RestORM Documentation

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CONTENTS

RestORM allows you to interact with *resources* as if they were objects (object relational mapping), *mock* an entire API and incorporate custom *client* logic.

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DESCRIPTION

RestORM structures the way you access a RESTful API and allows you to access related resources. On top of that, you can easily mock an entire API and replace the real client with a mock version in unit tests. RestORM is very extensible but offers many functionalities out of the box to get up and running quickly.

Currently, RestORM works on Python 2.5+ with Python 3 support on its way.

TWO

FEATURES

- Object relational mapping of API resources (Django-like but does not depend on Django at all).
- Flexible client architecture that can be used with your own or third party clients (like oauth).
- Extensive mocking module allows you to mock API responses, or even complete API's.
- Examples for Twitter and Flickr API.

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DOCUMENTATION

3.1 Tutorial

In this tutorial we'll walk you through the creation of a simple client-side implementation of a RESTful library API. This shows you the basics of RestORM. This example is included in the source code of RestORM and has more features, see: restorm.examples.mock.

Let's examine the server-side of the library API. Normally you would read the documentation of a RESTful API since there is no standard (yet) to describe a RESTful API and have a computer generate a proxy.

3.1.1 The library API

Below, you'll find an example of how the library API could be documented. The library contains books and each book is ofcourse written by an author. For the sake of this tutorial, it doesn't expose a lot of features:

Welcome to the documentation for our library API! All resources are available or http://www.example.com/api/. No authentication is required and responses are in JSON format.

• **GET** book / – Returns a list of available books in the library:

```
[
        "isbn": 1,
        "title": "Dive into Python",
        "resource_url": "http://www.example.com/api/book/1"
    },
        # ...
]
```

• **GET** book/{id} - Returns a specific book, identified by its isbn number:

```
"isbn": 1,
   "title": "Dive into Python",
   "author": "http://www.example.com/api/author/1"
}
```

• **GET** author/ – Returns a list of authors that wrote the books in our library:

```
"resource_url": "http://www.example.com/api/author/1"
      },
      #
 ]
• GET author/{id} - Returns a specific author, identified by its id:
      "id": 1,
      "name": "Mark Pilgrim",
• POST search/ – Searches the library and returns matching books:
      "query": "Python"
  }
  Γ
          "isbn": 1,
          "title": "Dive into Python",
          "resource_url": "http://www.example.com/api/book/1"
      },
      # ...
 1
```

3.1.2 Create a client

A typical client that can talk to a RESTful API using JSON, is no more then:

```
from restorm.clients.jsonclient import JSONClient

client = JSONClient(root_uri='http://www.example.com/api/')
```

Since this tutorial uses a non-existant library API, the client doesn't work. We can however mock its intended behaviour.

3.1.3 Create a mock API

In order to test your client, you can emulate a whole API using the MockApiClient. However, sometimes it's faster or easier to use a single, predefined response, using the MockClient.

Since our library API is not that complex it is very straighforward to mock the entire API, so we'll do just that. The MockApiClient takes two arguments. The root_uri is the same as for regular clients but in addition, there is the responses argument. The responses argument takes a dict of available resource URLs, supported methods, response headers and data. It's best to just look at the example below to understand its structure.

The mock API below contains a list of books and a list of authors. To keep it simple, both list resources contain only 1 item:

```
from restorm.clients.mockclient import MockApiClient

mock_client = MockApiClient(
    responses={
        'book/': {'GET': ({'Status': 200}, [{'isbn': 1, 'title': 'Dive into Python', 'resource_url':
        'book/1': {'GET': ({'Status': 200}, {'isbn': 1, 'title': 'Dive into Python', 'author': 'http
```

```
'author/': {'GET': ({'Status': 200}, [{'id': 1, 'name': 'Mark Pilgrim', 'resource_url': 'http
'author/1': {'GET': ({'Status': 200}, {'id': 1, 'name': 'Mark Pilgrim'})}
'search/': {'POST': ({'Status': 200}, [{'isbn': 1, 'title': 'Dive into Python', 'resource_ur.}),
root_uri='http://www.example.com/api/')
```

It's worth mentioning that you are not creating an API here, you are mocking it. Simple and limited responses are usually fine. If the API would contain huge responses, you can also use the FileResponse class to read the mock response from a file.

3.1.4 Define resources

We start with the most basic resource, the Author resource:

```
from restorm.resource import Resource

class Author(Resource):
    class Meta:
        list = r'^author/$'
        item = r'^author/(?P<id>\d+)$'
```

We subclass Resource and add an inner Meta class. In the Meta class we add two attributes that are internally used by the ResourceManager to perform get and all operations:

- **list** The URL-pattern to retrieve the list of authors.
- item The URL-pattern to retrieve a specific author by id.

For our Book resource, it's also possible to search for books. We can add this functionality with a custom ResourceManager:

```
from restorm.resource import ResourceManager

class BookManager(ResourceManager):
    def search(self, query, client=None):
        response = client.post('search/', '{ "query": "%s" }' % query)
        return response.content
```

No validation or exceptions in the request and response are handled in the above example for readability reasons. In a production environment, you should.

We also need to define the Book resource itself and add our custom manager by adding an instance of it to the objects attribute on the resource.

```
class Book (Resource):
    objects = BookManager()

class Meta:
    list = r'^book/$'
    item = r'^book/(?P<isbn>\d)$'
```

3.1.5 Bringing it all together

You can access the Book resource and the related Author resource using the mock_client, or if the library API was real, use the client. We can pass the client to use as an argument to all manager functions (like get, all and

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also the search function we defined earlier).

```
>>> book = Book.objects.get(isbn=1, client=mock_client) # Get book with ISBN number 1.
>>> book.data['title'] # Get the value of the key "name".
u'Dive into Python'
>>> book.data['author'] # Get the value of the key "author".
u'http://www.example.com/api/author/1'
>>> author = book.data.author # Perform a GET on the "author" resource.
>>> author.data['name']
u'Mark Pilgrim'
```

Our custom manager added a search function, let's use it:

```
>>> Book.objects.search(query='python', client=mock_client)
[{'isbn': 1, 'title': 'Dive into Python', 'resource_url': 'http://www.example.com/api/book/1'}]
```

Since it's mocked, we could search for anything and the same response would come back over and over.

Note: As you may have noticed, the response content contains actual Python objects. The MockApiClient simply returns the content as is. If you prefer using JSON, you can achieve the same behaviour with:

3.2 Clients

At the heart of RestORM you have a Client. The client simply allows you to communicate with an API and the one RestORM uses is built on top of the excellent httplib2 library. However, you are free to use any HTTP client library as long as you add the RestORM mixins.

3.2.1 Create a client

Most RESTful API support the JSON format for their responses. A client that can handle JSON is therefore included in RestORM.

The JSONClient is actually a combination of the classes BaseClient and JSONClientMixin. The BaseClient is responsible for communicating with the API while the JSONClientMixin adds serialization and descrialization for JSON. JSONClient itself is a subclass of ClientMixin which exposes various convenience methods.

```
class restorm.clients.base.BaseClient(*args, **kwargs)
    Simple RESTful client based on httplib2.Http.
```

request (uri, method='GET', body=None, headers=None, redirections=5, connection type=None)

Creates a Request object by calling self.create_request(uri, method, body, headers) and performs the low level HTTP-request using this request object. A Response object is created with the data returned from the request, by calling self.create_response(response_headers, response_content, request) and is returned.

```
class restorm.clients.base.ClientMixin
```

This mixin contains the attribute MIME_TYPE which is None by default. Subclasses can set it to some mimetype that will be used as Content-Type and Accept header in requests.

If the MIME_TYPE is also found in the Content-Type response headers, the response contents will be describilized.

serialize(data)

Produces a serialized version suitable for transfer over the wire.

Subclasses should override this function to implement their own serializing scheme. This implementation simply returns the data passed to this function.

Data from the serialize function passed to the deserialize function, and vice versa, should return the same value.

Parameters data - Data.

Returns Serialized data.

```
deserialize(data)
```

Deserialize the data from the raw data.

Subclasses should override this function to implement their own deserializing scheme. This implementation simply returns the data passed to this function.

Data from the serialize function passed to the deserialize function, and vice versa, should return the same value.

Parameters data – Serialized data.

Returns Data.

```
\verb|create_request| (uri, method, body = None, headers = None)|
```

Returns a Request object.

create_response (response_headers, response_content, request)

Returns a Response object.

get (uri)

Convenience method that performs a GET-request.

post (uri, data)

Convenience method that performs a POST-request.

put (uri, data)

Convenience method that performs a PUT-request.

3.2. Clients

```
delete (uri)
```

Convenience method that performs a DELETE-request.

3.2.2 Writing your own client

You can tweak almost everything about the client architecture but the minimum requirements to work with RestORM resources are:

- 1. You use the ClientMixin in your client.
- 2. Have a request function that returns a Response object.

A minimal implementation would be:

```
class MyClient(ClientMixin):
    def request(self, uri, method, body=None, headers=None):
        # Create request.
        request = self.create_request(uri, method, body, headers)

# My very own client doesn't need an internet connection!
        response_headers, response_content = {'Status': 200}, 'Hello world!'

# Create response.
    return self.create_response(response_headers, response_content, request)
```

The above client doesn't do much but it shows how to create your own client:

```
>>> client = MyClient()
>>> response = client.get('/hello/')
>>> response.content
'Hello world!'
>>> response.headers
{'Status': 200}
>>> response.request.uri
'/hello/'
```

You can override any of the ClientMixin functions to add custom behaviour:

```
>>> client = MyClient()
>>> response = client.get('hello/')
>>> response.content
'Hello world!'
>>> response.headers
{'Status': 200, 'X-Response-Updated-By': 'MyClient'}
>>> response.request.uri
'/hello/'
```

RestORM can handle JSON as response format from RESTful API's. Implementing your own format requires you to override the serialize and deserialize function in your own client class.

3.2.3 Using different HTTP client libraries

There are lots of different client libraries. RestORM chose for httplib2 as default HTTP client library because it's an active project with built-in caching and overall has the best performance.

Do not let the above stop you from using your own preferred HTTP client library like requests, oauth2, or even the standard library httplib

Example: OAuth

Many API's use OAuth, an open standard for authorization. It's quite simple to incorporate the oauth2 library in combination with one of the client mixins, for example the JSONClientMixin and override the request method to make a request using OAuth:

```
import oauth2 as oauth
from restorm.clients.jsonclient import JSONClientMixin

class OauthClient (oauth.Client, JSONClientMixin):
    def request(self, uri, method='GET', body=None, headers=None, *args, **kwargs):
        # Create request.
        request = self.create_request(uri, method, body, headers)

# Perform request.
    response_headers, response_content = super(OauthClient, self).request(request.uri, request.method)

# Create response.
    return self.create_response(response_headers, response_content, request)
```

Once we have this, we can do:

```
>>> consumer = oauth.Consumer(key='YOUR_KEY', secret='YOUR_SECRET')
>>> token = oauth.Token(key='YOUR_TOKEN', secret='YOUR_TOKEN_SECRET')
>>> client = OauthClient(consumer, token)
```

3.3 Resources

REST-style architectures consist of *Clients* and servers. Clients initiate requests to servers; servers process requests and return appropriate responses. Requests and responses are built around the transfer of representations of *Resources*. A resource can be essentially any coherent and meaningful concept that may be addressed. A representation of a resource is typically a document that captures the current or intended state of a resource.

3.3. Resources

In RestORM, a Resource is the single, definitive source of data about a specific API endpoint. It contains the essential properties and behaviors of the data you're accessing. Generally, each resource maps to a single API endpoint.

3.3.1 Defining resources

Imagine a RESTful library API, like described in the *Tutorial* and the *Mocking* part of this documentation. You can request a list of books in the library and a list of authors. The API provides data about a specific book, like its title and author. To represent the book on our client side, we define a Book resource that inherits from Resource.

We also define an inner Meta class that contains meta properties about the book resource. It contains for example an attribute item that holds a relative URL pattern for retrieving a single book.

```
from restorm.resource import Resource

class Book(Resource):
    class Meta:
    item = r'^book/(?P<isbn>\w+)$'
```

The item attribute holds a URL pattern that is a regular expression describing on what URL a single book representation can be retrieved. The r in front of the string in Python means to take the string "raw" and nothing should be escaped.

In Python regular expressions, the syntax for named regular-expression groups is (?P<name>pattern), where name is the name of the group and pattern is some pattern to match. In the example above the name isbn can be any word of any length. A valid relative URL would be: book/1 or book/abc123.

As you may have noticed, nothing is said about the book's representation. There is no strict definition of what should be a book. The server decides this for you, or you can manually pass in data. All information passed to the Resource constructor as first argument, is available in the data attribute.

```
>>> book = Book({'title': 'Hello world', 'subtitle': 'A good start'})
>>> book.absolute_url
None
>>> book
<Book: None>
>>> book.data['title']
'Hello world'
```

You can add any custom function to your resource class to help you work with the data representation.

```
from restorm.resource import Resource

class Book (Resource):
    class Meta:
        item = r'^book/(?P<isbn>\w+)$'

    @property
    def full_title(self):
        return '%s: %s' % (self.data['title'], self.data['subtitle'])

>>> book = Book({'title': 'Hello world', 'subtitle': 'A good start'})

>>> book.full_title
'Hello world: A good start'
```

The default representation of a Resource is the class name followed by the (absolute) URL of the retrieved representation, in the example there was none so the value is None.

You can override this with the __unicode__ function:

```
class Book (Resource):
    # ...

def __unicode__(self):
    if 'title' in self.data:
        return self.data['title']
    else:
        return '(unknown title)'

>>> book = Book({'title': 'Hello world', 'subtitle': 'A good start'})
>>> book.absolute_url
None
>>> book
<Book: Hello world>
```

3.3.2 Resource managers

A ResourceManager is the interface through which API requests can be performed on a Resource. At least one manager exists for every resource.

By default, RestORM adds a ResourceManager with the name objects to every RestORM resource class.

Let's assume we already have a client ready, as described in *Clients* but we use our mock client so you can test the demonstrated code snippets yourself.

```
>>> from restorm.examples.mock.api import LibraryApiClient
>>> client = LibraryApiClient()
```

Our Book resource already allows us to get a single book from the library API:

```
>>> book = Book.objects.get(isbn=1, client=client)
>>> book.data['title']
u'Dive into Python'
```

To make life a little easier, we can stop passing the client argument by setting our client as the default client:

```
>>> from restorm.conf import settings
>>> settings.DEFAULT_CLIENT = client
```

You can typically add this to your (Django) project settings so you won't have to bother about it anymore. We can now do:

```
>>> book = Book.objects.get(isbn=1)
>>> book.data['title']
u'Dive into Python'
```

class restorm.resource.ResourceManager

```
get (client=None, query=None, uri=None, **kwargs)
```

Returns the object matching the given lookup parameters. You should pass all arguments required by the resource URL pattern item, as specified in the Meta class of the resource.

Parameters

- client The client to retrieve the object from the API. By default, the default client is used. If no client and no default client are specified, a ValueError is raised.
- query A dict with additional query string arguments. An empty dict by default.

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• **uri** – Rather than passing the resource URL pattern arguments, you can also provide a complete URL. This URL must match the resource URL pattern.

```
>>> Book.objects.get(isbn=1)
<Book: http://www.example.com/api/book/1>
```

```
all (client=None, query=None, uri=None, **kwargs)
```

Returns the raw response for the list of objects. You should pass all arguments required by the resource URL pattern collection, as specified in the Meta class of the resource.

Parameters

- **client** The client to retrieve the object from the API. By default, the default client is used. If no client and no default client are specified, a ValueError is raised.
- query A dict with additional query string arguments. An empty dict by default.
- **uri** Rather than passing the resource URL pattern arguments, you can also provide a complete URL. This URL must match the resource URL pattern.

```
>>> Book.objects.all() # Returns a raw response.
```

3.3.3 Related resources

You can access all API resources by creating a Resource class for each API resource.

..sourecode:: python

class Author(Resource):

```
class Meta: item = r'^author/(?P<id>d+)$'
>>> book = Book.objects.get(isbn=1)
>>> book.data['author']
u'http://www.example.com/api/author/1'
>>> author = Author.objects.get(uri=book.data['author'])
>>> author.data['name']
u'Mark Pilgrim'
```

RestORM is aware of the API endpoint URL in the book resource. We can simply do:

```
..sourcecode:: python
>>> book = Book.objects.get(isbn=1)
>>> book.data.author.data['name']
u'Mark Pilgrim'
```

Even if we did not define the Author resource, the above would be valid. A generic resource is then used to represent the author.

3.4 Mocking

The mock client that comes with RestORM is an excellent method to simulate server side responses that you expect from a real REST API. You typically use it in your unit tests.

You can switch out your client with a mock client and simply work as usual, given that you mocked some typical responses. The mocking works transparently with Resource classes. Just pass your mock client to it.

Where you would normally have:

```
from restorm.resource import Resource

class Book(Resource):
    class Meta:
        item = r'^book/(?P<isbn>\w+)$'

>>> from restorm.clients.jsonclient import JSONClient
>>> client = JSONClient(root_uri='http://www.example.com/api/')

>>> book = Book.objects.get(isbn='978-1441413024', client=client)
>>> book.data['title']
u'Dive into Python'
```

You can replace it all with mocking behaviour that does not rely on actual communication with the external API:

There are several approaches.

3.4.1 Mocking single predefined responses

You can mock a simple specific response in small tests using the MockResponse class and subclasses, and MockClient. You typically use these classes where you do not want to mock an entire API and can suffice with just a few responses that don't happen irregularly.

```
class restorm.clients.mockclient.MockResponse(headers, content)
```

Main class for mocked responses. Headers can be provided as dict. The content is simply returned as response and is usually a string but can be any type of object.

```
>>> from restorm.clients.mockclient import MockResponse
>>> response = MockResponse({'Status': 200}, {'foo': 'bar'})
>>> response.headers
{'Status': 200}
>>> response.content
{'foo': 'bar'}

class restorm.clients.mockclient.StringResponse(headers, content)
    A response with stringified content.
```

>>> from restorm.clients.mockclient import StringResponse
>>> response = StringResponse({'Status': 200}, '{}')
>>> response.content
'{}'

class restorm.clients.mockclient.FileResponse(headers, filepath)

A response with the contents of a file, read by absolute file path.

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```
>>> from restorm.clients.mockclient import FileResponse
>>> response = FileResponse({'Status': 200}, 'response.json')
```

Using the above classes, you can pass desired responses to your mock client.

```
class restorm.clients.mockclient.MockClient(*args, **kwargs)
```

A mock client, emulating the rest client. The client returns predefined responses. You can add any MockResponse sub class to the responses argument.

It doesn't matter what URI you request or what data you pass in the body, the first response you added is just returned on the first request.

Responses are popped from a queue. This means that if you add 3 responses, you can only make 3 requests before a ValueError is raised.

```
>>> from restorm.clients.mockclient import MockClient, StringResponse
>>> desired_response = StringResponse({'Status': 200}, '{}')
>>> mock_client = MockClient('http://mockserver/', responses=[desired_response,])
>>> response = mock_client.get('/') # Can be any URI.
>>> response.content
u'{}'
>>> response.status_code
200
>>> response = mock_client.get('/') # Another call.
ValueError: Ran out of responses when requesting: /
```

3.4.2 Mocking entire servers

If you are going to test alot against a certain API (your own, or an external one), it might be a good idea to make mock the a part of the API. You typically use this to make functional tests or broader unit tests. You can use the MockApiClient for this purpose.

You can even create a web server from a MockApiClient instance to "browse" through your mock API using a browser or keep it running to let your application talk to it.

```
class restorm.clients.mockclient.MockApiClient (*args, **kwargs)
    A client that emulates communicating with an entire mock API.
```

Specify each resource and some headers and/or content to return. You can use a tuple as response containing the headers and content, or use one of the available MockResponse (sub)classes to return the contents of a string or file.

The structure of the responses is:

```
{'id': 1, 'name': 'Dive into Python', 'author': 'http://localhost/api/author/1'}
>>> response.status_code
200
```

get_response_from_request (request)

You may override this method to implement your own response logic based on given request. You can even modify the self.responses based on some POST, PUT or DELETE request.

This is the only method that looks at self.responses. Therefore, overriding this method also allows you to create a custom format for this container variable or even mutate the responses variable based on the request.

```
create_server (ip_address, port, handler=None)
```

Creates a server instance and returns it. The server instance has access to this mock to provide the responses.

```
>>> from restorm.clients.mockclient import MockApiClient, StringResponse
>>> mock_api_client = MockApiClient(responses={'/': {'GET': ({'Status': 200}, 'My homepage')}
>>> server = mock_api_client.create_server('127.0.0.1', 8000)
>>> server.serve_forever()
```

Example: Library API

An extensive example is given in the restorm.examples.mock module that extends the mock API from the *Tutorial*.

Note: This example is also used in internal unit tests. The MockApiClient and related classes are specifically made for the purpose of unit testing, or "playground" testing.

The example here is a JSON webservice. You can instantiate it and perform requests from the console:

```
>>> from restorm.examples.mock.api import LibraryApiClient
>>> client = LibraryApiClient()
>>> response = client.get('author/1')
>>> response.raw_content
'{"books": [{"resource_url": "http://localhost/api/book/978-1441413024", "isbn": "978-1441413024", "isbn": "978-144141413024", "isbn": "978-144141413024", "isbn": "978-144141413024", "isbn": "978-144141413024", "isbn": "978-1441414141414"
```

You can also start it as a server and connect to it with your browser, or let your application connect to it:

```
$ python -m restorm.examples.mock.serv 127.0.0.1:8000
```

Shut it down with CTRL-C. The above Python script basically does:

```
>>> server = client.create_server()
>>> server.serve_forever()
```

3.4.3 Expanding on what's there

Both the MockClient and MockApiClient constist of a base class and a mixin that handles the specifics. The MockClient class is defined as:

```
from restorm.clients.base import ClientMixin
from restorm.clients.mockclient import BaseMockClient
class MockClient (BaseMockClient, ClientMixin):
    pass
```

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You can easily use these classes for your own use. Actually, creating a mock client that serves JSON is nothing more than:

```
from restorm.clients.jsonclient import JSONClientMixin

class MockJSONClient (BaseMockClient, JSONClientMixin):
    pass

With the MockApiClient you can also use these mixins:

from restorm.clients.jsonclient import JSONClientMixin, json
from restorm.clients.mockclient import BaseMockApiClient

class MockApiJSONClient (BaseMockApiClient, JSONClientMixin):
    pass
```

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INSTALLATION

RestORM is on PyPI, so you can simply use:

\$ pip install restorm

If you want the latest development version, get the code from Github:

\$ pip install -e git+git://github.com/joeribekker/restorm.git#egg=restorm

FIVE

CONTRIBUTE

- 1. Get the code from Github:
 - \$ git clone git://github.com/joeribekker/restorm.git
- 2. Create and activate a virtual environment:
 - \$ cd restorm
 - \$ virtualenv .
 - \$ source bin/activate
- 3. Setup the project for development:
 - \$ python setup.py develop
- 4. Start hacking!

SIX

TESTING

RestORM has a whooping 90% test coverage. Although reaching 100% is not a goal by itself, I consider unit testing to be essential during development.

Performing the unit tests yourself:

pip install nose
python setup.py nosetest

Note: Until a version 1.0 release, backwards incompatible changes may be introduced in future 0.x versions.

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