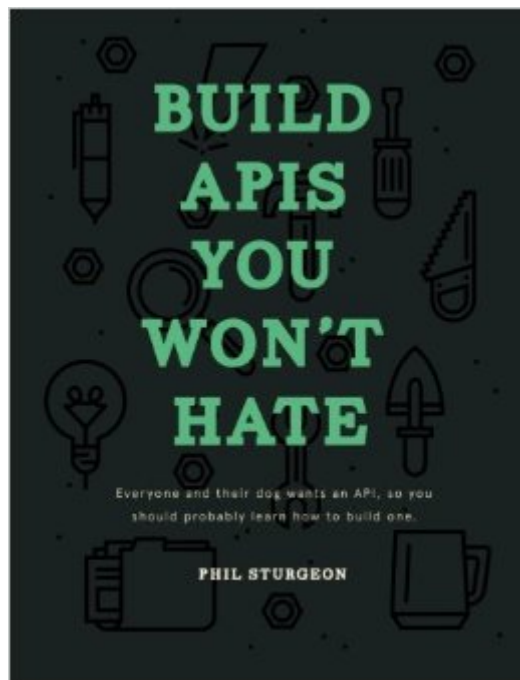


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# Build APIs You Won't Hate: Everyone And Their Dog Wants An API, So You Should Probably Learn How To Build Them



## Synopsis

API development is becoming increasingly common for server-side developers thanks to the rise of front-end JavaScript frameworks, iPhone applications, and API-centric architectures. It might seem like grabbing stuff from a data source and shoving it out as JSON would be easy, but surviving changes in business logic, database schema updates, new features, or deprecated endpoints can be a nightmare. After finding many of the existing resources for API development to be lacking, Phil learned a lot of things the hard way through years of trial and error. This book aims to condense that experience, taking examples and explanations further than the trivial apples and pears nonsense tutorials often provide. By passing on some best practices and general good advice you can hit the ground running with API development, combined with some horror stories and how they were overcome/avoided/averted. This book will discuss the theory of designing and building APIs in any language or framework, with this theory applied in PHP-based examples.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After watch Phil Sturgeon's API Pain Point talk, I knew I had struck gold. Not only is his tone conversational and humorous, but he has a wealth of experience dealing with the intricacies of APIs - and the "Bad Parts". This book has helped me in many ways including:1) Planning routes2) Interactive testing (using Postman)3) Dipping my toes into some BDD using Behat4) Informing me about JSON-API conventions5) Making pagination less of a strenuous exercise6) Thinking about embedded resources7) Pointing me to great docs regarding OAuth8) Giving a lucid description of HATEOAS9) Plugging his own amazing Fractal libraryAlthough there isn't a full 'cookbook' style - I appreciate the brevity as the author quotes Sweet Brown's infamous "Ain't nobody got time for that."

This book is a must-read for anyone that is remotely considering building APIs. It is full of great and practical advice you can start implementing right away, and offers useful insights from Phil's experience. It explains the concepts and best practices in a way that is not tied to any specific framework, library or even programming language, though it does include helpful recommendations for tools that can be of use for specific aspects of building APIs. (Bought the book via LeanPub)

This book walks you through the important decisions you need to make when building an API. Best of all, it is clear the author is speaking from personal experience on the right (and wrong) way to design your API. Many of the examples use PHP, Laravel and Fractal, but the advice is useful regardless of your programming language or framework. As a bonus, the writing style is engaging and entertaining.

Great introduction to API design and architecture if you're not too experienced with them. Definitely helps clarify a lot of the fuzzy area's you hear multiple different opinions about. Absolute must read if you're unsure on APIs at all.

Between this book & the documentation for OAuth Server from The PHP League (of which the author is a member), my questions regarding implementing an API were all answered. These are things that developers do every day but, until I found this book, I couldn't quite put my finger on a comprehensive collection of best practices. Beyond best practices, Sturgeon also describes where the big names (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) deviate from those practices and what he, himself, does at his day job. All in all, this book shows you the pitfalls to avoid and gives you the tools necessary to do so.

In "Build APIs You Won't Hate" Phil explains the pros and cons to various approaches across different components of writing a Web API. The book also covers what some APIs do poorly and how they can be improved. Phil shows code examples but also provides resources that also span different languages/and frameworks. Mr. Sturgeon's book won't build an API for you, but it'll set you off on the right foot. If you're anything like me you'll have a few chuckles while your at it. Even as an experienced developer and having both created and consumed numerous APIs I was still able to learn a lot from this book. I consider this "Building APIs You Won't Hate" a great resource in my arsenal.

Another great book by Phil Sturgeon. Building API's you won't hate has great explanations. After reading this book I am building my API first and my product second by utilizing my own API instead of the other-way around - it saves time.

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