A ReSTful Interface for CubeSats

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CubeSat Software Interfaces

- Many mission unique protocols
- Low level manipulation
- Protocol libraries
- Platform lock
- Interface documents
- Etc...

Software Interfaces Ideally..

- Universal
- Language independent
- Platform independent
- High Level
- Able to leverage open source code
- Simple to document

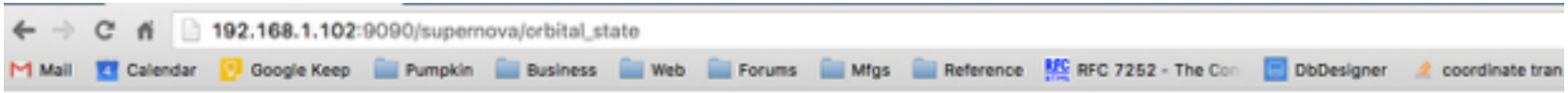
- Where would we find something like that?

ReST - "The software architectural style of the Web"[1]

- **Representational State Transfer**
- **ReSTful system constraints:**
  1. Client-Server
  2. Stateless
  3. Cache
  4. Uniform Interface
  5. Layered
  6. Code on Demand
- **Protocol + Data Format not explicitly stated**
  - But ***HTTP + JSON*** are web standard

What does using ReST look like?

- Browser demo




```
{
   "eci_dx_kms": 2.4453357689384707,
   "eci_dy_kms": -5.236508654841261,
   "eci_dz_kms": -5.032283151039424,
   "eci_x_km": -6129.230374071741,
   "eci_y_km": -69.38074892405864,
   "eci_z_km": -2911.6373186760843,
   "timestamp": "2016-04-21T22:16:54.104683"
}
```

Payload Example - Python

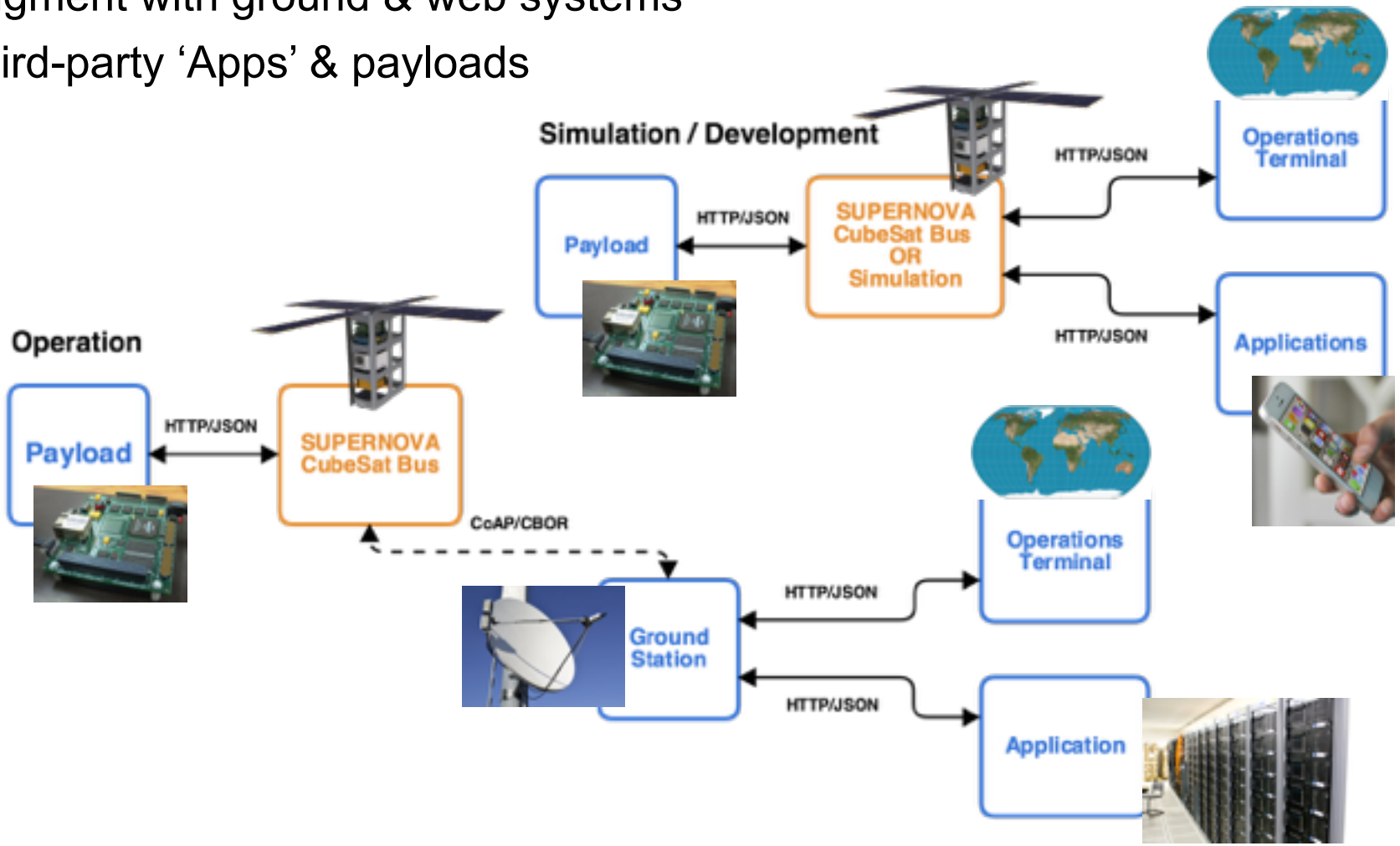
```
1  import httplib, json
2  conn = httplib.HTTPConnection("192.168.1.101")
3  conn.request("GET", "/datasets/orbital_state")      # --- Requesting
4  response = conn.getresponse()
5  if response.status == 200                           # --- Error Checking
6      data = json.loads(response.read())              # --- Parsing
7      print data['eci_x_km']                          # --- Printing
8
```

Payload Example - JavaScript

```
1  var request = new XMLHttpRequest();
2  request.open("GET", "http://192.168.1.101/datasets/orbital_state", true);
3  request.send(null);                    // Requesting
4  if (request.status == 200) {                    // Error Checking
5      data = JSON.parse(conn.responseText);    // Parsing
6      document.write(data.eci_x_km);           // Printing
7  }
8
```

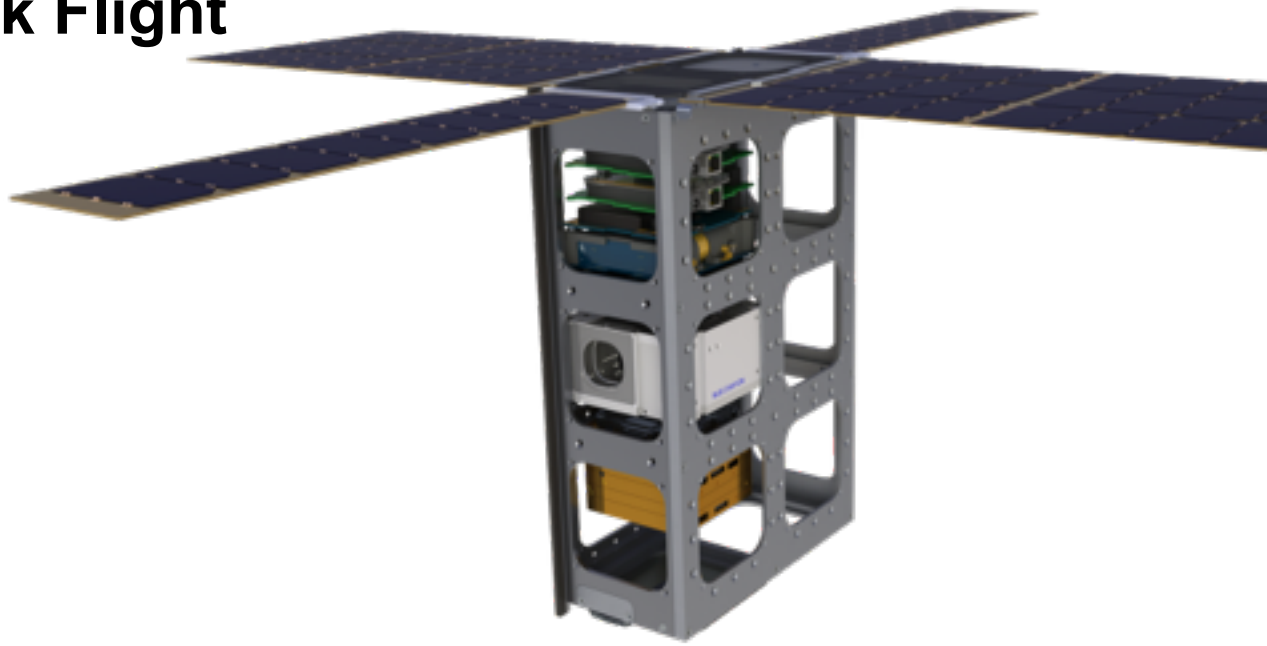
ReST/HTTP Extensibility

- Augment with ground & web systems
- Third-party ‘Apps’ & payloads



ReST Implementation - Hardware

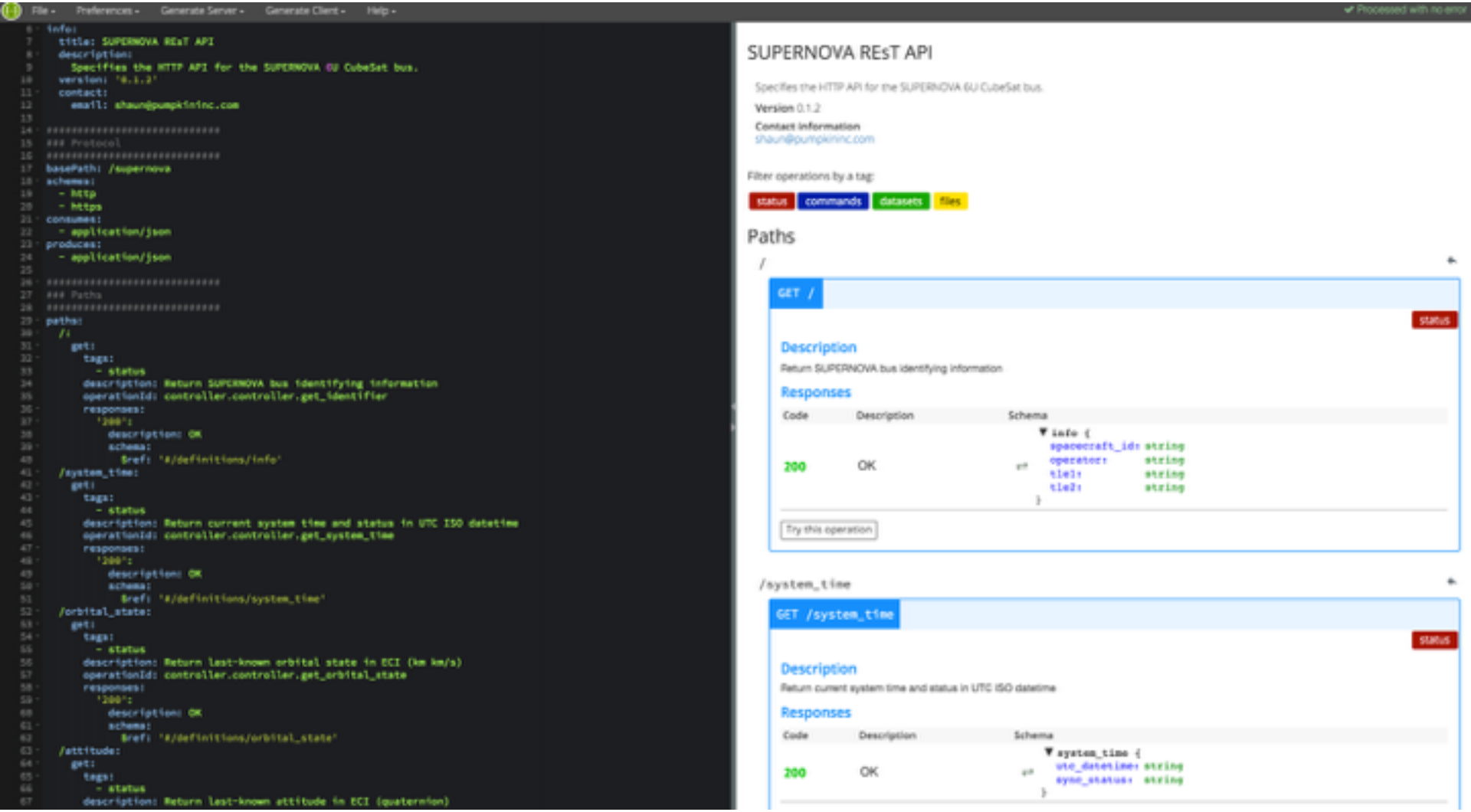
- **SUPERNOVA Bus**
  - 64W Solar Power
  - Ethernet Switch (in development)
  - Up to 4U Payload Volume
- **BeagleboneBlack Flight Computer**
  - ~2W
  - 1GHz ARM CPU
  - Linux



ReST Implementation - Software

- **Augments high-TRL bus flight software**
  - Low-level interface still available
- **“API First”**
  - Describe interface with using “Swagger.io” standard & tools
    - http://www.swagger.io
  - Auto-generate documentation from spec
  - Auto-generate HTTP server stubs from spec
  - Fill in the callbacks

Swagger Document Generation



Payload Demo...

```python
#!/usr/bin/python
import httplib, json, time, math
connection = httplib.HTTPConnection("192.168.2.101", port=9090, timeout=2)
while True:
    try:
        connection.connect()
        connection.request("GET", "/supernova/orbital_state")
        response = connection.getresponse()
        if response.status == 200:
            state = json.loads(response.read())

        position = (state["eci_x_km"], state["eci_y_km"], state["eci_z_km"])
        distance = math.sqrt(sum([math.pow(x, 2) for x in position]))
        earth_rad = 6371

        print "Position at " + state["timestamp"] + "\n" + position
        print "Hello from " + str(distance - earth_rad) + " km!\n"

    except:
        print "No Connection"
    time.sleep(4)
```

Conclusions + Future

- **ReST fits Pumpkin approach to Nanosats**
  - Open, Standardized, Accessible, Scalable, Modular, Customizable
  - “Fly Your Laptop”
- **Development at Pumpkin:**
  - HTTP payload interface to SUPERNOVA
  - SUPERNOVA Bus Simulator

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SPACE SYSTEMS

Q&A Session

Thank you for attending this Pumpkin presentation at the 2016 CubeSat Developer's Workshop!

Appendix

- **Further Reading**
  - https://www.ics.uci.edu/~fielding/pubs/dissertation/rest_arch_style.htm
  - http://whatisrest.com
  - http://coap.technology
  - http://cbor.io
  - http://swagger.io
- **Speaker information**
  - Shaun Houlihan is an Engineer at Pumpkin involved in developing SUPERNOVA hardware and software. Before joining Pumpkin he worked in the aerospace and consumer electronics industries. Contact Shaun at shaun@pumpkininc.com.
- **CubeSat Kit information**
  - More information on Pumpkin's CubeSat Kit can be found at http://www.cubesatkit.com/. Patented and Patents pending.
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