When we need to make REST clients know the information about out REST endpoints and how to invoke the same , we have to document our APIs , it will be difficult for the clients , otherwise .

How to achieve :

1. A document with all the required information 2.A website designed using simep Html pages 3. Report generated using some toll from the code .

But above mentioned all approaches require manual intervention .

Swagger is yet another approach available for documentation which is basically a specification to describe REST APIs in an understandable format .

Swagger 2 is an open-source project which helps in describing and documenting RESTFful APIs . It provides a set of HTML, javascript and css resources to generate documentation for RESTful APIs dynamically .

Swaggger will display the API documentation on the browser . Swagger UI allows other API developers/consumers to interact with the REST endpoins easily as it holds the entire set of details about the resources .

For spring boot , Springfox is the swagger implementation to be used . Springfox supports Swagger version 1.2 and 2.0

Steps :

**1st : Dependency in pom.xml :** 1. Springfox-swagger2 2. Springfox-swagger-ui

**2nd : Annotation :** Use @EnableSwagger2 in main application class where @SpringBootApplication strap the application .

**3rd: Configure Docket Bean** : can be found in google for more example

@Bean **public** Docket **api**() { **return** **new** Docket(DocumentationType.SWAGGER\_2) .select() .apis(RequestHandlerSelectors.any()) .paths(PathSelectors.any()) .build().useDefaultResponseMessage(false) } // for disabling deault response message

**4th : Optional steps : now we go to controller class and put the**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Annotation | Description | To be applied |  |
| @ApiOperation(value=””) | Give a description of API methods | On API method |  |
| @ApiModel(description=””) | To describe Model Class | ON model class |  |
| @Api(description=””) | To describe the class | On API class |  |
| @ApiResponse | To describe all the probable response | On API mehtod |  |
| @ApiResponses | Container to hold all the @ApiResponses | On api method |  |

Each annotation used can be found in google to check it .

**5th : Execute the application or run the application and see the documentation in Swagger**

**To project the documentation in JSON format:**

<http://localhost:portNumber/projectName> /api-docs

**to project the documentation in a well understand way with the full fledge support to test the endpoints .**

http://localhost:portNumber/projectName/swagger-ui-html