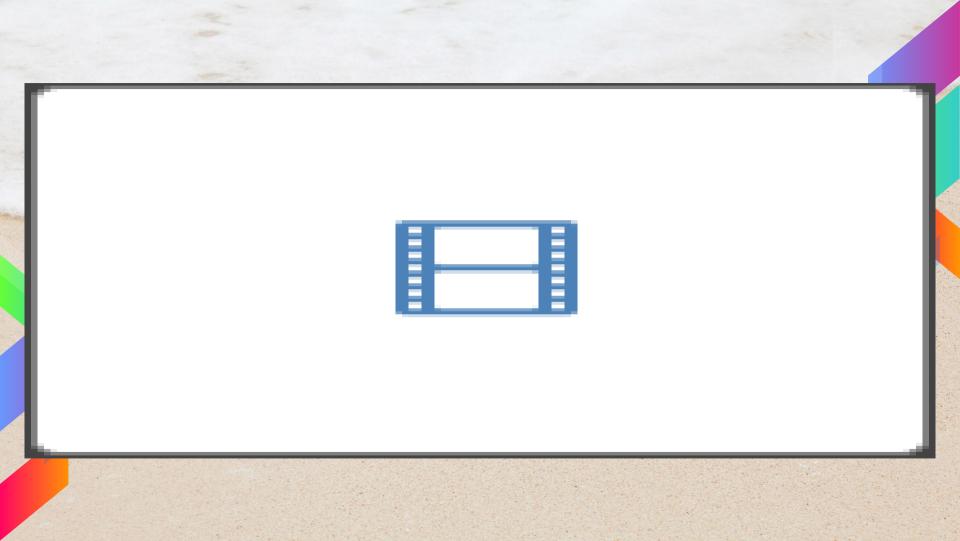
```
"href": "/purchases",
"rel": "add",
"params": {
  "title": "Buy now!",
  "confirm": "Yes, I am sure.",
  "data": {
    "type": "product",
    "id": 1
                                Buy now!
```

```
"href": "/wishlist/items",
"rel": "add",
"params": {
  "title": "Save for later",
  "confirm": false,
  "data": {
    "type": "product",
    "id": 1
                                Save for later
```

#### Do not have the client app check the product stock API







#### **JSON:API** Resources

- It doesn't do anything by itself.
- It handles non-entity resources



- For custom routes and data.
  - /jsonapi/me
  - /jsonapi/user/{id}/reminders
  - /jsonapi/node/posts/{id}/retweet

#### **OpenAPI**

- > The leading standard to describe APis
- > There is a whole talk about it!

#### **Credits**

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

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