

<C'T WEBDEV> / COLOGNE / 2024-11-14

We don't talk about Bruno The Open Source HTTP Client Alternative to Postman and Insomnia





JOSHUA TÖPFER SENIOR CONSULTANT



"Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away."

- Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

JOSHUA TÖPFER

Senior Consultant at INNOQ

Joshua is a seasoned web developer and mob programming advocate and maintainer of mob.sh. He is passionate about building pragmatic selfcontained systems.





The history of http clients?



wget curl 1996



wget & curl

The first command line http clients

Initially for saving web resources

Used until today

•••

```
curl --request POST \
    --url http://dev.todo.local/todos \
    --header 'Authorization: Bearer eyJh...' \
    --header 'content-type: application/json' \
    --data '{
    "title": "Clean the car"
}'
```



wget curl 1996



wget curl 1996

1990 WorldWideWeb XML-RPC

REST

2000

1990 WorldWideWeb XML-RPC

wget

curl

1996

REST

2000

1990 WorldWideWeb XML-RPC

wget

curl

1996



REST

2000

wget

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1996

1990 WorldWideWeb XML-RPC







Postman

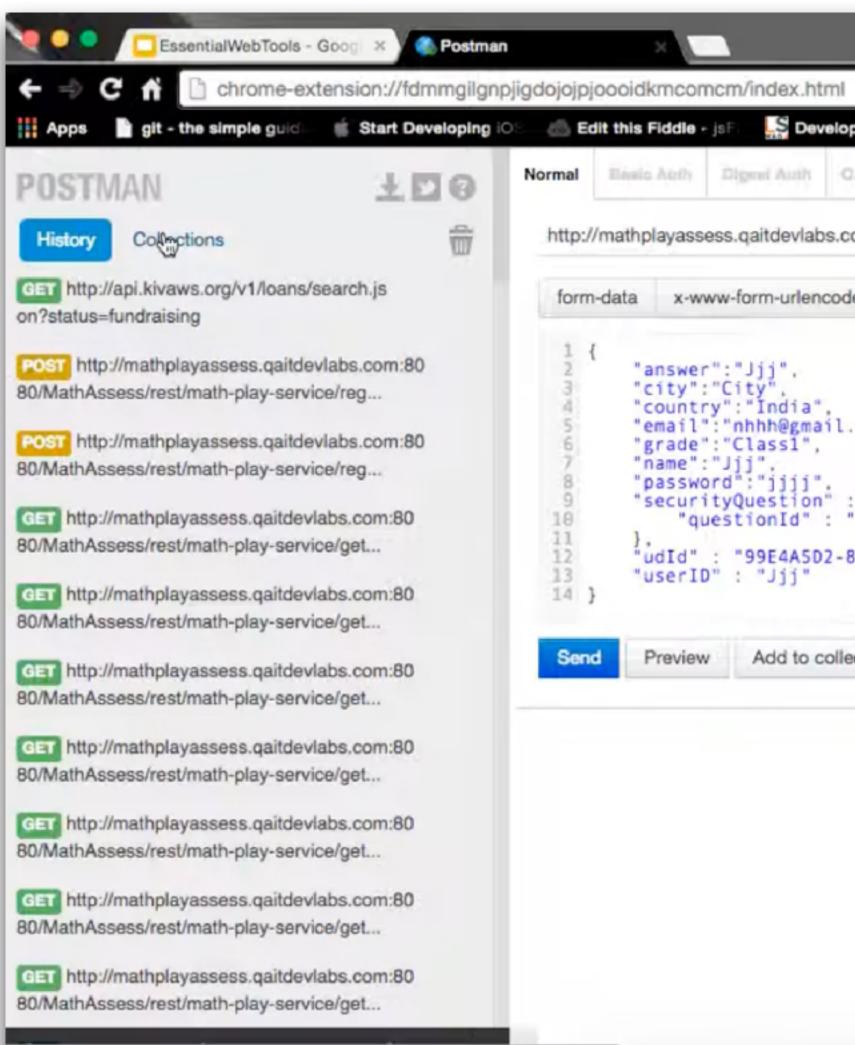
Started 2012 by Abhinav Asthana

Chrome Plugin

Make API testing easier



Postman Chrome Plugin in 2015



chrome-extension://fdmmgilgnpjigdojojpjoooldkmcomcm/index.html#sidebar-se

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Postman Today

Cloud Synchronisation

More collaboration feature

 Much more than just an http client (API governance, API builder, API catalog and documentation, API testing, mock servers, monitoring, etc.)

Your data in the Postman cloud, like ...

- API requests
- API credentials
- API documentation

... are a security risk!

Postman in offline mode

Restriction of features

Bad user experience

Discontinued local scratchpad in Sep. 2023



REST

2000

wget

curl

1996

1990 WorldWideWeb XML-RPC







REST

2000

wget

curl

1996

1990 WorldWideWeb XML-RPC

1998 SOAP





2014 2010 Angular.js Insomnia

Insomnia

Started 2014 by Gregory Schier

Motivation

- Inspired by Postman
- No autosave of requests
- Environments and collections not tied together
- Cluttered and unintuitive UI



Insomnia Today

Got acquired by Kong in 2019

Cloud Synchronisation

More collaboration feature

Much more than just an http client (API designer, API testing, mock servers)





Restriction of features

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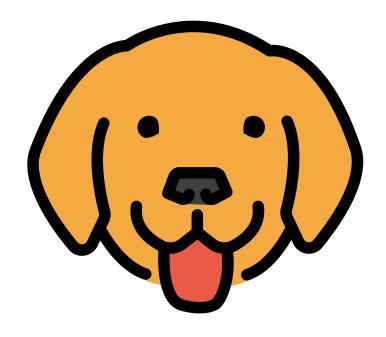


Bruno

		Bruno			
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POST Add a Todo GET Get All Todos PUT Mark Todo as DEL Delete a Todo	<pre>1 * { 2 "title": "{{ti 3 } </pre>	JSON - Prettify	<pre>1 * { 2 "id": 2, 3 "title": ' 4 "completed 5 }</pre>	'Clean the car", I": false	
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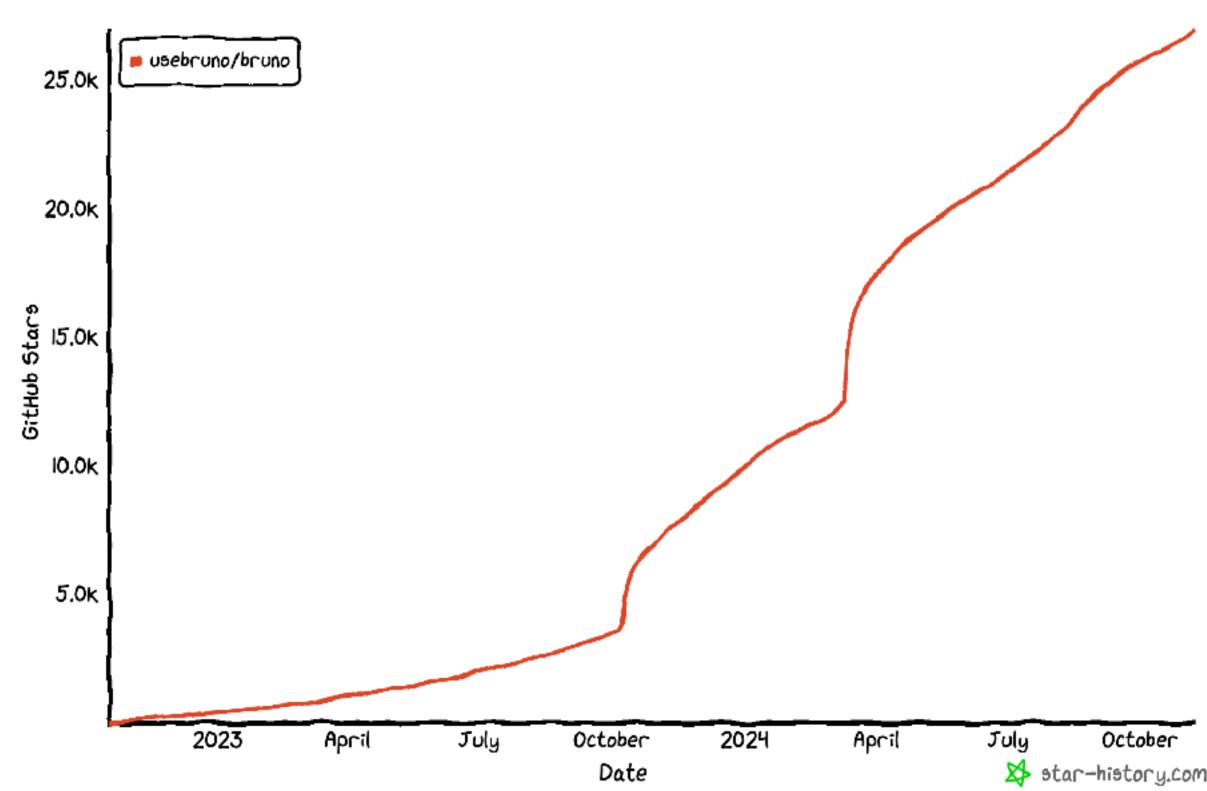






Motivation:

- No real open Source alternative
- More basic feature restrictions
- No offline only anymore



😣 Star History



Bruno's Manifesto

Collection within the projects repository

No proprietary version control system

Requests in files which are human readable

No plans to add cloud-sync ever



Bru Markup Language

Human readable

One request per file

Usage of variables and secrets



Different Versions of Bruno

- **Open Source Edition** (Free and open source forever)
 - Basic Features (which I will show today and more)

Golden Edition (19\$ for two years of updates afterwards renewable with 60% off)

- Builtin Bru File Explorer
- Visual Git
- Load Data from file for Collection Run
- Dev Tools
- OpenAPI Designer

Versions for organizations with priority support & secret manager support

Let's have a look at Bruno!

Case Study "Todo List"

Spring Boot Application with Keycloak for Authentication

https://github.com/hollesse/bruno-demo

Features:

- See all todos
- See all open todos
- Add a todo
- Mark a todo as complete
- Delete a todo







Benefits of Bruno

Requests can be shared via git and diffs are easy to understand

Free version is good enough

- Scripting gives a lot of opportunities
- Cli tooling is available
- Most of the time easy to use



Problems with Bruno

- Authentication with OAuth2 need scripting & sending a token request
- No usage of builtin secrets within scripts, but real env variables
- No request chaining



Are there other alternatives?

RapidAPI (formerly Paw)

macOS only

Got acquired in 2022

Free for individuals

Subscription for teams



GET /repos/luckymari

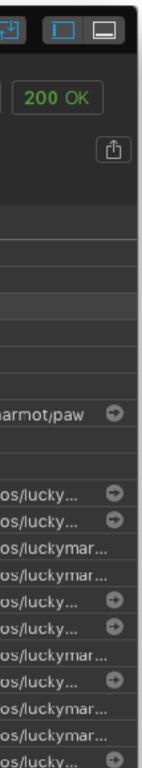
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Facebook



Q Rapid

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JetBrains HTTP Client

Very simple UI, but not many UI features

More a extended curl

Need an JetBrains IDE



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2	Accept: application/json		-	enerated-reque	
3			X gene	rated-requests	
4	###		AS All in	MyHTTPReque	HTTP/1.1 200
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					length: 104 bytes (104 B)

Yaak (Not recommended yet, but has potential for future updates)

Started 2024 by the Insomnia founder Gregory Schier

- Focus on simplicity
- In a very early stage
- Directory Sync is going to come
- Offline mode will be free forever



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Postman and Insomnia became a universe of tools

More and more data are on their servers

Free & open source tools exist with focus on just being an HTTP client

• User experience for free user without cloud sync & data collection got worse





Bruno is such a simple HTTP client

• Easily synchronize request within the team with data privacy

JetBrains HTTP Client can be an option for developers too

• Have Yaak in mind, it could bring a even simpler UI & less pitfalls in the future



Thanks! Any Guestions?



Joshua Töpfer joshua.toepfer@innoq.com +49 172 3666344

innoQ Deutschland GmbH

Krischerstr. 100 40789 Monheim +49 2173 3366-0

Ohlauer Str. 43 10999 Berlin

Ludwigstr. 180E 63067 Offenbach







Kreuzstr. 16 80331 München Wendenstraße 130 20537 Hamburg

Spichernstraße 44 50672 Köln