HomeView

STREAMING API DAR

Uniting Streaming Services on One Site

April 12, 2022

Unite
Christian Lam
Daniel Monge
Eric Truong (Team Leader)
Erina Lara
Michael Lamera

Introduction

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

- ○ Flixed
- ○ Streaming Availability
- ○ Watchmode

	Flixed	**Streaming Availability**	**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	- TMDB/IMDB id of shows - IMDB ratings - 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	Free tier 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 0.30	**0.0**	**0.30**	**0.20**
Metrics			
Number of Countries Supported +0.20	All Countries +0.20	60 +0.15	4 +0.10
Pricing +0.20	Free +0.20	Free tier has a request limit +0.15	Free, then $249 a month for increased usage +0.10
Number of Streaming Services Supported +0.20	200 services +0.20	20 services +0.05	200 services +0.20
Total (out of 1.20)	**0.60**	**0.65**	**0.60**

Conclusion

       Based on the above metrics and research, the Streaming Availability API had scored the most points during the review. As compared to the other APIs, Streaming Availability covers a wide amount of countries and services, and is free to use. In addition, Streaming Availability gives information of actors and actresses in movies or shows, 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, Streaming Availability API's 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 Streaming Availability scored +0.15 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, Streaming Availability scores +0.15 for having a free tier that only allows 100 calls a day, but shuts off the service to prevent any charges due to overages. 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 and Watchmode both tied in this metric with +0.20 for currently supporting 200 services. Streaming Availability scored +0.05 for only being able to support 20 services.

After calculating the subtotal and metrics from each API, the highest possible scoring was a 1.20. Streaming Availability's API scored the highest, with a score of 0.65, 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 Streaming Availability's API to gather data from streaming services.

References

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