

# **API Tools Solution**

**URL-XI Basic Training** 

2021-11-02



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# 1 Introduction

This document contains a practical training on URL-XI, the new scripting tool offered by Apica System. It is a self-paced training that you can do at your own pace.

The purpose of training is that you should be able to understand the core concept of URL-XI and create scripts that solve real use cases for API monitoring.

### 1.1 References

- The Axios Home page. URL-XI http requests are based on the Axios library. See <a href="https://axios-http.com/docs/req\_config">https://axios-http.com/docs/req\_config</a>
- Good sites for training with URL-XI
  - o <a href="https://httpbin.org/">https://httpbin.org/</a>
  - o https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/guide/
- Good sites for how to use Jsonpath
  - o <a href="https://jsonpathfinder.com/">https://jsonpathfinder.com/</a>

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# 2 URL-XI Introduction

# 2.1 Concept

- A solution from Apica for creating advanced API checks. You create an url-xi test case (script) in a json file. We call the file the test configuration file.
- URL-XI is a simplified version POSTMAN and using a similar concept but has better support for a flow of request and correlation of request. It can additionally return other metrics than response times of the http requests as the main return value of the test case.
- The tool has a model-based testing framework inspired by Mocha and Jest.
- A test configuration (script)<sup>1</sup> is built up in several steps. A step contains one or several API requests.
- Reporting is done on each step and all underlying requests.
- The tool is built for API monitoring from the bottom up.
  - o Detailed timings are reported per request.
  - You can customize what should be reported as the result of a test case.
- Extracting information from the request response is one of the key concepts in the tool.
  - Since we often working with json content in http(s) based service it is key to understand Jsonpath.

You can run a test case from the command line and as a check in Apica Synthetics (ASM).

# 2.2 Detailed information about url-xi

Can be found at: <a href="https://www.npmjs.com/package/@apica-io/url-xi">https://www.npmjs.com/package/@apica-io/url-xi</a>

# 2.3 URL-XI in Apica Synthetic

You can run URL-XI as check in ASM.

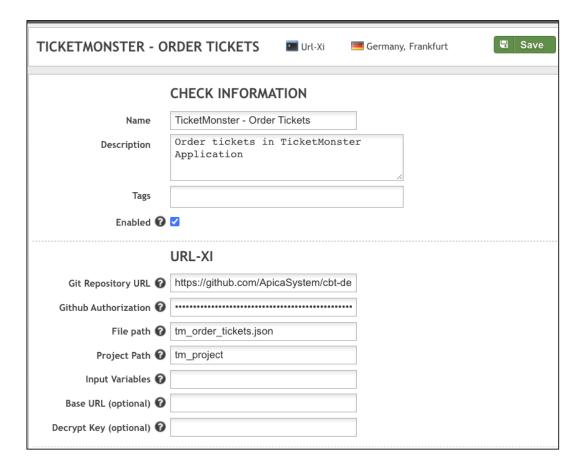
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Test configuration file or script has the same semantic meaning. It is the main json file in URL-XI.



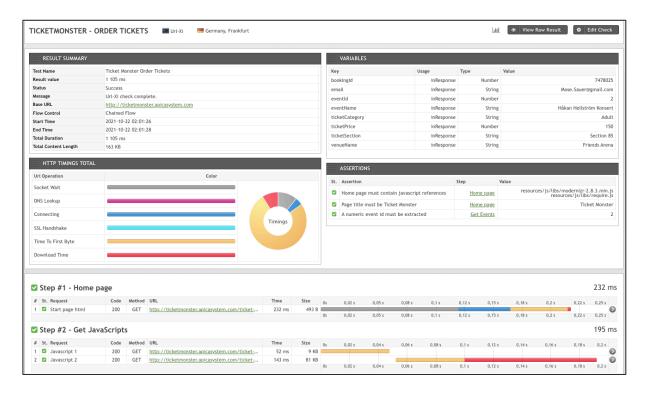
- When you deploy test cases to ASM they should be pushed to a repository like GitHub or Bitbucket.
- ASM will access and download the test configuration file and related project assets when the check is executed.
- You can view the results of a check execution as a nice UI report or as raw JSON result with all information included.



# 2.3.1 Check configuration in ASM



### 2.3.2 API Tools result page for URL-XI





# 3 Lab 1 - Install URL-XI and setup environment

# 3.1 Purpose

Get a little bit familiar with the tool by running url-xi from command line with a couple of switches.

# 3.2 The training setup with directories

You should setup the training by cloning the GitHub repository you have got from the instructor. The directory you have cloned will be the working directory for the training.

### jostgren:url-xi janostgren\$ ls -l total 24 -rw-r--r-- 1 janostgren staff 42 l8 Okt 15:58 README.md drwxr-xr-x 2 janostgren staff 64 l9 Okt 07:49 api-project -rw-r--r-- 1 janostgren staff 318 l8 Okt 15:59 package.json -rw-r--r-- 1 janostgren staff 577 l3 Okt 16:04 redirect\_sample.json drwxr-xr-x 11 janostgren staff 352 20 Okt 13:17 results drwxr-xr-x 12 janostgren staff 384 20 Okt 12:45 solutions

- The *solutions* directory contains solutions to all labs. You should newer change anything in that directory. The repository content can be updated.
- You should try to solve all labs without looking at the solutions.
- The *results* directory is a directory for storing results from executions of the url-xi command.
- The api-project directory is the project the directory for ASM API labs.
- The *redirect\_sample.json* file is a simple url-xi test case that you use in the first labs.

### 3.3 Install URL-XI from NPM

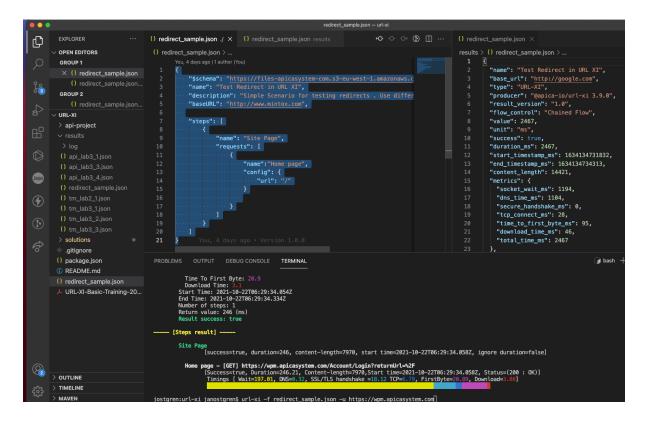
- 1) Install Node JS on your workstation. Information about how to install Node are found here <a href="https://nodejs.org/en/download/">https://nodejs.org/en/download/</a>.
- 2) Install latest version of url-xi with the following command npm install -g @apica-io/url-xi.
- 3) Verify your installation by enter url-xi from the command shell.

# 3.4 Install and setup Visual Studio Code (Optional)

We recommend you install Microsoft Visual Studio code. It will make it easier to create url-xi scripts, due to the strong support for JSON.



### 3.4.1 Working in Visual Studio



- Working with development of test configurations (left tab)
- View results (right tab). You use this view to create extractors and assertions from the result.
- Running test cases in terminal window (bottom)

# 3.5 Create first project for url-xi

You only need to do this if you have not downloaded the content from GitHub repository.

Create a directory to work in in. We will call it the project directory.

- 1) Create a sub-directory called results in project directory.
- 2) Copy a simple script form the samples directory in your global url-xi installation. This directory is /usr/local/lib/node\_modules/@apica-io/url-xi/samples on Mac and Linux. Try the following command to show location and globally installed packages.

#### npm list -g --depth 0

3) Copy the redirect sample ison file from the sample directory.



The sample script will look like this. You will use it as a template when creating new scripts.

It is important that you always use the schema reference on the first line in the json file, it will help you editing the file in Visual Studio Code.



# 3.6 Run the sample with different parameters settings

1) Check syntax of the url-xi command

```
url-xi -h
Usage: url-xi [options]
Options:
 -V. --version
                         output the version number
-f, --file <test file>
                          The test configuration file
 -r, --results <result_dir>
                            The result directory
 -xh, --xheaders <headers>
                                extra headers (default: "{}")
 -i, --inputs [inputs...]
                          input variables. Format name=value format
                         base url
 -u, --url <url>
 -l, --log_level <log_level>
                             log level (default: "info")
 -nd, --nodata
                          no response/request data in report
 -m, --mask
                         Mask sensitive data from report
-po, --parse_only
                            parse json only. No not run (default: false)
                            Production mode. Minimal logging and content in
 -prod, --production
results (default: false)
 --no-keep_alive
                           No keep alive of http connections
 -rn, --result_name <result_name > name of the result
                        start as server
 -s, --server
                           server port (default: "8070")
 -p, --port <port>
 "totalTime")
 -of, --out_format <out_format>
                                 Output format in json result. CRS or Default
(default: "default")
 -proj --project <project>
                              Project should be a directory or a zip file
 -ts, --table server  Apica Table Server (Experimental testing)
 -dk, --decryptKey <decryptKey > Cryptify Decrypt key
 --proxy <proxy>
                            Http(s) proxy (default: "")
 -h, --help
                        display help for command
```

2) Run url-xi with no optional parameters.

```
url-xi -f redirect_sample.json
```

3) Run with -r switch and examine the result report located in results directory and change log level to debug

```
url-xi -f redirect_sample.json -r results -l debug
```

4) Examine the result file in the results directory and the log files. We encourage you to install the fx utility for look at json files.

npm install -g fx



5) Use other base URLs for with -u option.

### url-xi -f redirect\_sample.json -r results -l debug -u http://google.com

6) Try the -of crs switch and -prod switch and look at the results. It is the switches used in ASM.



# 4 LAB 2 - Simple chain API example

### 4.1 Purpose

Learn the basics of chaining requests with extractors.

We will use the rest API for TicketMonster demo application for this lab.

<a href="http://ticketmonsterdev.apicasystem.com/ticket-monster/">http://ticketmonsterdev.apicasystem.com/ticket-monster/</a>

# 4.2 Exercise 1 - Chain events to events detail request

#### 4.2.1 Final result

```
Process results [TM Chaining requests lab 1] -----
    Test Name: TM Chaining requests lab 1
    Flow Control: Chained Flow
    Total Response Time: 301
    Total Content length: 928
   Timing Totals
      Socket Wait: 2.4
      DNS Time: 8.6
SSL Handshake Time: 0.0
      TCP Time: 11
   Time To First Byte: 173.0
Download Time: 2.5
Start Time: 2021-10-15T10:02:09.475Z
End Time: 2021-10-15T10:02:09.794Z
   Number of steps: 1
   Return value: 301 (ms)
    Result success: true
 [Variables values] --
   name=eventName [inResponse], value=Champions League
   name=mediaLink [inResponse], value=http://img.uefa.com/imgml/2016/ucl/social/og-default.jpg
- [Steps result] -----
   Events-Correlation
             [success=true, duration=301, content-length=928, start time=2021-10-15T10:02:09.477Z, ignore duration=false]
      All events - [GET] http://ticketmonsterdev.apicasystem.com/ticket-monster/rest/events?_=1634292129478
[Success=true, Duration=208.7, Content-length=589,Start time=2021-10-15T10:02:09.478Z, Status=(200 : 0K)]
              Timings [ Wait=2.18, DNS=8.59, SSL/TLS handshake =0.00 TCP=114.11, FirstByte=81.68, Download=2
      Event Details - [GET] http://ticketmonsterdev.apicasystem.com/ticket-monster/rest/events/1?_=1634292129700
             [Success=true, Duration=91.88, Content-length=339, Start time=2021-10-15T10:02:09.700Z, Status=(200 : 0K)]
              Timings [ Wait=0.24, DNS=0.00, SSL/TLS handshake =0.00 TCP=0.00, FirstByte=91.29, Download=0
```

### 4.2.2 Specification

Artifact	Name/Content	Comments
test name	tm_lab2_1.json	
baseURL	http://ticketmonsterdev.apicasystem.com/ticket-monster	
variables	eventName - In response mediaLink - In response, url	From extractions of request 2
Step 1	Name: Events-Correlation	
Request 1	url: '/rest/events' name: All Events	



	Extractors eventId – Random id , jsonpath	The value of <i>eventld</i> will be used in next request.
Request 2	url: /rest/events/{{eventId}} name: Event Details	
	Extractors eventName - Variable to display mediaLink - Variable to display	Use jsonpath for extraction

#### Hints:

- Start with just include the first request.
- Use -r switch
- Examine the result with the fx or in Visual Studio.
- Include the extractor in request 1.
- Run with debug option.

- This is a good start for your solution.
- Insert the extractor as next step.



# 4.3 Exercise 2 - Use a custom return value

In this exercise we will create a customized return value for the script.

#### 4.3.1 Final result

```
Process results [TM Chaining requests lab 2] ----

Test Summary] ----

Test Name: TM Chaining requests lab 2
Flow Control: Chained Flow
Total Response Time: 1217
Total Content length: 589
Timing Totals
Socket Wait: 5.5
DNS Time: 1094.7
SSL Handshake Time: 0.0
TCP Time: 54.2
Time To First Byte: 60.5
Download Time: 2.2
Time To First Byte: 60.5
Download Time: 2.2
Time To First Byte: 60.5
Number of steps: 1
Return value: 2 (events)
Result success: true

----

Pariables values] ----
name=eventCount [returnValue], value=2 events

[Steps result] ----

Event Counting
[success=true, duration=1217, content-length=589, start time=2021-10-15T10:41:50.349Z, ignore duration=false]

Count Events - [GET] http://ticketamonsterdev.apicasystem.com/ticket-monster/rest/events?_=1634294510349
[Success=true, Duration=1217.13, Content-length=589, Start time=2021-10-15T10:41:50.349Z, Status=(200 : OK)]
Timings [ Wait=5.47, DNS=1094.73, SSL/TLS handshake =0.00 TCP=54.16, FirstByte=60.49, Download=2.22]
```

### 4.3.2 Lab specification

Artifact	Name/Content	Comments
test name	tm_lab2_2.json	
baseURL	http://ticketmonsterdev.apicasystem	n.com/ticket-monster
variables	eventCount - returnValue	The customized return value
Step 1	Name: Event Counting	
Request 1	url: '/rest/events' name: Count Event	
	Extractors eventCount - All Ids , jsonpath, counter	The value of <i>eventCount</i> will be used as return value



# 5 LAB 3 - Example with ASM API

# 5.1 Purpose

In this lab section we will do exercises with ASM rest API.

See <a href="https://api-wpm2.apicasystem.com/v3/Help">https://api-wpm2.apicasystem.com/v3/Help</a> for information about the API.

This section covers more advanced topics of url-xi scripting and we will use a project for storing shared variables and JavaScript<sup>2</sup> files.

### 5.2 Create the project api-project

The directory api-project is our project directory.

### 5.2.1 Shared variables

The shared variables in the vars directory. Save as apiproject/vars/common\_vars.json

```
{
    "key": "authTicket",
    "type": "string",
    "usage": "input",
    "hideValue": true,
    "value": "XXX-XXX"
},
{
    "key": "asmUrl",
    "type": "url",
    "usage": "input",
    "value": "https://wpm.apicasystem.com"
}
```

• The authTicket does not contain a valid ticket. You edit it or use the -i authTicket="my ticket" when running the labs.

#### 5.2.2 Include section in all scripts

You should include an include section in all your scripts

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It is possible to write JavaScript directly in the json file, but easier debug and view in an external file. Small JavaScript snippets should be done directly in the json file like an inline script.



 The include section should be placed before the steps section in the script

# 5.3 Exercise 1 - Count checks of specific type

#### 5.3.1 Final result

### 5.3.2 Lab specification

Count checks of specific type. The input parameter checkTypeName should match the json property *check\_type\_name* in the response array.

Artifact	Name/Content	Comments
test name	api_lab3_1.json	
baseURL	https://api-wpm2.apicasystem.com/v3/	
variables	checkTypeName checkCount - returnValue	The check type name The customized return value
Includes	See above for the include	
Step 1	Name: Get Checks	
Request 1	url: 'checks'	



name: Count Checks of type	
Parameters	<pre>auth_ticket : {{authTicket}} enabled: "true" severity: "I"</pre>
Extractors checkCount - jsonpath, counter	The value of <i>checkCount</i> will be used as return value.
	You will need to do an advanced jsonpath which filter on the <i>checkTypeName</i> value. You can use the mustache expression {{checkTypeName}}

# 5.4 Exercise 2 - Count checks of specific type

#### 5.4.1 Final result

### 5.4.2 Lab specification

Same as lab 1 but using JavaScript to filter the checks.

See: <a href="https://www.npmjs.com/package/@apica-io/url-xi#javascript-support">https://www.npmjs.com/package/@apica-io/url-xi#javascript-support</a> for the syntax of the JavaScript support.

See: <a href="https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global\_Objects/Array/filter">https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global\_Objects/Array/filter</a> for how to do a filter on an array.



Artifact	Name/Content	Comments
test name	api_lab3_2.json	
baseURL	https://api-wpm2.apicasysten	n.com/v3/
variables	checkTypeName checkCount - returnValue	The check type name The customized return value
Includes	See above for the include	
Step 1	Name: Get Checks	
Request 1	url: 'checks' name: Count Checks of type	
	params	<pre>auth_ticket : {{authTicket}} enabled: "true" severity: "I"</pre>
	script scope: after name:"Count Checks" script:"countChecks.js"	Do a java script filter function on the response array.

### 5.5 Exercise 3 - Get details of check with max value

#### 5.5.1 Final result



### 5.5.2 Lab specification

Return the detailed information of a check with max value for the specified type.

See: <a href="https://www.npmjs.com/package/@apica-io/url-xi#javascript-support">https://www.npmjs.com/package/@apica-io/url-xi#javascript-support</a> for the syntax of the JavaScript support.

See: <a href="https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global\_Objects/Array/sort">https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global\_Objects/Array/sort</a> for how to do a sort of an array.

Artifact	Name/Content	Comments
test name	api_lab3_3.json	
baseURL	https://api-wpm2.apicasysten	n.com/v3/
variables	checkTypeName - input checkValue - returnValue asmCheckLink - in response,url checkName - in response resultMessage - in response	The check type name The customized return value The link to the specific check
Includes	See above for the include	
Step 1	Name: Get Checks	
Request 1	url: 'checks' name: Count Checks of type	
	Params:	auth_ticket : {{authTicket}} enabled: "true" severity: "I"
	Extractors checks – jsonpath, array	Use same jsonpath as in lab 1.
	script scope: after name:"Get max Check" script:"getMaxCheck.js"	Do a java script max function on the response array. Return check.id of item 1 in sorted array as variable 'checkld'
Request 2	url: 'checks/{{checkId}}' name: Check details	
	params	auth_ticket : {{authTicket}}
	Extractors checkName – name checkValue – value resultMessage – Last result message	check value will be used as return value



Transformers type: "replace "target": "asmCheckLink" "source": <the do="" to="" work=""></the>	Do a transformation to store the link to the check in the asmCheckLink variable
--	---

# 5.6 Exercise 4 - Update SLA on all checks matching a tag

#### 5.6.1 Final result



# 5.6.2 Lab specification

In this lab exercise we will update the SLA target for all checks matching a specified tag name and tag value.

See: <a href="https://www.npmjs.com/package/@apica-io/url-xi#javascript-support">https://www.npmjs.com/package/@apica-io/url-xi#javascript-support</a> for the syntax of the JavaScript support.

Artifact	Name/Content	Comments
test name	api_lab3_4.json	
baseURL	https://api-wpm2.apicasyste	em.com/v3/
variables	tagName - input tagValue - input maxLaps - number -value =-1	You can use maxLaps to limit the number of rows in the iterator
Includes	See above for the include	
Step 1	Name: Get Checks	
Request 1	url: 'checks' name: 'Get checks by tag'	
	Params	"auth_ticket":"{{authTicket}}"  "enabled": "true"  "severity": "I"  "include_tag":  "{{tagName}}~{{tagValue}}"
	Extractors checks, array	All checks
Step 2	Update checks	
	iterator: value: "{{checks}}" varName: "check" maxLaps: "{{maxLaps}}"	
Request 1	url: 'fixed in before script' name: 'Update check - {{\$lapidx1}}' method: 'put' data {}	The configuration url data should be fixed in the before JavaScript to the request. The check.check_type_api are often part of the url. For some check types it needs to be changed.
	params	auth_ticket : {{authTicket}}
	scripts scope:"before" name:"PrepareUpdate" script:"prepareUpdate.js"	The script should create the url and populate data. Data is the request body. You can set sla_target and sla_target_2 to 99.5



# 6 Lab 4 - Use certificates and encryption

### 6.1 Purpose

The purpose of the labs in this section is to understand how you can use certificates for authentication and how you can encrypt files like certificates.

### 6.2 Instructions

We will not give detailed instructions for the labs in this section. You need figure out how to do it by reading the documentation in npm for url-xi. Read this section for guidelines: <a href="https://www.npmjs.com/package/@apica-io/url-xi#use-certificates-for-authentication">https://www.npmjs.com/package/@apica-io/url-xi#use-certificates-for-authentication</a>

### 6.3 Lab 1

Authenticate to <a href="https://client.badssl.com">https://client.badssl.com</a> with the provided certificates we give you

### 6.3.1 Final results

```
Process results [Test Client with ssl certificates] -
[Test Summary] -----
Test Name: Test Client with ssl certificates
  Flow Control: Chained Flow
Total Response Time: 588
Total Content length: 687
   Timing Totals
     Socket Wait: 4.8
     DNS Time: 6.
     SSL Handshake Time: 261.7
TCP Time: 151.4
     Time To First Byte: 153.1
Download Time: 10.7
  Start Time: 2021-10-21T13:11:10.677Z
  End Time: 2021-10-21T13:11:11.315Z
Number of steps: 1
  Return value: 588 (ms)
  Result success: true
[Steps result] -
  Bad SSL Client page
[success=true, duration=588, content-length=687, start time=2021-10-21T13:11:10.680Z, ignore duration=false]
     Client Page - [GET] https://client.badssl.com/
              [Success=true, Duration=587.82, Content-length=687,Start time=2021-10-21T13:11:10.681Z, Status=(200 : 0K)]
Timings [ Wait=4.83, DNS=5.97, SSL/TLS handshake =261.75 TCP=151.41, FirstByte=153.13, Download=10.73]
```

#### 6.3.2 Hints

- Copy recursively the *badssl\_certs* directory from the solution directory to the working directory.
- You can choose to use the pem based certificates or the p12 based certificate. Password and passphrase are required for badssl.com for p12(pfx) certificate.
- You need a httpAgent object and include section in the test configuration file.



# 6.4 Lab 2 - Test encryption

Use the same lab as in lab 1 with encryption.

### 6.4.1 Hints

- Copy the badssl\_certs directory to ec\_badssl\_certs directory
- Install Cryptify from npm
- Encrypt the certificates with Cryptify
- Run with the -dk <key> option

