(i) Socrata was acquired by Tyler Technologies in 2018 and is now the Data and Insights division of Tyler. The platform is still powered by the same software formerly known as Socrata but you will see references to Data & Insights going forward.

Learn more…
(https://www.tylertech.com/solutions/transformative-technology/data-insights)

Discovery API 1.0

Purpose

Our data platform hosts tens of thousands of government assets. Governments large and small publish data on crime, permits, finance, healthcare, research, performance, and more for citizens to use. While this large corpus of government data is already accessible via opendatanetwork.com, this API opens up this corpus of government data for automated searching, research, and exploration. Assets can be found by keywords, high-level categorizations, tags, and much more. This API is a powerful way to access and explore data on our platform.

The production API endpoints for this API are at

- https://api.us.socrata.com/api/catalog/v1 for domains in North America
- https://api.eu.socrata.com/api/catalog/v1 for all other domains

For example, to query for datasets categorized as 'Public Safety', you could use the following query:

http://api.us.socrata.com/api/catalog/v1?categories=public%20safety

Asset Visibility

There are four key factors which control whether or not an asset can be viewed anonymously by an unauthenticated user. An asset must meet criteria for all factors which apply to the domain itself (this varies domain-by-domain, as not all domains employ relevant features or modules which utilize these).

These factors are:

- the asset's audience - as *public* vs internal or private
- the asset's publication status - as *published* vs unpublished in a draft state
- the approval status of the asset - as *approved* vs pending or rejected
- whether the asset is hidden - as false i.e. *not hidden* vs true i.e. hidden

Authentication

Authentication is not required to use this API for read-only access to the corpus of anonymously-viewable (i.e. public, published, approved, and not hidden) assets. However, if you wish to search for private, unpublished, unapproved or hidden data, you must authenticate yourself and ensure that you have adequate permissions to view the data in question.

To authenticate, you must:

- Use one of the methods discussed here and
- Provide the 'X-Socrata-Host' host header with the domain that has granted you access to view its assets. For example 'X-Socrata-Host:data.ny.gov'.

When properly authenticated, you will be able to search over:

- All data that is anonymously-viewable.
- Any data that you own or that has been shared to you.
- Private, unpublished, unapproved, and hidden assets from domains that have granted you a right to view such assets.

App Tokens

All programmatic usage of Socrata APIs should include an app token, either via the `X-App-Token` header or the `$$app_token parameters` set to a valid token. This is assumed and not documented in the API specs below.

Additional API facts

1. Search without any parameters returns the set of data you are authorized to see. Any parameter usage serves to filter (or sort) this set of data - i.e. no parameters allow you to see more data than a search without parameters. This is important to know when considering parameters that let you search for assets not found in the public catalog. If you are unauthorized to see such things, your results will be empty.

2. Multiple repetitive parameters are treated differently from multiple unique parameters. Unique parameters, for example

   ?tags=fire&provenance=official

   filters to the *intersection* of the values. In this example, the search is for official assets with the tag 'fire'. Repetitive parameters filter to the *union* of values. For example

   ?tags=fire&tags=commission

   searches for assets tagged as either 'fire' or 'commission'. The combination of both repetitive and unique parameters follow the same rules. Thus the query

   ?tags=fire&tags=commission&provenance=official

   would search for official assets tagged as either 'fire' or 'commission'.

3. Many parameters support repetitive usage, using either the syntax above or the alternate syntax using brackets, e.g. *? tags[]=fire&tags[]=commission*. Parameter descriptions will tell whether this is supported or not.

4. Because this API supports custom metadata search and because custom metadata keys are arbitrary, any unrecognized params are assumed to be custom metadata. Thus, if you misname a parameter, for example *?domain=data.ny.gov* (the parameter should be 'domains'), the results will be empty unless there are assets with the custom metadata key 'domain' and value 'data.ny.gov'.