HomeView

SUPPORTING STREAMING API DAR

Uniting Streaming Services on One Site

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Introduction

Unite has considered the following three options to support HomeView's streaming API:

- ○ Flixed
- ○ TMDB
- ○ Watchmode

	Flixed	**TMDB**	**Watchmode**
Pros	• Contains metadata streaming services use to organize titles which can be used for recommendations • Contains external database IDs such as IMDB could be used for actwiki • Responsive and Comprehensive user experiences • Content recommendations for our Central Media Library • Roster of streaming services continuing to grow to include services across the globe • Free +0.60	• Able to get trending and popular shows • Detailed Documentation • Direct URLs to shows' page in streaming app • Shows projected leaving date from service +0.40	• Able to filter streaming services by country • Covers over 200 streaming services • Can return links and deeplinks for every specific episode • Decent documentation for multiple languages +0.40
Cons	• Limited only to U.S. sources • No one size fits all like other Streaming API • Must Request access to use API • Poor Communication within support team	• Has a limit of API requests	• Free tier limited to 1000 API calls a month • Free tier limited only to U.S. sources

	-0.60	-0.10	-0.20
Subtotal	**0.0**	**0.30**	**0.20**
Metrics			
Number of Countries Supported +0.20	All Countries +0.20	60 +0.15	4 +0.10
Pricing +0.30	Free +0.20	Free and immediate access +0.30	Free, then $249 a month for increased usage +0.10
Number of Streaming Services Supported +0.20	200 services +0.20	200 services +0.20	200 services +0.20
Total	**0.60**	**0.95**	**0.60**

Conclusion

Based on the above metrics and research, the TMDB API had scored the most points during the review. As compared to the other APIs, TMDB covers a wide amount of countries and services, and is free to use. In addition, TMDB gives information of actors and actresses in movies or shows, popular and trending movies and series, and tells when titles would be leaving.

For the first calculated subtotal, our team decided to score each API's pros and cons. The highest possible number of points to gain from the pros would be +0.60, whereas the highest possible deduction of points from the cons would be -0.30. To calculate each option's subtotal from the recorded pros and cons, the number of cons would be subtracted from the option's total number of pros. In our case, TMDB's API scored the highest (by having +0.40 pros and -0.10 cons, resulting in a subtotal score of +0.30). Following the same procedure, Watchmode's API placed second with a subtotal of +0.20, whereas Flixed's API came in last even though it had the highest pros scoring +0.60. However, we had to deduct 0.60 from Flixed due to poor customer service, and being unable to receive an API key.

After calculating the subtotal, we analyzed the metrics of each option. For the number of countries the APIs support, Flixed scored +0.20 for being available to all countries whereas TMDB scored +0.30 for 60 countries, and Watchmode scored +0.10 for 4 countries. For the pricing options, Flixed is completely free giving it the highest score of +0.20. Secondly, TMDB scores +0.30 for being free and immediate API access. Lastly, Watchmode scored +0.10 for having a free tier and then requiring a payment of $249 a month if more services are needed.

For the last metric of number of streaming services supported, Flixed, Watchmode, and TMDB tied in this metric with +0.20 for currently supporting 200 services

After calculating the subtotal and metrics from each API, the highest possible scoring was a 1.50. TMDB's API scored the highest, with a score of 0.95, whereas both Flixed and Watchmode's API scored 0.60,. As a conclusion, based on its metrics and pros and cons, our team conclusively and unanimously decided to utilize TMDB's API to gather data from streaming services. Our current API, Streaming Availability, offered minimal information on movies and series. With TMDB, we are able to get trending and popular movies, detailed documentation, and support.

References

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