

API Overview

1. Does the documentation have an API overview?
2. Does the overview clarify who the API is for?
3. Does the overview indicate the market need or business problem the API solves?
4. What questions do you still have about the API after reading the overview?
5. How does the overview transition into a getting started tutorial or other first steps with the API?
6. Is there a Try it Out feature?
7. What are the assumptions about the technical level of the users and their familiarity with the domain?

Getting Started Tutorials

1. Does the API have a getting started tutorial?
2. Does the getting-started tutorial walk you through an end-to-end scenario?
3. Does it look like you could follow all the steps in the getting started tutorial successfully?
4. Does the documentation make assumptions about your technical level and familiarity with the domain?

Authorization

1. What kind of authorization is used?
2. Where and how do you get an API key or whatever credentials are required?
3. How is authorization information integrated into the getting started tutorial?

Status and Error Codes

1. Are the status and error codes listed?
2. Where is the status and error code information located within the context of the documentation? As a standalone topic? Below each endpoint? Somewhere else?
3. Do error code descriptions lead to troubleshooting information?
4. Make a request to one of the endpoints. Then purposefully change a parameter so that it invalidates the call. What status code gets returned in the response?
Is this status code documented?

Rate Limits

5. Does the API have rate limits? Is there a free (or development) tier?
6. What happens if users exceed the rate limits?
7. What status codes are sent if rate limits are exceeded?
8. What kind of rate limits exist with the free (or development) tiers of the API?

Code Samples

1. Are there code samples provided? In which languages?
2. How many code samples are there? Lots? Just a few? None?
3. Are there comments within the blocks of code?
4. Are there any SDKs?

Other

1. Is there a quick reference guide for the API? Perhaps a quick list of the API endpoints? Swagger output that acts as a quick reference guide?
2. Does the API include a glossary?
3. Are there best practices for working with the API?