

INFO5002: Intro to Python for Info Sys

API Integration

PCC 355-368



**Northeastern
University**

Interface between codebases

- We have seen loading data through files that are downloaded and consistent through program execs.
- A general format of sharing information is termed an **API**.
- API is **user defined** and format shared w/ others to use.

Hacker News API

- 1) [Read the docs.](#)
- 2) Discover what to call, to get the info you want.
- 3) Learn how to call such an API.
- 4) Learn what is the output of the API.

Items

Stories, comments, jobs, Ask HN's and even polls are just items. They're identified by their ids, with unique integers, and live under `/v0/item/<id>.json`.

All items have some of the following properties, with required properties in bold:

Field	Description
id	The item's unique id.
deleted	<code>true</code> if the item is deleted.
type	The type of item. One of "job", "story", "comment", "poll", or "pollopt".
by	The username of the item's author.
time	Creation date of the item, in Unix Time .
text	The comment, story or poll text. HTML.
dead	<code>true</code> if the item is dead.
parent	The comment's parent: either another comment or the relevant story.
poll	The pollopt's associated poll.
kids	The ids of the item's comments, in ranked display order.
url	The URL of the story.
score	The story's score, or the votes for a pollopt.
title	The title of the story, poll or job. HTML.
parts	A list of related pollopts, in display order.
descendants	In the case of stories or polls, the total comment count.

For example, a story: <https://hacker-news.firebaseio.com/v0/item/8863.json?print=pretty>

```
import requests
```

```
url = "https://hacker-news.firebaseio.com/v0/item/8863.json"
```

```
response = requests.get(url)
print(f"Response code: {response.status_code}")
```

Status codes

```
response_dict = response.json()
print(f"Response: {response_dict}")
```

```
title = response_dict["title"]
print(title)
```

Let's practice

Hacker News also has an API endpoint “<https://hacker-news.firebaseio.com/v0/topstories.json>” which returns the top news stories id's as an array. Using this and the previous “<https://hacker-news.firebaseio.com/v0/item/{ID}.json>” endpoint find all the top news titles and by which author.