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Web Datasources and REST API

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1. What is a REST API
2. Web Datasource vs. REST API
3. How Web Queries Work
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6. What can you do with it?

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What is a REST API

- API = Application Program Interface
  - Method that two programs use to communicate
  - Compare it to communication methods between people:
    - Text, email, verbal, facial expressions
    - Each API is another communication method
    - Whoever starts the conversation chooses the API
- REST = Representational State Transfer
  - One specific API
  - Request and Response
  - Request has a few specific details:
    - Method
    - Headers
    - Base URL/ Host
    - Route
    - Parameters
    - Body
  - Response
    - Code
    - Body

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Web Datasource vs. REST API

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- Web Datasource usually uses REST API, but we avoid that terminology
- Web Datasources refer to Informer as the *client* instead of the *server*
- “Informer’s REST API” refers to Informer as the *server* instead of as the *client*
- Bottom Line: Who is making the request?
  - Informer: it’s a Web Query
  - The other program: It’s Informer’s REST API
- What does each one do?
  - Web Queries request data through a Web Datasource
  - Informer’s REST API answers requests by providing data or running processes in Informer

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Search anything (Ctrl + Space)...

Home / Datasets / Employee List / Editor

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Employee List

Draft saved CANCEL SAVE

Web Query

Datasource
ReqRes Test Data

Method & URL
GET
/users

Parameters
1 value

Headers
1 value

Pre-Request Script
Yes

Response Parser
Custom Script

Inputs
Starting Page Number

Add Group Columns Aggregates Options

id	Email	First Name	Last Name	Birth Date
7	michael.lawson@reqres.in	Michael	Lawson	https://reqres.in/img/faces/7-image.jp
8	lindsay.ferguson@reqres.in	Lindsay	Ferguson	https://reqres.in/img/faces/8-image.jp
9	tobias.funke@reqres.in	Tobias	Funke	https://reqres.in/img/faces/9-image.jp
10	byron.fields@reqres.in	Byron	Fields	https://reqres.in/img/faces/10-image.
11	george.edwards@reqres.in	George	Edwards	https://reqres.in/img/faces/11-image.
12	rachel.howell@reqres.in	Rachel	Howell	https://reqres.in/img/faces/12-image.

Basic Options

Method & URL

Parameters

Headers

Scripts

Pre-Request Script

Response Parser

Inputs

Usually passed through Pre-Request

Usually becomes a Parameter

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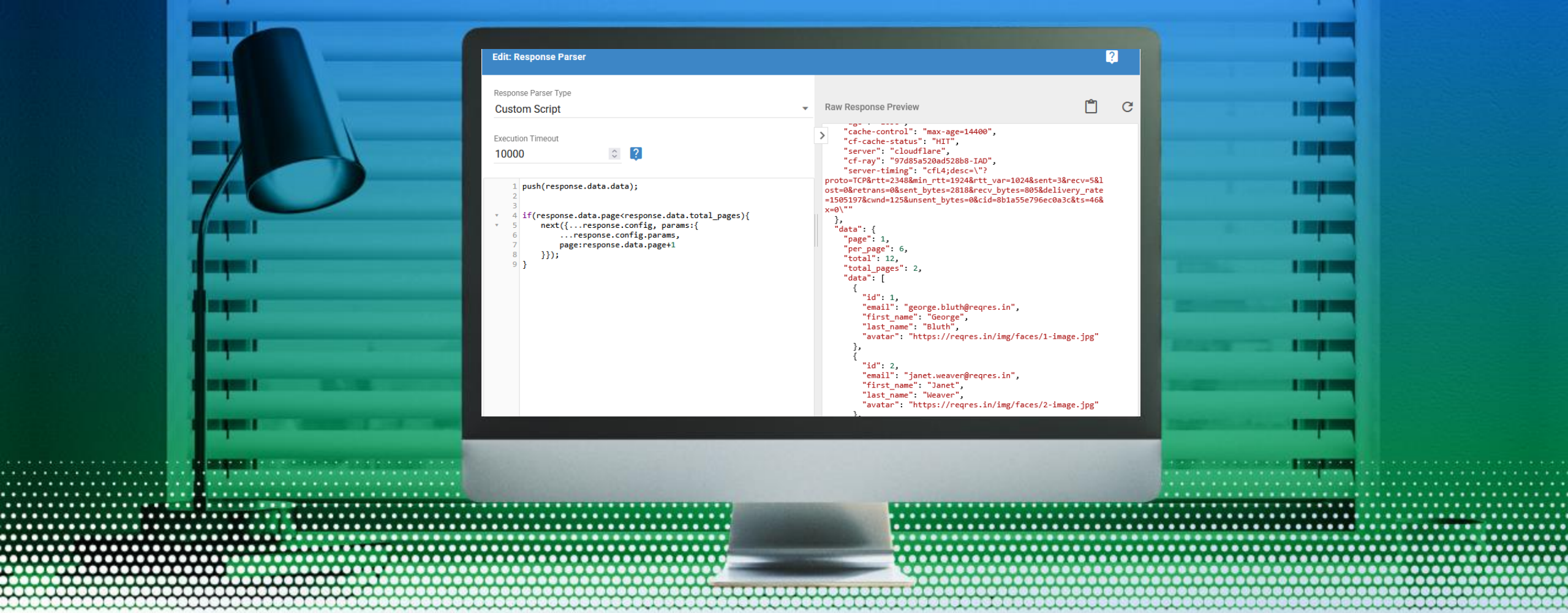

push()

Takes an object or array as an argument and pushes that to the result set.

next()

Takes a config object as an argument and issues another request. Most common use is paging.

Tooltip [?]

Gives a list of objects and functions that can be used.

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What can you do with Web Queries

- Query data from the Web!
  - No really… try https://reqres.in/api/users just in your normal browser
  - This is the standard example for our Web Queries
- Query data from services that advertise REST API
  - Workday example from Ender Ergun's session
  - Many LMS services
  - Qualia
  - Quickbooks
- Blend with data from other Datasources

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How Informer’s REST API works

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- Need a REST client application, like Postman or even just a browser
- Discover a request with /documentation or by inspecting network traffic
- Build and issue that request from your client
- Example:
  Method: GET
  Route: /api/datasets/{datasetID}/data (replacing all values in { })
  In a browser, go to a Dataset page. Prepend the route with api/ and append the route with /data
- Keep in mind authorization (tokens or Oauth)
- Get an AI Assistant to help you build requests!

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What can you do with Informer's REST API?

- Almost everything in Informer is accessible via REST
- Kick off Jobs
- Create Local Users
- Dynamically Update User Fields
- Fetch Data from a Dataset (possibly to integrate with another software)
- POST Data to a Dataset
- Backup Informer
- Import Bundles
- Rapidly Change a Template's Inputs, Run the Template, Download the result locally
- Send messages to an Informer AI Assistant

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Thank you!

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