

# 1. Goal

The goal of this lesson is to introduce a new and very useful kind of live test - the contract there, and guide you through building one against the live API.

## 2. Lesson Notes

### 2.1. Interact with the API

Now that you're using clients to drive the interaction with the API from the live testing site, you can adjust these clients to be able to work with less type-safe data, such as Strings.

The reason we need to do that is to then allow the new contract tests to still utilize the same clients but instead of relying on the current version of the java DTOs, work with raw JSON data instead.

### 2.2. Manage the JSON data

At that point, the JSON data can be externalized and placed into files, instead of coupled to the tests themselves.

As a general strategy, you should have a simple versioning notation when managing these external JSON files - to allow you to easily reference them in tests.

A simple such strategy that I found works well is to tie it to the Maven version of your project. For instance, if your Maven version is:

```
<version>1.2.0</version>
```

Then you can have the JSON data corresponding to that version placed in a folder named:

```
.../1.2.0/...
```