# Lab: Web API

Lab for the "ASP.NET Advanced" course @ SoftUni

In this task, we will create a simple REST API for displaying, creating, editing and deleting products. We will try out the API functionalities with the help of the Postman tool. At the end, we will use the Swagger tool to document our API and try it out directly from the browser.

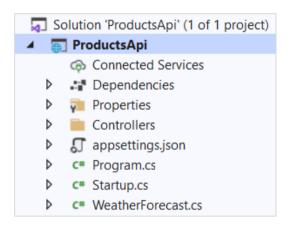
#### Web API for Products

# **Step 1: Create and Clean the Project**

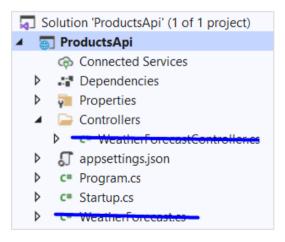
Let's start with creating the API. Open Visual Studio and choose the "ASP.NET Core Web API" template:



Create the API with the current .NET version. It does not need authentication! When created, the solution should look like this:



As you can see, we have an API controller for weather forecast. We won't need it, so delete the WeatherForecastController and WeatherForecast classes:





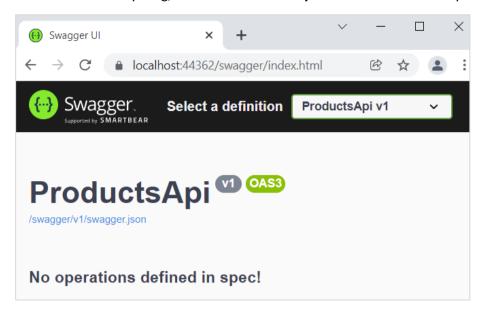








Now you can run the app. You will see that we have Swagger as a part of our API (coming from the template), but it does not show anything, as we do not have any controllers and actions yet:



# **Step 2: Create a Database**

We will need to create a database for our products. However, you can see that we do not have a db context and we should create it from scratch.

To begin with, download the Entity Framework Core NuGet packages we will need for creating the database:



Then, create a folder "Data", which will hold the data-related classes. In it, create the Product class, which should have properties for id, name and description:

```
public class Product
Solution 'ProductsApi' (1 of 1 project)
  ProductsApi
                                        0 references
     Connected Services
                                        public int Id { get; init; }
    Dependencies
                                        0 references
     Properties
                                        public string Name { get; set; }
     Controllers
                                        0 references
     Data
                                        public string Description { get; set; }
       c# Product.cs
```

Then, create the ProductDbContext class in the "Data" folder. It should have a DbSet for products and should invoke the EnsureCreated() method in the constructor. In this way, we will create the database but we won't be able to change it, unless we apply new migrations to the database manually:

















```
Solution 'ProductsApi' (1 of 1 project)
   ProductsApi
      Connected Services
    Dependencies
      Properties
     Controllers
     Data
         c# Product.cs
         c# ProductDbContext.cs
public class ProductDbContext : DbContext
    0 references
    public ProductDbContext
         (DbContextOptions<ProductDbContext> options)
         : base(options)
        this.Database.EnsureCreated();
    0 references
    public DbSet<Product> Products { get; init; }
}
```

Next, we should add a connection string to the appsettings.json file, so that we can connect to SQL Server. Add the following lines like this:

```
appsettings.json ≠ ×
"ConnectionStrings": {
 "DefaultConnection": "Server=(localdb)\\mssqllocaldb;Database=ProductsDb;Trusted C
Logging": {
```

You can **copy the connection string** from here:

Server=(localdb)\\mssqllocaldb;Database=ProductsDb;Trusted\_Connection=True;MultipleActiveResultSets=true

Next, we should register the db context class as a service. Do this in the Program class, you should already know how to do that.

At the end, we should just add a migration, which will be applied, so that our database is created. To do this, open the Package Manager Console from [Tools] -> [NuGet Package Manager] and add the migration like this:

```
Package Manager Console
Package source: All
                  ▼ Default project: ProductsApi
PM> Add-Migration InitialMigration -o Data/Migrations
Build started...
Build succeeded.
To undo this action, use Remove-Migration.
```

The **migration** should appear in the "/Data/Migrations" folder:

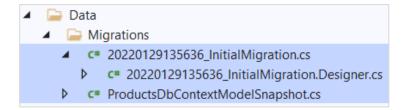




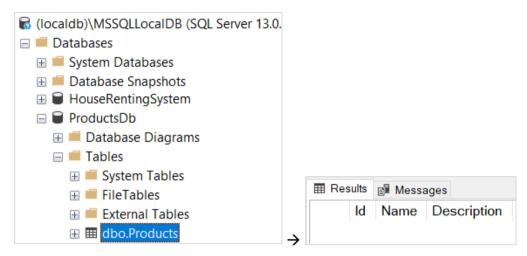








Run your app again. Open SQL Server Management Studio and you should see the newly-created database. It has a single table "Products":



Now you can start building your API controller.

### **Step 3: Create the API Controller Class**

To create an API controller, you should first create a standard controller class and add the needed attributes. Create the **ProductsController class** in the "Controllers" folder:

```
public class ProductsController : Controller
Solution 'ProductsApi' (1 of 1 project)
 ProductsApi
                                       0 references
                                       public IActionResult Index()
    Connected Services
 Dependencies
 Properties
                                           return View();
 Controllers
    C* ProductsController.cs
```

Remove the Index() method, as we won't need it. Then, add the [ApiController] and [Route] attributes to make the controller and API controller:

```
[ApiController]
[Route("api/products")]
0 references
public class ProductsController : Controller
{
}
```

Note that our controller methods will be accessed on "/api/products" because this is how we set it in the [Route] attribute.

















We want our business logic to be implemented in service methods and the controller to use them directly. For this reason, we should create a new folder "Services" with an IProductService interface and an **ProductService class.** The class should accept the **db context** from the **constructor**:

```
Solution 'ProductsApi' (1 of 1 project)
Connected Services
  Dependencies
  Properties
  Controllers
  Data 📄 Data
                                public interface IProductService

▲ Services

    C# IProductService.cs
    ▶ C# ProductService.cs
public class ProductService : IProductService
{
    private readonly ProductDbContext data;
    0 references
    public ProductService(ProductDbContext data)
        => this.data = data;
}
```

Don't forget to register the service in the Program class.

Now go back to the **ProductsController class** and **inject the created service**:

```
[ApiController]
[Route("api/[controller]")]
public class ProductsController : Controller
{
    private readonly IProductService productService;
    0 references
    public ProductsController(IProductService productService)
        => this.productService = productService;
}
```

# **Step 4: Write the API Controller Methods**

#### **GetProducts() Method**

The first method should return all products as an ActionResult with a collection of type Product (we won't create and return a model, as we have a pretty basic class for the product). The controller method should use a service method and should be invoked on a "GET" request to "/api/products". Do it like this:















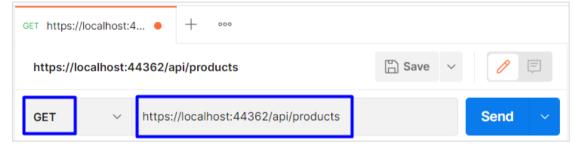


```
[ApiController]
[Route("api/[controller]")]
1 reference
public class ProductsController : Controller
    HttpGet
    0 references
    public ActionResult<IEnumerable<Product>> GetProducts()
        return this.productService.GetAllProducts();
```

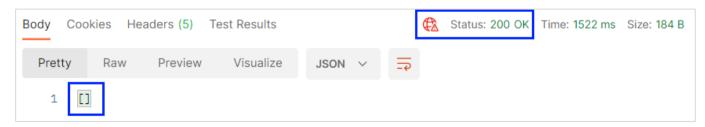
The IProductService and ProductService classes define and implement the GetAllProducts() method:

```
public interface IProductService
{
    List<Product> GetAllProducts();
public class ProductService : IProductService
    public List<Product> GetAllProducts()
        => this.data.Products.ToList();
```

Run the app. Then, open Postman and create a "GET" request to "/api/products" (use the whole URL):



The returned response should be with status code "200 OK" but will return an empty JSON object, as we don't have any products in our database yet:



You can open SQL Server Management Studio and add some products to display:

















Then, if you send the request in Postman again, you should see the above products returned as JSON:

```
Cookies Headers (5) Test Results
                                                               Status: 200 OK Time: 918 ms Size: 375 B
Body
  Pretty
            Raw
                     Preview
                                 Visualize
                                              JSON
    1
    2
             Ę
                 "id": 1,
    3
                 "name": "Cheese",
    4
                 "description": "From sheep milk"
    5
             },
    6
    7
             ş
                 "id": 2,
    8
                 "name": "Orange juice",
    9
                 "description": "Fresh, from our best fruits"
   10
   11
             },
   12
             £
                 "id": 3,
   13
                 "name": "Apple",
   14
                 "description": "Type: red delicious"
   15
   16
   17
```

#### **GetProduct() Method**

The GetProduct(int id) method should return a product by a given id if it exists. If it doesn't exist, a "404 Not Found" response should be returned. The method should be invoked on a "GET" request to "/api/products/{id}". Write it in the ProductsController class like this:

```
[ApiController]
[Route("api/[controller]")]
public class ProductsController : Controller
{
    [HttpGet("{id}")]
    0 references
    public ActionResult<Product> GetProduct(int id)
        var product = this.productService.GetById(id);
        if (product == null) return NotFound();
        return product;
```







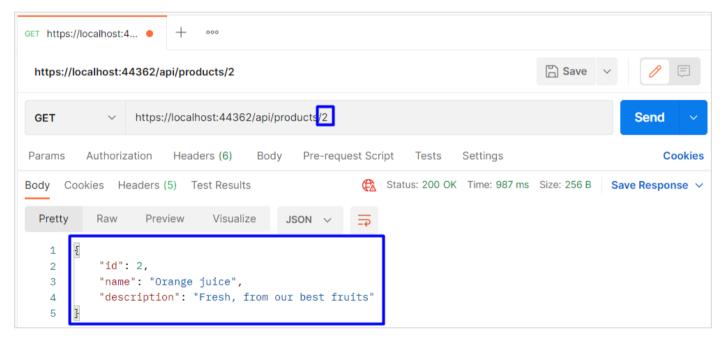




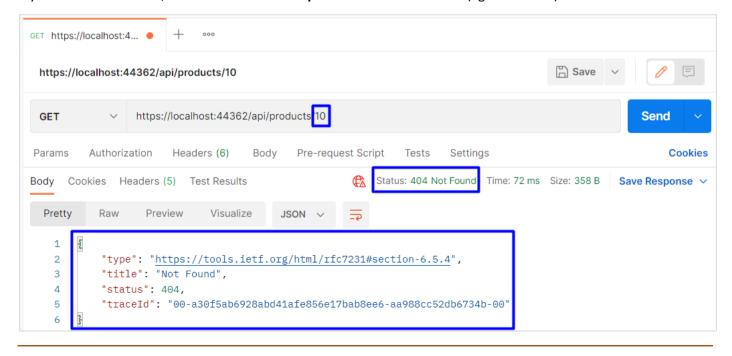
The **GetById()** service method should look like this:

```
public interface IProductService
{
    Product GetById(int id);
public class ProductService : IProductService
    public Product GetById(int id)
        => this.data.Products.Find(id);
```

Now try out the method in Postman by sending a "GET" request to "/api/products/{id}". If you send an id of an existing product, the product should be returned:



If you send an invalid id, a "404 Not Found" response should be returned (again as JSON):

















### PostProduct() Method

The PostProduct (Product product) controller method is responsible for creating a new product in the database. When the product is created, a "201 Created" response should be returned, which will invoke the GetProduct(int id) method to return the product. It should be invoked on a "POST" request to "/api/products":

```
[ApiController]
[Route("api/[controller]")]
1 reference
public class ProductsController : Controller
{
    [HttpPost]
    0 references
    public ActionResult<Product> PostProduct(Product product)
        product = this.productService
             .CreateProduct(product.Name, product.Description);
        return CreatedAtAction("GetProduct", product);
    }
The CreateProduct() service method is the following:
public interface IProductService
{
    Product CreateProduct
        (string name, string description);
public class ProductService : IProductService
{
    public Product CreateProduct(string name, string description)
        var product = new Product()
            Name = name,
            Description = description
        };
        this.data.Products.Add(product);
        this.data.SaveChanges();
        return product;
```





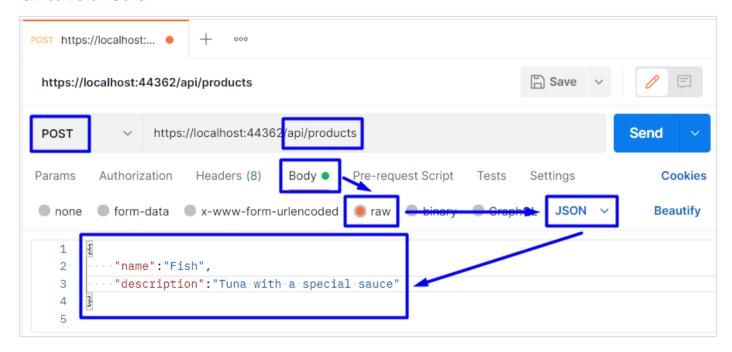








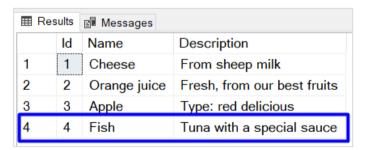
Run the app and try to create a new product in Postman. To do this, you should send a "POST" request to "/api/products" and add a body to the request with the new product. The body should be in a raw JSON format. Do it like this:



The **response** should be the following if the **product is created successfully**:



The **new product** should appear in the **database**:



### PutProduct() Method

The PutProduct(int id, Product product) method of the ProductsController should be invoked on a "PUT" request to "/api/products/{id}" with the data of the product (modified and non-modified). If the product id from the URL and from the request body are not the same, a "400 Bad Request" response is returned. If a product with the given id does not exist, a "404 Not Found" response is returned. If the product is edited successfully, a "204 No Content" response is returned.

Write the action like this:

















```
[ApiController]
[Route("api/[controller]")]
public class ProductsController : Controller
{
    [HttpPut("{id}")]
    0 references
    public IActionResult PutProduct(int id, Product product)
        if (id != product.Id) return BadRequest();
        if (this.productService.GetById(id) == null) return NotFound();
        this.productService.EditProduct(id, product);
        return NoContent();
The EditProduct(...) service method is shown below:
public interface IProductService
{
    void EditProduct(int id, Product product);
public class ProductService : IProductService
    public void EditProduct(int id, Product product)
         var dbProduct = this.data.Products.Find(id);
         dbProduct.Name = product.Name;
         dbProduct.Description = product.Description;
         this.data.SaveChanges();
     }
```

Try to edit the product we created in Postman. Send a "PUT" request to "/api/products/{id}" with an existing product id and with the product data. Note that you should include all the product data in the request body, no matter if it is modified or not. If you miss a property, a NULL value will be assigned to it.

Now edit an existing product in Postman like this:





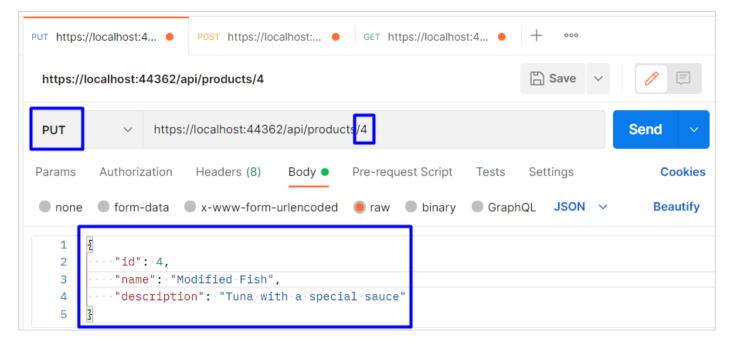




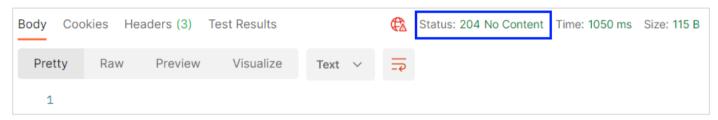




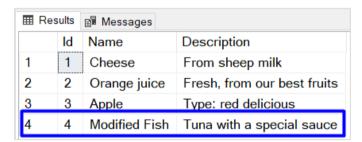




If the edit is successful, an empty "204 No Content" response should be returned:



The product should be modified in the database, as well:



If you send a request in Postman with different ids in the URL and in the body, a "400 Bad Request" should be returned:





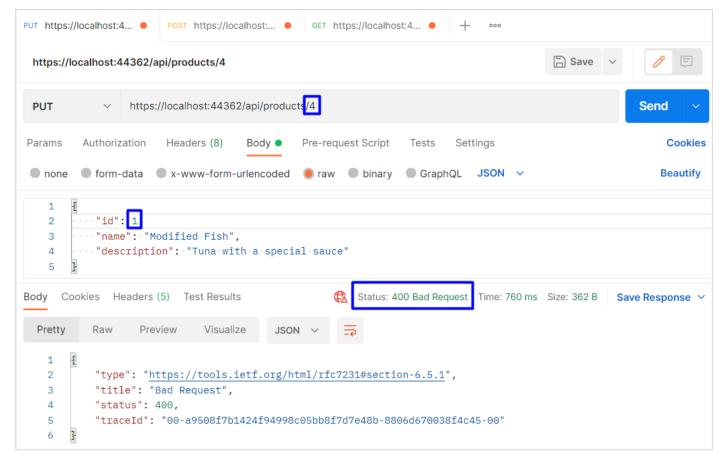




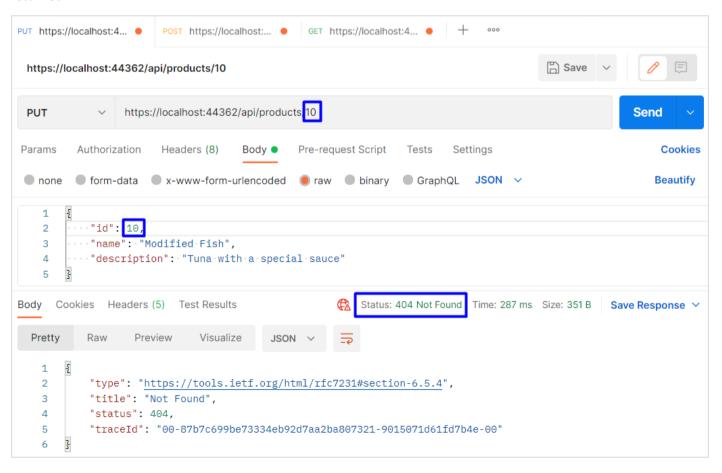








If you send a product with an id, which does not exist in the database, a "404 Not Found" response should be returned:















#### PatchProduct() Method

The PatchProduct() method is pretty similar to the PutProduct() one we created. The difference is that when you send a "PUT" request, the request body should contain the whole product data, while the "PATCH" request body should only have the modified property values.

The PatchProduct(intid, Product product) method of the ProductsController should be invoked on a "PATCH" request to "/api/products/{id}" with partial data of the product (only modified). If a product with the given id does not exist, a "404 Not Found" response is returned. If the product is edited successfully, a "204 No Content" response is returned.

Write the action like this:

```
[ApiController]
[Route("api/[controller]")]
public class ProductsController : Controller
    . . .
    [HttpPatch("{id}")]
    0 references
    public IActionResult PatchProduct(int id, Product product)
        if (this.productService.GetById(id) == null) return NotFound();
        this.productService.EditProductPartially(id, product);
        return NoContent();
```

The EditProductPartially() service method should check model properties for null values and modify some fields with the provided data:

```
public interface IProductService
{
    . . .
    2 references
    void EditProductPartially(int id, Product product);
```





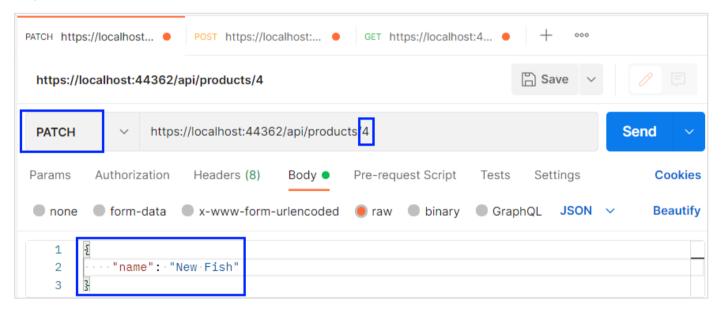




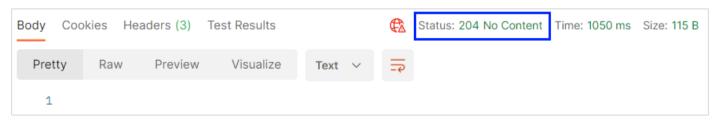


```
public class ProductService : IProductService
    public void EditProductPartially(int id, Product product)
        var dbProduct = this.data.Products.Find(id);
        dbProduct.Name = String.IsNullOrEmpty(product.Name)
            ? dbProduct.Name : product.Name;
        dbProduct.Description = String.IsNullOrEmpty(product.Description)
            ? dbProduct.Description : product.Description;
        this.data.SaveChanges();
```

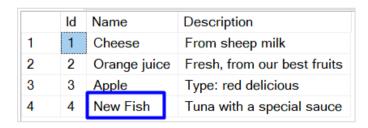
Now create a "PATCH" request in Postman to "/api/products/{id}" with a valid id and with modified data only:



The product title should be modified successfully and a "204 No Content" response should be returned:



#### Check the **modification in the database**, as well:



















#### **DeleteProduct() Method**

The **DeleteProduct(int id)** method is the last method we will implement. It should be invoked on a "**DELETE**" request to "/api/products/{id}". If a product with the given id doesn't exist, "404 Not Found" is returned. If it exists, the deleted product is returned:

```
[ApiController]
[Route("api/[controller]")]
public class ProductsController : Controller
    [HttpDelete("{id}")]
    public ActionResult<Product> DeleteProduct(int id)
        if (this.productService.GetById(id) == null) return NotFound();
        var product = this.productService.DeleteProduct(id);
        return product;
The DeleteProduct(...) service method is the following:
public interface IProductService
{
    . . .
    Product DeleteProduct(int id);
public class ProductService : IProductService
{
    . . .
    public Product DeleteProduct(int id)
        var product = this.data.Products.Find(id);
        this.data.Products.Remove(product);
        this.data.SaveChanges();
        return product;
```

Try to delete the product we created in Postman. Create the following request and make sure that the product is returned in the response:





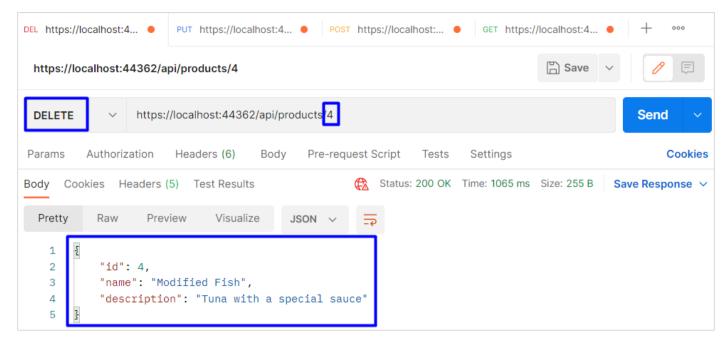










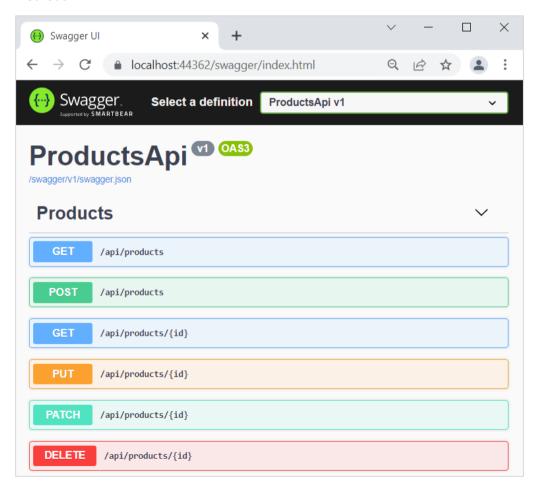


Now you have an implemented REST API with ASP.NET Core.

# Step 4: Write the API Swagger Documentation and Try It Out

Finally, we will see how to write OpenAPI documentation for Swagger, so that it displays correct and full information about our API methods.

To begin with, if you run the app we created, you will see that Swagger already displays our API controller methods:









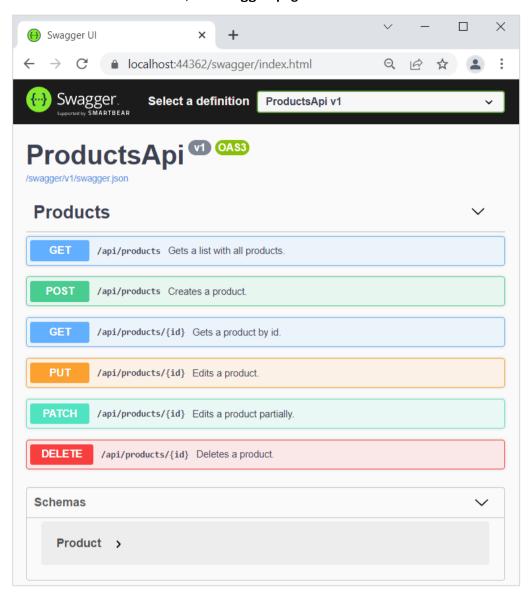








After we add documentation, the Swagger page will look like this:



To do this, we should first enable XML comments (the ones you see on each method). These comments will be saved in an XML file as a part of your project. To create such a file, go to the ConfigureServices (...) method of your **Startup class** and **add the following lines** to the **default Swagger options**:

```
public class Startup
{
    public void ConfigureServices(IServiceCollection services)
        . . .
        services.AddSwaggerGen(c =>
            c.SwaggerDoc("v1", new OpenApiInfo
                { Title = "ProductsApi", Version = "v1" });
            var xmlFile = $"{Assembly.GetExecutingAssembly().GetName().Name}.xml";
            var xmlPath = Path.Combine(AppContext.BaseDirectory, xmlFile);
```









```
c.IncludeXmlComments(xmlPath);
```

Next, we should go to the .csproj file of our project and suppress warning messages, which indicate undocumented types and members. Also, we want our XML file to be created, so add the following lines:

```
ProductsApi.csproj ≠ ×
<Project Sdk="Microsoft.NET.Sdk.Web">
    <PropertyGroup>
        <TargetFramework>net5.0</TargetFramework>
        <GenerateDocumentationFile>true</GenerateDocumentationFile>
        <NoWarn>$(NoWarn);1591</NoWarn>
    </PropertyGroup>
```

As we have the file, let's add the documentation, which it will contain. To do this, we will add triple-slash comments to ProductsController actions with a summary of what the action does, a sample request and the responses. Do it like this:

```
[ApiController]
[Route("api/products")]
public class ProductsController : Controller
    private readonly IProductService productService;
    0 references
    public ProductsController(IProductService productService)
        => this.productService = productService;
    /// <summary>
    /// Gets a list with all products.
    /// </summary>
    /// <remarks>
    /// Sample request:
    ///
    ///
            GET /api/products
    ///
    ///
    ///
            }
    /// </remarks>
    /// <response code="200">Returns "OK" with a list of all products</response>
    [HttpGet]
    0 references
    public ActionResult<IEnumerable<Product>> GetProducts()...
```















```
/// <summary>
/// Gets a product by id.
/// </summary>
/// <remarks>
/// Sample request:
///
///
        GET /api/products/{id}
///
        {
///
///
        }
/// </remarks>
/// <response code="200">Returns "OK" with the product</response>
/// <response code="404">Returns "Not Found" when product with the given
/// id doesn't exist</response>
[HttpGet("{id}")]
0 references
public ActionResult<Product> GetProduct(int id)...
/// <summary>
/// Creates a product.
/// </summary>
/// <remarks>
/// Sample request:
///
///
       POST /api/products
///
        {
            "name": "Candy",
///
            "description": "Chocolate"
///
///
        }
/// </remarks>
/// <response code="201">Returns "Created" with the created product</response>
[HttpPost]
0 references
public ActionResult<Product> PostProduct(Product product)...
/// <summary>
/// Edits a product.
/// </summary>
/// <remarks>
/// Sample request:
///
///
        PUT /api/products/{id}
///
        {
///
                 "name": "New Candy",
                 "description": "Chocolate"
///
///
        }
/// </remarks>
```











```
/// <response code="204">Returns "No Content"</response>
    /// <response code="400">Returns "Bad Request" when an invalid
   /// request is sent</response>
    /// <response code="404">Returns "Not Found" when product with
    /// the given id doesn't exist</response>
    [HttpPut("{id}")]
   0 references
    public IActionResult PutProduct(int id, Product product)...
   /// <summary>
    /// Edits a product partially.
    /// </summary>
    /// <remarks>
    /// Sample request:
    ///
    ///
            PUT /api/products/{id}
    ///
                    "name": "New Candy"
    ///
    ///
    /// </remarks>
    /// <response code="204">Returns "No Content"</response>
    /// <response code="404">Returns "Not Found" when product with
    /// the given id doesn't exist</response>
    [HttpPatch("{id}")]
    public IActionResult PatchProduct(int id, Product product)...
   /// <summary>
   /// Deletes a product.
   /// </summary>
   /// <remarks>
   /// Sample request:
   ///
   ///
            DELETE /api/products/{id}
   ///
            {
   ///
   ///
            }
   /// </remarks>
   /// <response code="200">Returns "OK" with the deleted product</response>
   /// <response code="404">Returns "Not Found" when product with the
   /// given id doesn't exist</response>
   [HttpDelete("{id}")]
   0 references
   public ActionResult<Product> DeleteProduct(int id)|...|
}
```

Now run the app. Go to your project's folder in File Explorer and navigate to "bin" → "Debug" → "net5.0" and you should see the **generated XML file** with the **documentation**:



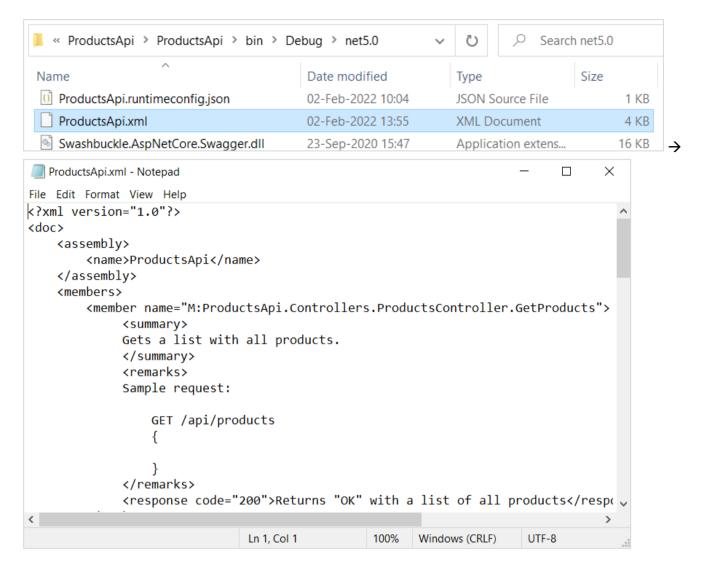












The app in the browser should have these comment on the methods. For example, this is the "GET" method on "/api/products":

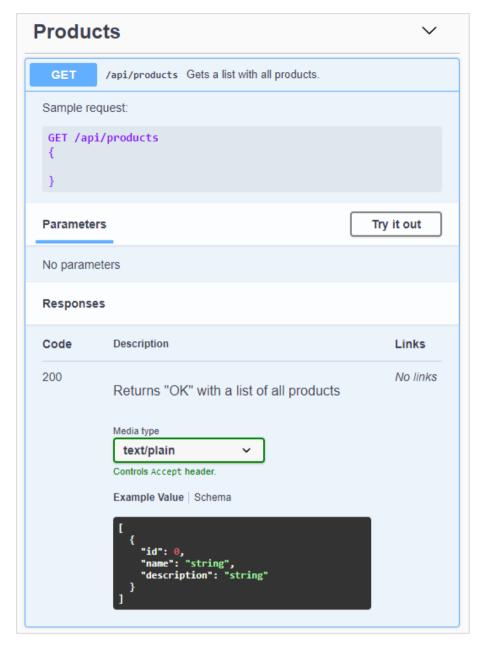












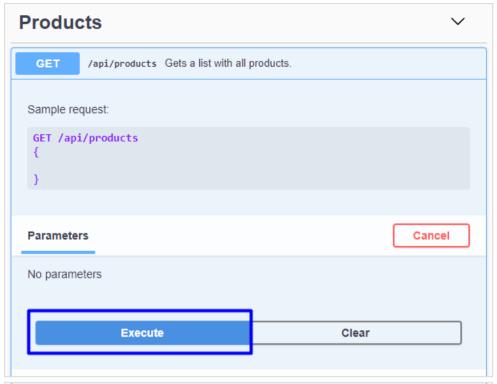
Also, Swagger gives you the opportunity to try out the methods directly. To do this, you should click on the [Try it out] button, add an URL parameter or request body data if needed, and click on the [Execute] button. Then, you should see the response:

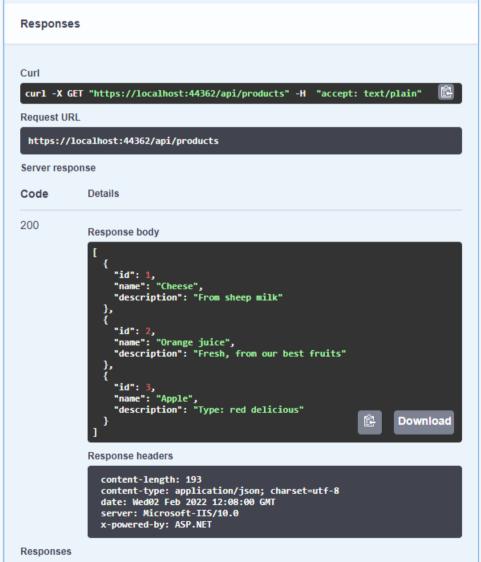












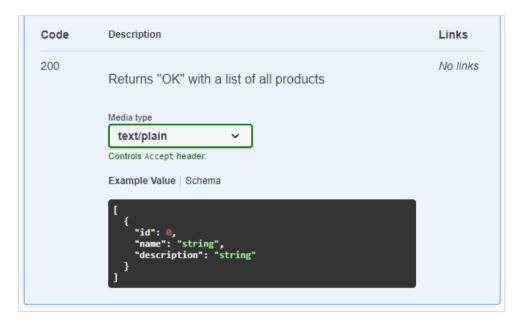












Try out the other methods, too. You should be able to read, create, edit and delete products.













