

Zapier Webhooks: How to Use Them as Trigger and Action

Zapier's **Webhooks** feature allows you to connect apps that don't have native Zapier integrations or to send/receive custom data between systems. Webhooks are HTTP requests that carry data between applications in real time.

1. What is a Webhook?

A webhook is a way for one application to send data to another application as soon as an event occurs. Unlike APIs that require polling, webhooks push data instantly.

2. Why Use Zapier Webhooks?

- Integrate apps without native Zapier support.
 - Send custom payloads to external systems.
 - Receive data from external systems to trigger workflows.
 - Enable advanced automation scenarios.
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3. Webhooks in Zapier

Zapier supports webhooks in two ways:

- **Trigger:** Zap starts when Zapier receives data via a webhook.
 - **Action:** Zap sends data to a webhook URL.
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4. Using Webhook as a Trigger

Step-by-Step Guide

1. **Create a New Zap**
 - Go to Zapier Dashboard.
 - Click **Create Zap**.
2. **Choose Trigger App**
 - Search for **Webhooks by Zapier**.
 - Select **Catch Hook** (most common option).
3. **Copy the Webhook URL**

- Zapier will generate a unique URL.
 - Example: <https://hooks.zapier.com/hooks/catch/123456/abcdef>
 - 4. **Send Data to the Webhook**
 - From your external app/system, configure it to send an HTTP POST request to the Zapier webhook URL.
 - Include the data in JSON or form-data format.
 - 5. **Example Payload:**
 - 6. **Test the Trigger**
 - Zapier will wait for a sample request.
 - Send a test request from your app.
 - Zapier will display the received data.
 - 7. **Use Data in Next Steps**
 - Map the webhook fields to actions in subsequent steps (e.g., send email, update CRM).
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5. Using Webhook as an Action

Step-by-Step Guide

1. **Add Action to Your Zap**
 - After setting up a trigger, click **Add Action**.
 - Search for **Webhooks by Zapier**.
2. **Choose Action Event**
 - Options:
 - **POST**: Send data to a URL.
 - **GET**: Retrieve data from a URL.
 - **PUT, PATCH, DELETE**: For advanced API operations.
3. **Configure the Webhook**
 - Enter the target URL (where you want to send data).
 - Choose the method (POST is most common).
 - Add **Payload Type**:
 - JSON (recommended)
 - Form
 - Map fields from previous steps to the payload.
4. **Example POST Configuration:**
 - URL: <https://api.example.com/orders>
 - Payload:
5. **Headers (Optional)**
 - Add authentication or content-type headers if required.
 - Example:

6. Test the Action

- Zapier will send a test request.
 - Verify response from the target system.
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6. Best Practices

- **Security:** Use authentication tokens or secret keys for webhook URLs.
 - **Validation:** Ensure payload structure matches the receiving system's requirements.
 - **Error Handling:** Check Zapier task history for failed requests.
 - **Documentation:** Keep a record of webhook URLs and payload formats.
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7. Common Use Cases

- Receive form submissions from a custom website.
 - Send data to a custom API after an e-commerce order.
 - Connect IoT devices to Zapier workflows.
 - Automate notifications when external systems update.
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Summary

- **Trigger:** Use "Catch Hook" to start a Zap when data is sent to Zapier.
 - **Action:** Use "POST" (or other methods) to send data from Zapier to an external system.
 - Webhooks enable flexible, real-time integrations beyond standard app connectors.
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