NPR API

By Daniel Jacobson
npr
National Public Radio
What is an API?

“An API, or Application Programming Interface, is a way for two computer applications to talk to each other in a common language that they both understand.”

- NPR.org/api
**API: How It Works**

Allows transfer of content & functionality based on mutually agreed-upon rules
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Podcast</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WMNL: Wait... Don't Tell Me!</td>
<td>8/15</td>
<td>8/15/2009</td>
<td>WMNL: 08/15/2009 Wait... Don't Tell Me!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMNL: 08/15/2009 WMNL: 08/15</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>8/15/2009</td>
<td>WMNL: 08/15/2009 Wait... Don't Tell Me!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
History of NPR’s API

- Launched on July 16, 2008
  - Over 250,000 stories from NPR.org
  - Over 400,000 audio files, totaling over 25,000 hours of programming

- Features Added in December, 2008
  - Mix Your Own Podcasts
  - Station Finder API
  - More content: Fresh Air, StoryCorps and Most Emailed stories

- Features Added in July, 2009
  - Transcript API, including over 80,000 transcripts
  - Added over 180,000 more MP3 files dating back to 2001
Why Did NPR Build the API?

- Creates opportunity to share richer content with member stations
- Improves our ability to build new products quickly
- Enables product owners to be responsible for their products
- Makes it easier to work with 3rd parties
- Reduces costs by improving efficiencies
Target Audiences for the API

- **NPR**
  - Supports the entire infrastructure of our new site
  - Improvements to CMS to enable custom feeds by Editorial and Design

- **Stations**
  - Enables us to serve content to our member stations more easily
  - Enables our stations to serve their communities better

- **Partners**
  - Creates new opportunities because - easy to implement with very little integration cost
  - Makes existing opportunities easier to maintain and grow

- **Public**
  - Engages the community – part of NPR’s Public Service Mission
  - Lots of great widgets, tools, sites built using the API
Mix Your Own Podcast is a tool that allows you to build your own podcast based on mashups of search terms, programs, topics, NPR personalities, and other lists found in the NPR API.

1. Enter the title of your custom podcast
2. Type in terms that the system knows about (eg. Fresh Air)
3. Type in your own search terms (eg. comedy)
4. Output from your query terms
5. Direct links to iTunes/Zune and the Podcast URL
Covering The Front Lines Of War In Afghanistan

July 14, 2009

The new U.S. offensive in Afghanistan launched earlier this month is meant to bring stability to a region that has been a stronghold for the Taliban.

About 4,000 Marines are engaged in the largest American military operation in years. They are focusing on rooting out the Taliban in Helmand province in the southern part of the country.

Two NPR staffers All Things Considered producer Graham Smith and staff photographer David Gilkey are traveling with Marines with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Regiment. The unit, known as "America's Battalion," is part of the massive operation.

They have just returned from Helmand province and spoke to NPR from Kabul, the Afghan capital.

Madeleine Brand: I understand that you were split up. You were with two separate companies and have two distinctly different stories.

Graham Smith: I went in with a group called Fox Company. There are three different infantry companies in a battalion. We are one of the three and the other two are the Ranger companies.
Clinton Emerges, Reasserting Her Diplomatic Stature

Morning Edition
Jul 16, 2009 | More on NPR.org

Hillary Clinton's recent absence led some to question whether she was being eclipsed by her boss.
STATIONS
All Things Considered: Politics

Franken, Klobuchar preview roles in Sotomayor hearing

DFL Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken – who both serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee – made their opening remarks today at the confirmation hearing of Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor.

Politics

Community colleges get boost from federal money

Cash-strapped community colleges in Minnesota are poised to benefit from a multi-billion-dollar investment President Obama will announce Tuesday afternoon to help two-year institutions nationwide.

Polnaut Blog

Bachmann sings?

Rep. Michele Bachmann gets crossed with Cher, sort of

Podcast

Podcast for July 14, 2009

Minnesota's senators talk to Sotomayor; no consensus on health care changes

From NPR

CIA, Cheney, Congress And Torture

Special Coverage: Sotomayor Hearings

Sotomayor Defends 'Wise Latina' Comment

Administration Would Like To Move Past Torture

Lawmakers' Knowledge On CIA Limited By Design

Abortion Issue Could
Sotomayor Shows She's No Shrinking Violet

By Liz Halloran
Published July 14, 2009 2:07 PM

Sonia Sotomayor has been described as a judge who doesn't hesitate to challenge lawyers to back up their assertions or to engage from the bench in the finer points of law and precedent.

Put it this way: No one who has seen her in action has ever described the Bronx-born Sotomayor, 55, as a milquetoast during her 17 years as a district and an appeals court judge.

That straight-up judicial personality was on full display Tuesday as the nation — and senators on the Senate Judiciary Committee — got their most extensive view yet of the woman on track to become the first Hispanic member of the U.S. Supreme Court.

President Obama's first nominee to the high court remained unflappable, almost compulsively taking notes, during a barrage of aggressive and persistent questions from Senate Republicans about her most controversial decisions and off-bench statements, most regarding her Puerto Rican ethnicity.

But she did not hesitate, in responses forceful and deliberate, to push back on assertions made by GOP senators whom she suggested were making broad generalizations about her past, narrower court decisions on issues ranging from gun control to reverse discrimination.

And she rebuffed repeated suggestions by ranking Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama that her past statements strongly hint that ethnicity and gender would color her decisions as a member of the high court.

"I believe my record of 17 years demonstrates fully that I do believe that law — that judges must
Top Stories from NCPR News

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2009

Border re-opens; Mohawks not alerted

Listen to audio | Download audio (2:10)

For the first time in six weeks, the general public could cross the border between Massena and Cornwall, Ontario yesterday morning. Canada set up a temporary checkpoint on the Cornwall end of the bridge. The move brought relief to a region that's been hammered economically by the closure. But it also raised new questions about long-term fixes for the port of entry. David Sommerstein reports.

Green groups merge to "Protect the Adirondacks!"

Listen to audio | Download audio (4:45)

Two of the best-known green groups in the Adirondack Park announced a merger yesterday. Following a weekend vote in Lake Placid, the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks and the Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks have joined forces. The new group will be called "Protect the Adirondacks!" Martha Foley talked with Adirondack Bureau Chief Brian Mann about how the merger may change the conservation landscape in the park.

Sotomayor Shows She's No Shrinking Violet

July 14, 2009 | NPR: Sonia Sotomayor is known as a judge who doesn't hesitate to challenge lawyers. That straight-up judicial personality was on full display Tuesday. The Supreme Court nominee remained unflappable during a barrage of aggressive and persistent questions from Senate Republicans.

Sotomayor Defends 'Wise Latina' Comment

July 14, 2009 | NPR: Supreme Court nominee Judge Sonia Sotomayor tells senators that her oft-criticized comment was meant "to inspire" minority lawyers and law students. "I do not believe that any ethnic, racial or gender group has an advantage in sound judging," she says.

How Far Did CIA Assassination Plans Go?

July 14, 2009 | NPR: CIA Director Leon Panetta has quashed an agency program that considered forming assassination squads to kill al-Qaeda leaders. Among the lingering questions: How far did those plans get, and should Congress have been advised?

Retail Sales, Wholesale Inflation Up In June

July 14, 2009 | NPR: Retail sales advanced in June by the largest amount in five
PARTNERS
“NPR Addict” for the iPhone

Public Radio Player

On Demand

Bernard Shaw Remembers Walter Cronkite
Legendary journalist and former CBS News anchor W...

From The Archives: Cronkite, Live Via ... The death of legendary CBS news anchor W...

Final Words: Cronkite's Vietnam Com... Parting words from Walter Cronkite: His famous ... Bob Edwards Weekend: Linda Lotfi... Bob talks with Linda Lotridge Levin, author of W...

From The Archives: Cronkite, Live Via ... The death of legendary CBS news anchor W...

WFMU's The Dusty Show with Clay Pig... Running With The Paparazzii - In Search of Linda... Week In Review With Daniel Schorr

Wyoming Public Radio
PUBLIC
**Goosebumps And Guffaws In Stine's 'HorrorLand'**


Keywords: children • 1990 • gold • copies • R.L • Stine • Goosebumps • HorrorLand • emGoosebumps

**Iraq Seeking Doctors To Rebuild Health System**

Oct 31st, 2008 - The war in Iraq has driven out much of the country's intellectual capital, including engineers, administrators and doctors. The health care system has been hit particularly hard, and the Health Ministry is offering high pay and
Ten Teens Study To Guard Their Native Language
Rural, Salt Lake City, UT, US
Shoshone is one of many American Indian languages that is in danger of becoming extinct. But 10 Shoshone high school students from rural Idaho, Utah and Nevada hope to become future guardians of the language. This summer, they're spending six weeks at the University of Utah for the Shoshone Youth Language Apprenticeship Program. Jenny Brundin of member station KUER in Salt Lake City reports.
Some Chicagoans will go to great lengths to get tickets to the Barack Obama event in Grant Park on election night. On Tuesday, 1 million people are expected to descend on Chicago’s Grant Park where Obama will hold an election night rally.
Nearly 30M requests since launch, from more than 2100 registered public users
The Possible Future of the API

- Content
  - Blogs
  - Video
  - Improved image availability and sizing capabilities
  - More content from stations
  - User comments, ratings, etc.

- Output Formats
  - PBCore
  - NewsML
Questions?

- Daniel Jacobson
- djacobson@npr.org
- Twitter: @daniel_jacobson

To see the API:  http://www.npr.org/api
To follow the API development:
  http://www.npr.org/blogs/inside