



## OVERVIEW

Apigee API style/protocol for service communication  
Key principles and design philosophy  
Compare to REST, SOAP, GraphQL alternatives  
# Typical request  
curl -X POST https://api.example.com/graphql \ -H 'Content-Type: application/json' \ -d '{"query": "{ users { id name } }"}'

## CORE CONCEPTS

Schema: defines types, queries, mutations  
Operations: Query (read), Mutation (write), Subscription (real-time)  
Resolver: function that returns data for a field  
# Schema example:  
type User { id: ID!, name: String!, email: String! }  
type Query { user(id: ID!): User, users: [User!]! }

## SETUP & SERVER

```
npm install apollo-server graphql
const { ApolloServer } = require('@apollo/server')
const server = new ApolloServer({ typeDefs, resolvers })
await server.listen({ port: 4000 })
# GraphQL Playground at http://localhost:4000
```

## QUERIES & MUTATIONS

```
# Query
query { user(id: "1") { name email } }
# Mutation
mutation { createUser(name: "Alice", email: "a@b.com") { id } }
# Variables
query GetUser($id: ID!) { user(id: $id) { name } }
{ "id": "123" }
```

## RESOLVERS

```
const resolvers = {
  Query: {
    user: (_, { id }, ctx) => ctx.db.users.findById(id),
    users: (_, __, ctx) => ctx.db.users.findAll(),
  },
  Mutation: {
    createUser: (_, args, ctx) => ctx.db.users.create(args),
  },
}
```

## AUTH & SECURITY

Add auth in context or middleware  
const server = new ApolloServer({ context: async ({ req }) => ({ user: await authenticate(req.headers.authorization), db, }), })  
Validate and sanitize all inputs  
Rate limit and depth-limit queries

## ERROR HANDLING

```
throw new UserInputError('Invalid input', { field: 'email' })
throw new AuthenticationError('Not authenticated')
throw new ForbiddenError('Not authorized')
Errors returned in errors[] array alongside data
Use formatError to sanitize error messages in production
```

## PERFORMANCE

N+1 problem: use DataLoader for batching  
const userLoader = new DataLoader(ids => batchLoadUsers(ids))  
Query.user = (\_, { id }) => userLoader.load(id)  
Persisted queries: cache query document hash  
Response caching: @cacheControl directive  
Field-level tracing for performance analysis

## TOOLING

GraphQL Playground / Apollo Studio  
interactive IDE  
graphql-codegen generate types from schema  
graphql-inspector schema diff/validation  
Apollo Client frontend integration  
urql lightweight GraphQL client  
graphql-shield permission layer

## TESTING

```
# Apollo Server integration test
const { query } = createTestClient(server)
const { data } = await query({ query: GET_USER, variables: { id: '1' } })
expect(data.user.name).toBe('Alice')
Test resolvers in isolation with mock context
Use Jest or Vitest as test runner
```

## COMMON GOTCHAS

N+1 queries: always use DataLoader for relations  
Query depth limiting: prevent DoS attacks  
Don't expose internal error details in production  
Schema-first vs code-first: choose one approach  
Subscriptions need separate WebSocket transport setup