

API Terminology Handbook

**The Ultimate Guide
to Rest API Terms
and Glossary**



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API



Application Programming Interface is what API stands for. API is a set of **definitions and protocols** that allow technology products and services to communicate via the internet.

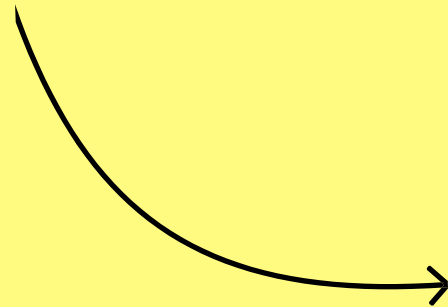
API Call



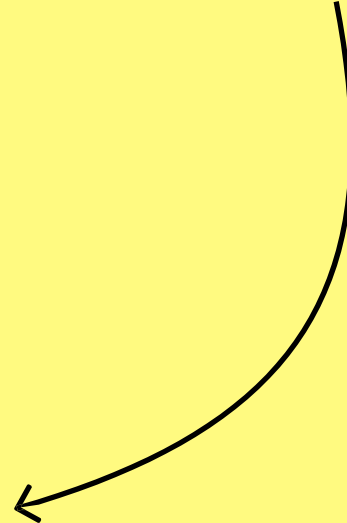
The API call is simply the **process of sending a request** to your API after setting up the right endpoints. Upon receiving your information, it is processed, and you **receive feedback**.

By entering your login and password into a website and hitting 'enter', you made an **API call**.

API Economy



The API economy is a term to describe the **exchange of value** between a **user** and an **organization**.



It enables businesses to **leverage APIs** from other providers such as **Google** to power their own apps, allowing an **ecosystem** that makes it possible for users to get value from a platform **without** having to **build the APIs** from scratch.



For Example: Uber uses API calls to connect with Google Maps.

API Endpoint



An endpoint is the **end of a communication channel**. When APIs interact with other systems, **each touchpoint of interaction** is considered an endpoint.

For example, it could be a server, a service, or a database where a resource lives.

API Integration



In simple terms, API integration **connects** two or more applications to **exchange data** between them and connect to the **outside world**.

API Gateway



An API gateway is an **API management tool** that serves as an **intermediary** between the client and a set of different backend services.

API gateways act as **gatekeepers and proxies** that moderate all your API calls, aggregate the data you need, and return the correct result.

Gateways are used to handle common tasks such as **API identification, rate limiting, and usage metrics**.

API Lifecycle



The API lifecycle is an approach to API management and development that aims at providing a holistic view of how to manage APIs across its different life stages, from creation to retirement.

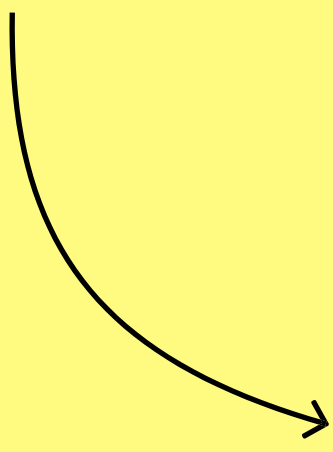
The API lifecycle is often divided into three stages, the creation stage, the control stage, and the consumption stage.

API Request



APIs are everywhere and are part of every aspect of the web. An API request happens when a developer adds an endpoint to a URL and uses that endpoint to call the server or the database.

API Keys



An API key is a **unique identifier** that enables other software to **authenticate** a user, developer, or API calling software to an API to ensure that this person or software is **who it says it is**.

API keys **authenticate the API** instead of a user and offer a certain degree of security to API calls.

API Layer



An API layer is a **proxy** that joins together all your service offerings using a **graphic UI** to provide greater **user interactivity**. API layers are **language-agnostic** ways of interacting with apps and help describe the services and data types used to exchange information.

API Portal

```
graph TD; A[API Portal] --> B[An API portal is a bridge between the API provider and the API consumer.]; B --> C[API portals serve to make APIs public and offer content to educate developers about them, their use, and how to make the most of them.]; C --> D[An API portal provides information about the APIs at every stage of the API lifecycle.];
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API Security

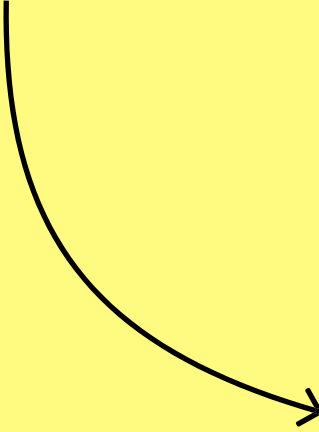
```
graph TD; A[API Security] --> B[API security is an umbrella term that defines a set of practices that aim to prevent malicious attacks, misuse, and exploit APIs.]; B --> C[API security includes basic authentication and authorization, tokens, multi-factor authentication, and other advanced security measures.]; C --> D[The ubiquitous nature of APIs makes them one of the favorite targets for hackers.];
```

API security is an umbrella term that defines a **set of practices** that aim to **prevent** malicious attacks, misuse, and exploit APIs.

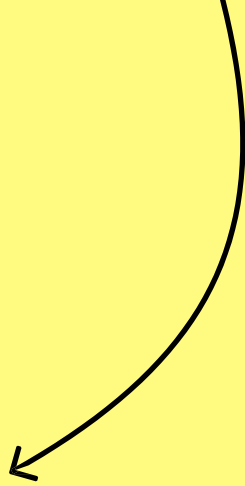
API security includes basic **authentication** and **authorization**, **tokens**, **multi-factor authentication**, and other advanced security measures.

The ubiquitous nature of APIs makes them one of the **favorite targets** for hackers.

Apigee



Apigee is an API **gateway management tool** offered by **Google** to **exchange data** across cloud services and applications.



As a proxy layer, **Apigee** enables you to expose your backend APIs in abstraction or **facade** and helps protect your APIs, limit their rate, and provide analytics and other services.

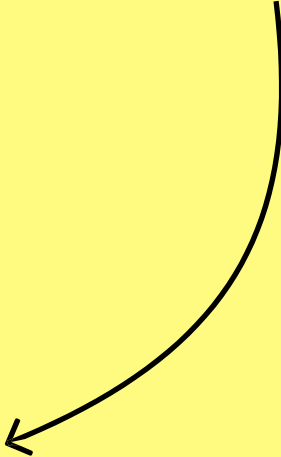


It enables developers to **build and manage APIs**.

APIsec



APIsec is an **API security company**. It leverages automated testing tools to **find logic flaws** before your code hits the production stage.



APIsec **addresses the business need to secure APIs** before they reach production and provides the industry's only **automated and continuous** API testing platform that uncovers security vulnerabilities in APIs.

Application

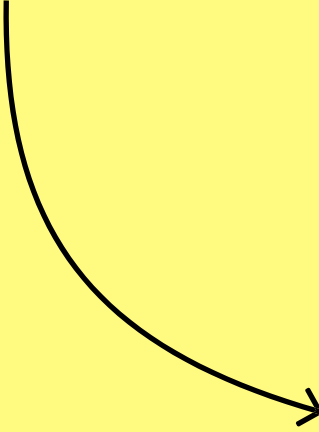
Application software is commonly defined as a **program** or a bundle of different programs **designed for end-users**.

Every program can be called an application, and often the terms are used interchangeably.

Framework

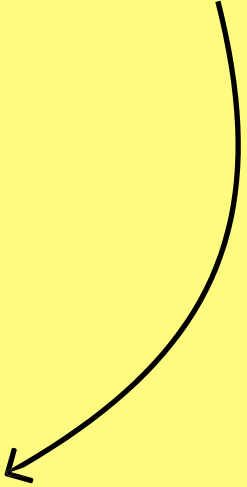
A framework contains **libraries of code, instructions, and APIs** from which developers and API consumers can obtain information from an app.

Burp Suite

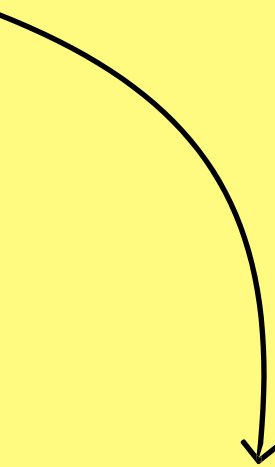


Burp -also called Burp Suite- is a **set of tools** used for **penetration testing** of web apps.

Burp is an **all-in-one penetration testing suite** that offers users a one-stop shop for all their pen testing needs.



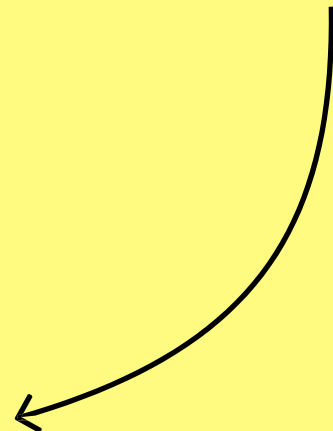
BurpSuite contains an **intercepting proxy** that lets the user see and modify the contents of requests and responses while they are in transit for granular control of your APIs.



CI/CD



Continuous integration (CI) and continuous deployment (CD) are a set of **operating principles and a collection of practices and agile methodologies** that enable development teams to deliver better and faster changes to their code.

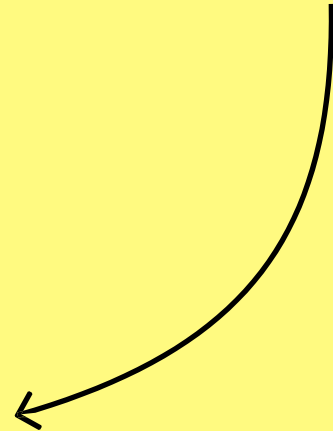


CI/CD is one of the most **important DevOps practices** as it gives teams the tools to focus on meeting their business requirements, code quality, and security needs.

CRUD



CRUD is an acronym for **create, read, update and delete**. It refers to the necessary functions to implement a storage application, such as a hard drive.



Unlike random access memory and internal caching, CRUD data is typically **stored and organized into a database**, which is simply a collection of data that can be viewed electronically.

Cache



The cache is a software or hardware component that stores data so users can **access and retrieve that data faster**. Cached data might be the result of a copy of certain data stored elsewhere.

Cache reads data and retrieves it faster than you would otherwise.

Client

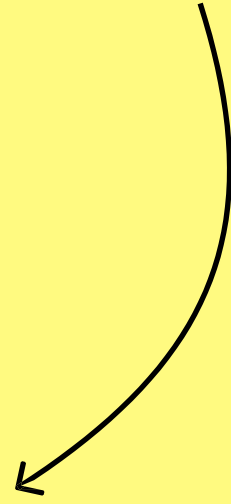


A client is a **device** that **communicates with a server**. A client can be a desktop computer, a laptop, a smartphone, or an IoT-powered device. Most networks allow communication between clients and servers as it flows through a **router or switch**.

DDoS

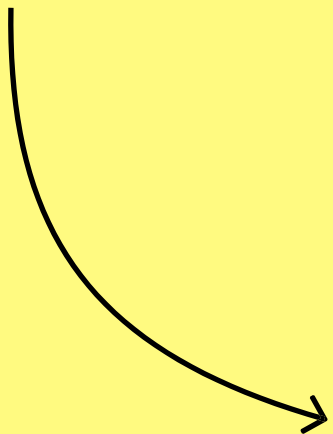


A distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack is a **malicious attack** that aims at **disrupting the target's traffic**.



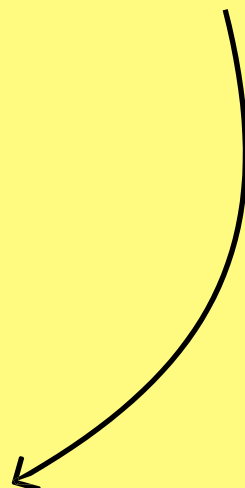
It usually overwhelms the target's infrastructure with a **flurry of internet traffic** aimed at saturating the servers and causing them to shut the page down.

Resource



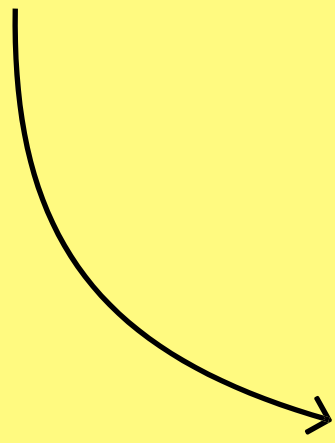
An entity that can be represented by a **URI** and can be accessed through an **API**. **Resources** can be anything from **data** (such as a list of users or a single user's profile) to **operations** (such as creating or updating a resource).

Request



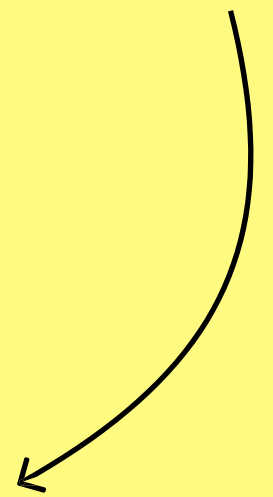
An **HTTP request** sent by a client to a server to **retrieve or modify data**. A request typically includes a method, a URI, and a set of headers and/or a body.

Response



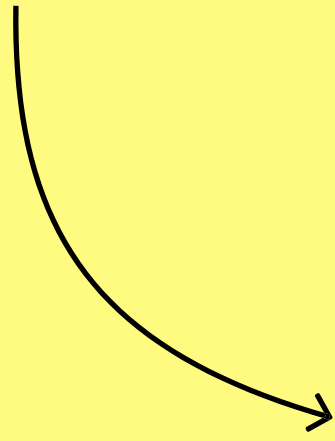
An **HTTP response** sent by a **server** to a **client** in response to a request.

Response Code



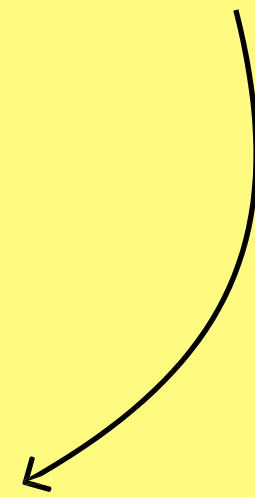
A numerical status code returned in an API response to **indicate the success or failure of a request**. Common response codes include **200** (OK), **404** (Not Found), and **500** (Internal Server Error).

Payload



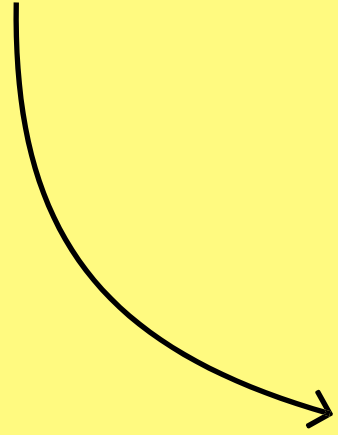
The data sent in an API **request** or **response**, often in the form of a **JSON object**.

Pagination



A technique used in APIs to divide a large dataset into smaller, more **manageable chunks** or **pages**. This allows a client to **request a specific page** of data rather than receiving the entire dataset all at once.

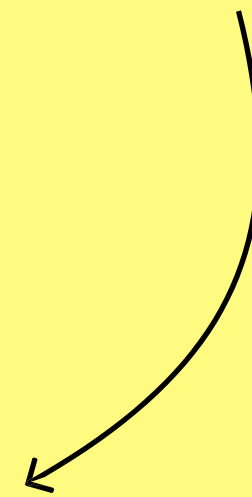
Method



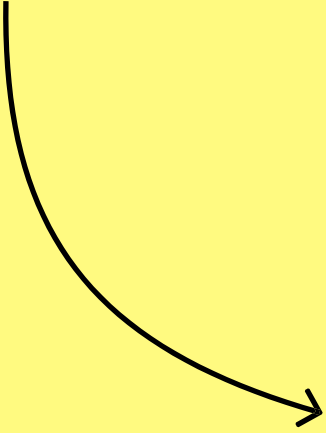
The **HTTP verb** used in an **API request**, such as GET, POST, PUT, or DELETE.

Query Parameters

Key-value pairs that are added to the end of an **API endpoint URL** to specify certain criteria or **filters** for the data being requested.

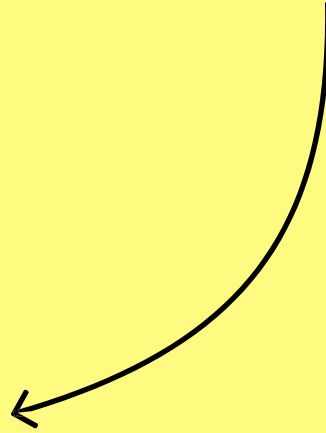


Authentication



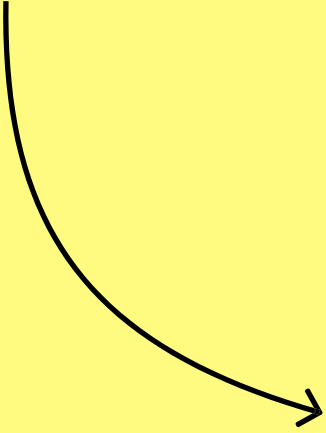
The process of **verifying the identity of a client or user** before allowing them to access an API. This is often done using an **API key** or other form of credentials.

Rate Limiting



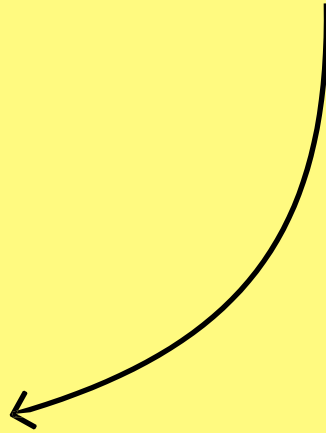
The process of **limiting the number of API requests** that a client can make within a certain **timeframe** to **prevent abuse or overuse** of the API.

API Documentation



Detailed documentation or reference material provided by the creator of an API, explaining how to use the API and its various endpoints and parameters.

Logic Flaw



Business logic flaws result from faulty application logic. In simple terms, a logic flaw happens when an application behaves unexpectedly. A logic flaw allows attackers to misuse an application and circumvent its rules to change how it performs.

JSON

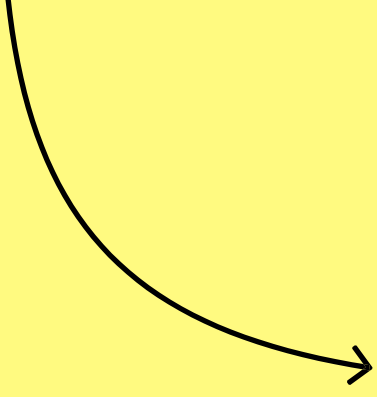


JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) is a **lightweight data-interchange format** based on a subset of JavaScript programming language standards.

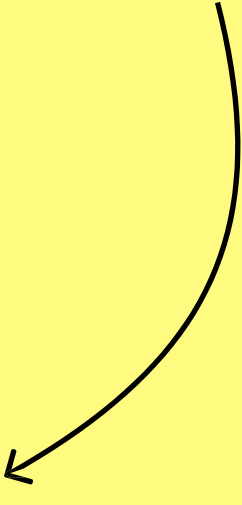
JSON has the advantage that it is both **easy for humans** to read and write **and for machines** to parse and generate.

It is a format that is completely **agnostic** to languages and uses conventions that are familiar to programmers of C-family languages.

Microservices

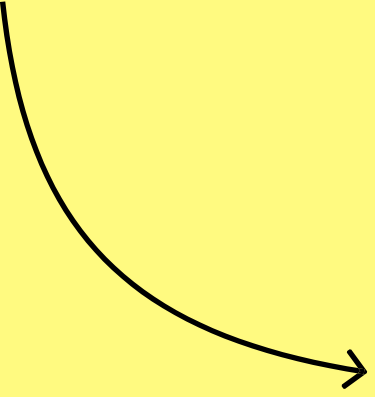


Microservices are also known as microservices architecture. It is a **software architecture style** that structures apps as a collection of **loosely coupled, independent**.

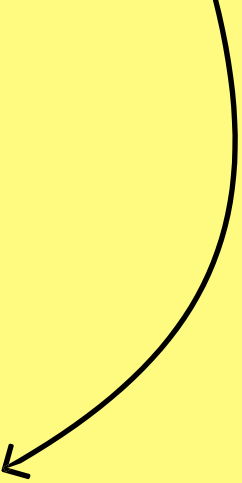


Microservices are highly maintainable services that are organized to **enhance** an app, website, or platform's **business capabilities**.

Monetization

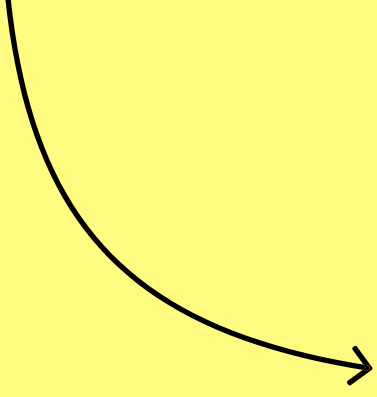


API monetization is a **process** by which a **business can create revenue** from its APIs.

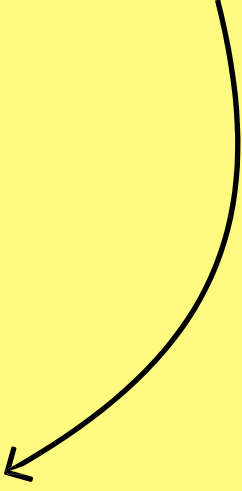


Since **APIs** enable users to **access and integrate data** from different sources, they can be used by different developers to **integrate relevant services** within their products, digital services, or applications, which could, in turn, become a **source of revenue** for both **public and private services** and applications.

OWASP

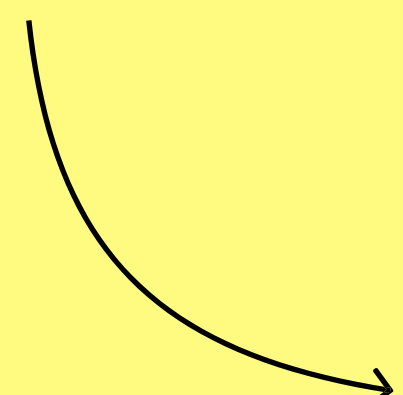


OWASP (Open Web Application Security Project®) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing software security.

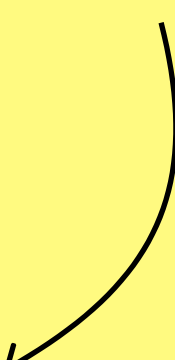


OWASP offers a range of tools to help developers and programmers secure the web through open-source software projects, hundreds of local chapters worldwide, and educational and training events.

Over-Permissioned Container



An over-permissioned container is a **container** that has all the **root capabilities** of a **host machine**.

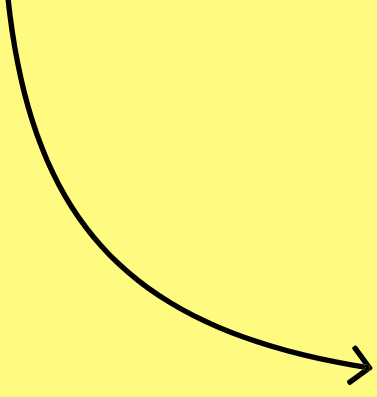


That means that it **can access resources** that aren't accessible to ordinary containers and users.

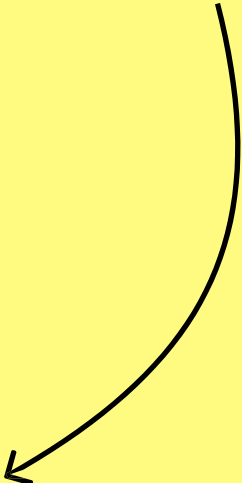


The problem with over-permissioning is that it gives **malicious actors** a point where they can **attack your infrastructure** and compromise your implementation.

Parameters

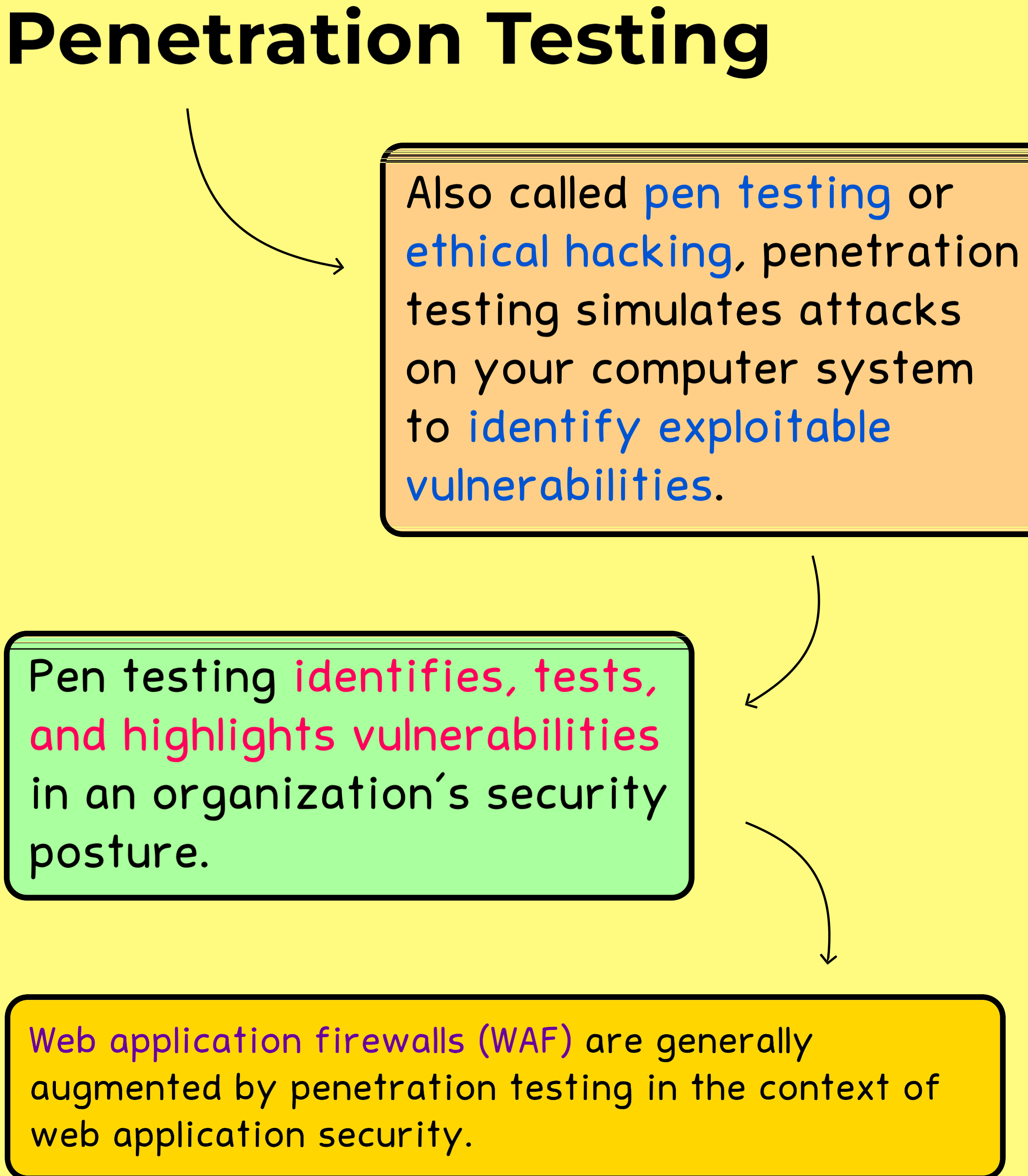


Parameters are **special types of variables** used in computer programming to **pass information** between procedures and functions.



An **argument to a function** is referred to as a parameter. Adding three numbers, for example, may require three parameters.

Penetration Testing



Also called **pen testing** or **ethical hacking**, penetration testing simulates attacks on your computer system to **identify exploitable vulnerabilities**.

Pen testing **identifies, tests, and highlights vulnerabilities** in an organization's security posture.

Web application firewalls (WAF) are generally augmented by penetration testing in the context of web application security.

Production Environment

In a production environment, **software** and other products are **actually put into operation** in how their intended users intend them to be used.

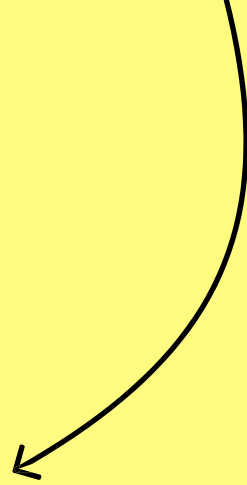
Developers generally use this term to refer to the setting where **end-users** will actually **use the products**.

In a production environment, software programs and hardware are **run in real-time**, and they are relied on daily by organizations and companies for their daily operations.

REST

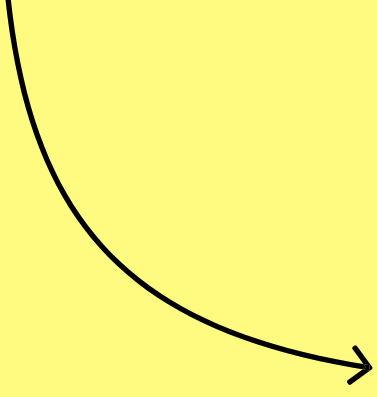


Created by **Roy Fielding**, a computer scientist, REST, which stands for **REpresentational State Transfer**, is an application programming interface that conforms to the constraints of **REST architectural style** and enables a quicker interaction between different **RESTful web services**.

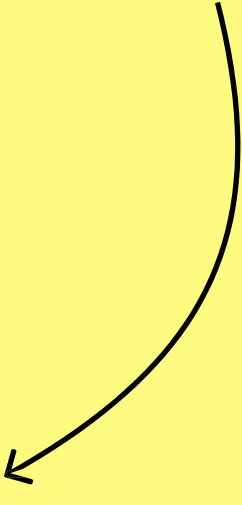


A **stateless Web service** must be able to read and modify its resources using a predefined set of operations and a textual representation.

Red Teams



Red teams are **cybersecurity professionals** trained in attacking systems and breaking into them by finding **compromised entry points** or exploitable **logic flaws**.

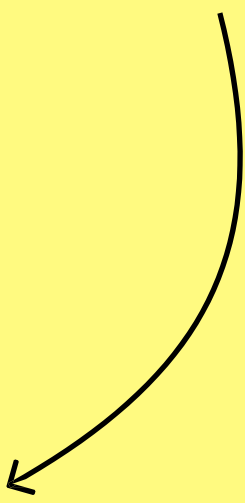


The objective of the red team is to **improve a company's cybersecurity standing** by showing it how they managed to gain access and exploit their **system vulnerabilities**.

SDK

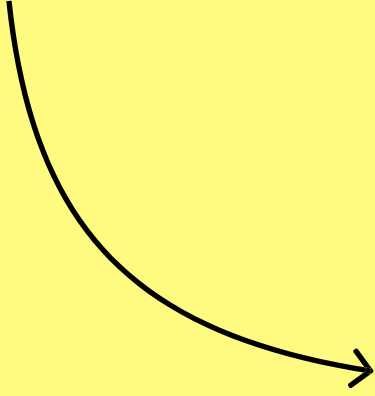


SDK stands for software development kit and is a **set of instructions, integrated practices, pieces, code samples, and documentation** that enables developers to create software applications on a specific software platform.

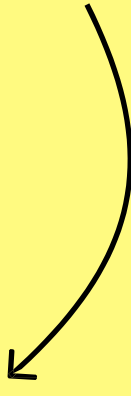


SDKs can be seen as **workshops** with everything developers need to **build specific software** for a determined **platform**.

SDLC



SDLC -also called software development lifecycle- is the process for **planning, creating, testing, and deploying** an information system.



SDLC aims at producing **quality software** at the **lowest cost** in the **shortest time** possible.



SDLC gives developers a **structured flow divided into phases** to help companies produce high-quality software.

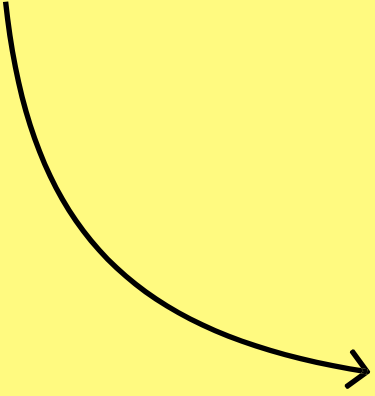
SOAP

Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) is a protocol specification for exchanging structured information to implement web services.

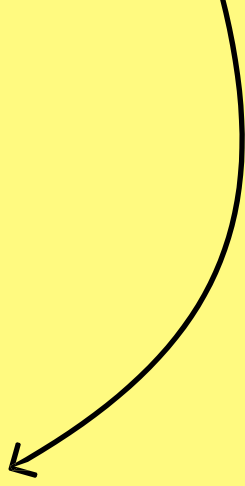
SOAP leverages XML Information Set for message format and other application-layer protocols, such as HTTP or SMTP for message transmission. The messaging services provided by SOAP are exclusively XML-based.

Microsoft originally developed the SOAP protocol to replace old technologies such as Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) and Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA) that cannot work over the internet.

SQL Injection

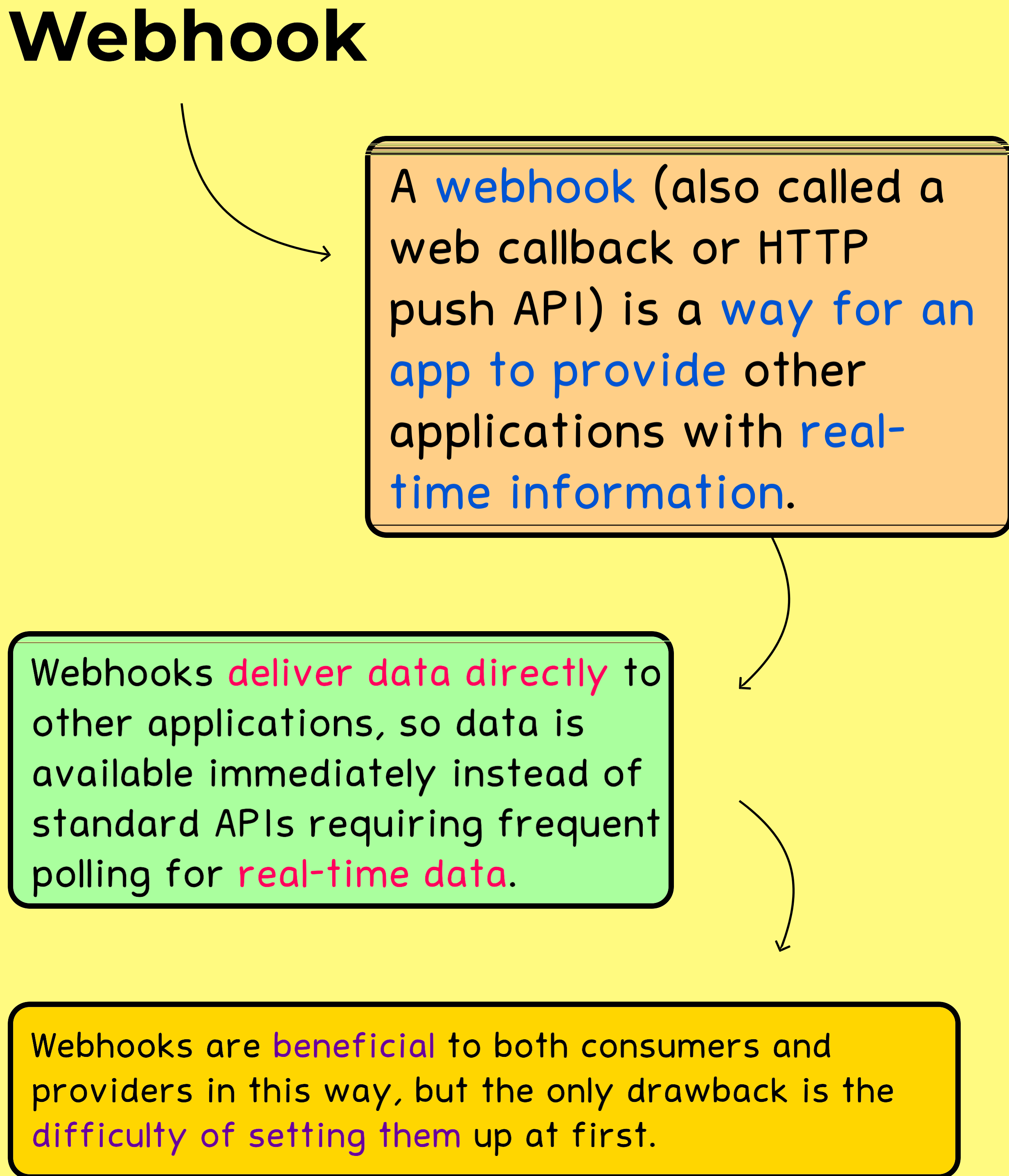


An SQL injection technique is a way to **inject code** into a **database** that may damage it.



SQL injections are one of the **most common web hacking techniques** and rely on the placement of **malicious SQL code** in SQL statements via web input using forms or other editable fields.

Webhook



A **webhook** (also called a web callback or HTTP push API) is a **way for an app to provide** other applications with **real-time information**.

Webhooks **deliver data directly** to other applications, so data is available immediately instead of standard APIs requiring frequent polling for **real-time data**.

Webhooks are **beneficial** to both consumers and providers in this way, but the only drawback is the **difficulty of setting them** up at first.

ZAP

Also called **OWASP Zed Attack Proxy** (ZAP) is one of the world's most popular **free security tools**, which lets you automatically **find security vulnerabilities** in your applications.

By automating penetration testing and security regression testing, **developers can automate** an application's security testing during the **CI/CD process**.

With ZAP, you can also do nearly everything you can do with the desktop interface using its **powerful API**.

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