Automation Testing

Workspaces, Monitors, and Documentation

A Day in the Life of an Automation Testing Engineer

John has been assigned a task to create workspaces, monitors, and documentation for API testing in Postman.

After completing this lesson, John will be able to create workspaces to collaborate, monitors to audit the API validations, and documentations to describe APIs.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Identify workspaces, API monitors, and documentation

- Explain how to create and manage workspaces

- List the steps to create API monitors
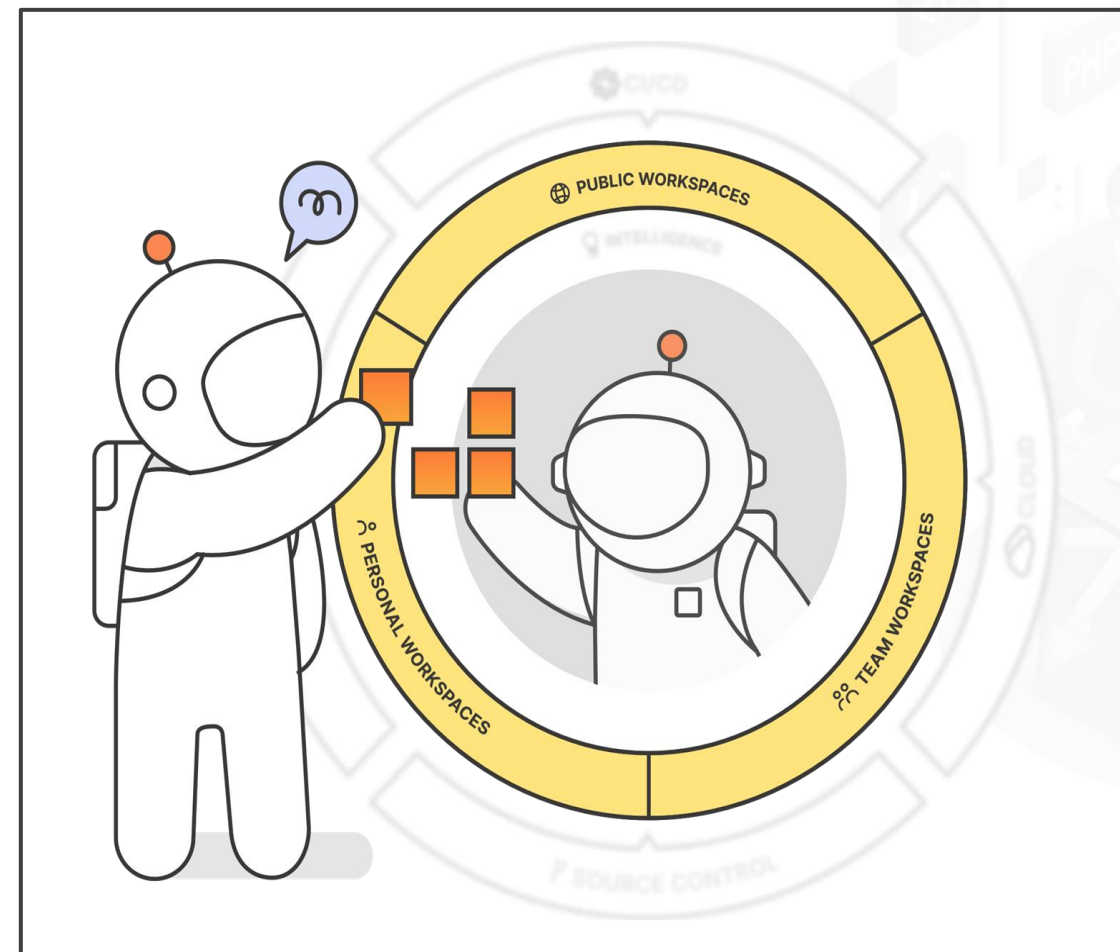
- List the steps to create API documentation

API Workspaces

Workspaces in Postman

Workspaces in Postman enable users to organize their API work and collaborate with others in their company or worldwide.

Kinds of workspaces

1 Personal workspaces

2 Team workspaces

3 Public workspaces

Source: https://voyager.postman.com/illustration/workspaces-postman-illustration.svg

Workspaces in Postman

Workspace is an important feature in Postman, such as:

Postman's workspace feature enables users to divide tasks, collaborate with the team, and share the API projects they are working on.

It resembles a place where the users' chosen teams can gather to work on a comparable project.

Workspaces in Postman

Workspace is an important feature in Postman, such as:

The users can construct Environments, Collections, APIs, and other things in this workspace.

They get a default workspace after installing Postman, but that is not all. They can designate teammates to new workspaces that they construct with their names so that they can collaborate.

Why Use Postman Workspaces?

There are couple of reasons of using Postman workspaces:

If the workplace becomes cluttered, users can create a new workspace that more closely reflect their workflow.

Similarly, users can establish new workspaces that reflect the team's workflow.
These can be fixed workspaces organized by partners, products, or projects.

Why Use Postman Workspaces?

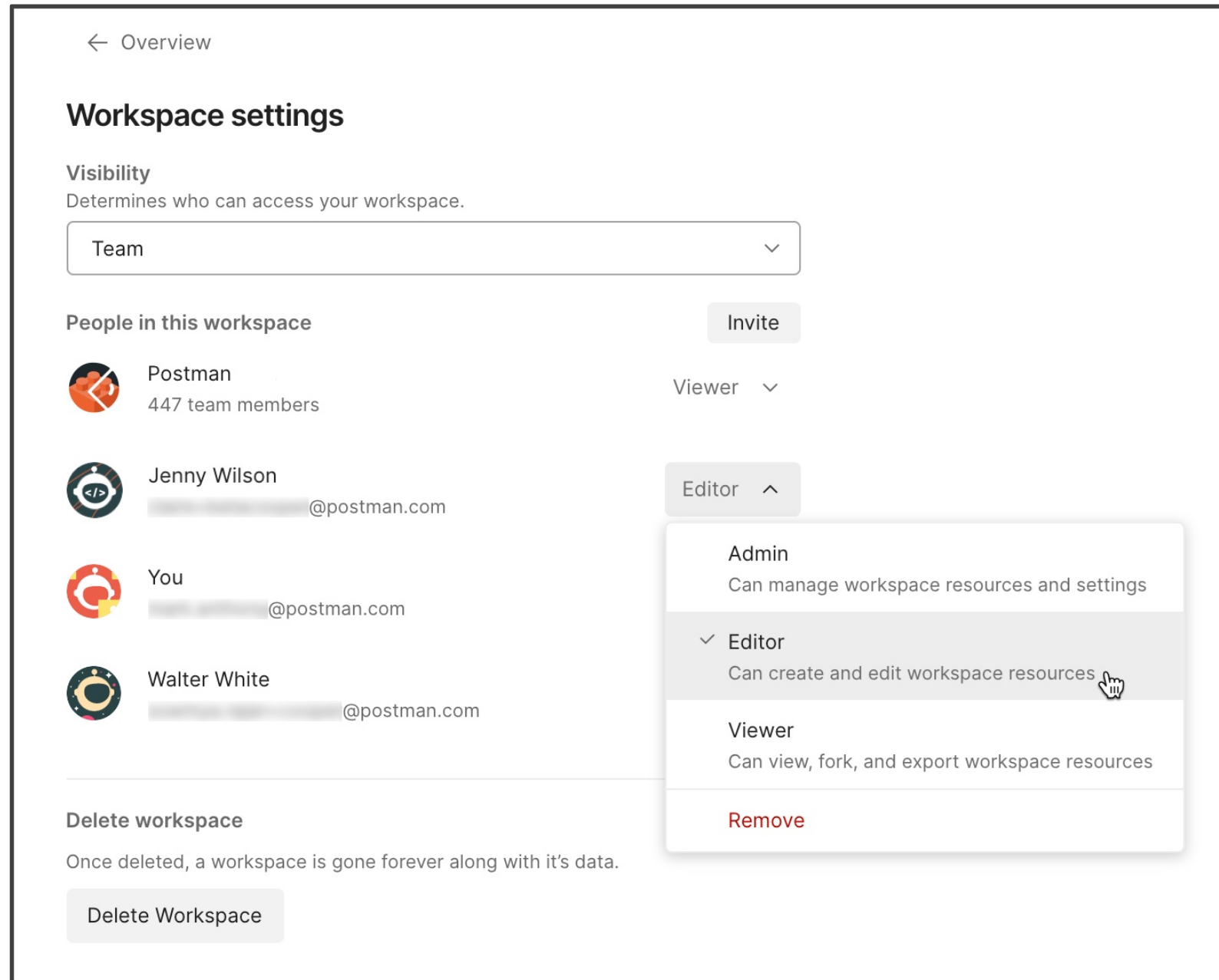There are couple of reasons of using Postman workspaces:

Teams require a single source of truth for their APIs. Workspaces can give a team or sub-team confidence that they are working off the newest versions of their Postman Collections and know they have real-time synchronized changes.

Team workspaces are, by default, read-only.
By granting differentiating edit capabilities, users may manage the view and edit rights for Collections and all related items to different team members.

Managing Workspace

Postman offers to manage workspaces by:

Workspace settings

← Overview

Workspace settings

Visibility
Determines who can access your workspace.

Team ⌄

People in this workspace   Invite

Postman
447 team members   Viewer ⌄

Jenny Wilson
[blurred]@postman.com   Editor ∧

| Admin |
| Can manage workspace resources and settings |

You
[blurred]@postman.com

| ✓ Editor |
| Can create and edit workspace resources |

Walter White
[blurred]@postman.com

| Viewer |
| Can view, fork, and export workspace resources |

| Remove |

Delete workspace
Once deleted, a workspace is gone forever along with it's data.

Delete Workspace

- Accessing a workspace
- Modifying a workspace
- Sharing a workspace
- Managing workspace roles
- Watching a workspace
- Moving elements to a workspaces
- Seeing who is in the user's workspace
- Deleting a workspace

API Monitors

What Is API Monitoring?

API monitoring is gathering and analyzing data about an API's performance to spot issues that may affect users.

Source: https://www.postman.com/_mk-www-v6.122.0/assets/api-monitor/review-monitoring.svg

What Is API Monitoring?

There are several functionalities of API monitoring.

- With API Monitoring, users have constant access to information on the functionality and health of their APIs.

- While collection-based monitors allow users to execute API test scripts, chain together many queries, and evaluate crucial API flows, uptime monitors will enable them to keep an eye on a particular API endpoint.

- As soon as the monitor starts up, users will receive notifications of any system outages or test failures, so they can find and fix problems before their API users get impacted.

Types of API Monitors

There are two types of monitors that can be created in Postman:

Uptime Monitor

It monitors URLs, API endpoints, and publicly available websites on the internet. Only HTTP and HTTPS are supported.

Collection-Based Monitor

It runs a bunch of requests from the Postman cloud on the schedule users set.
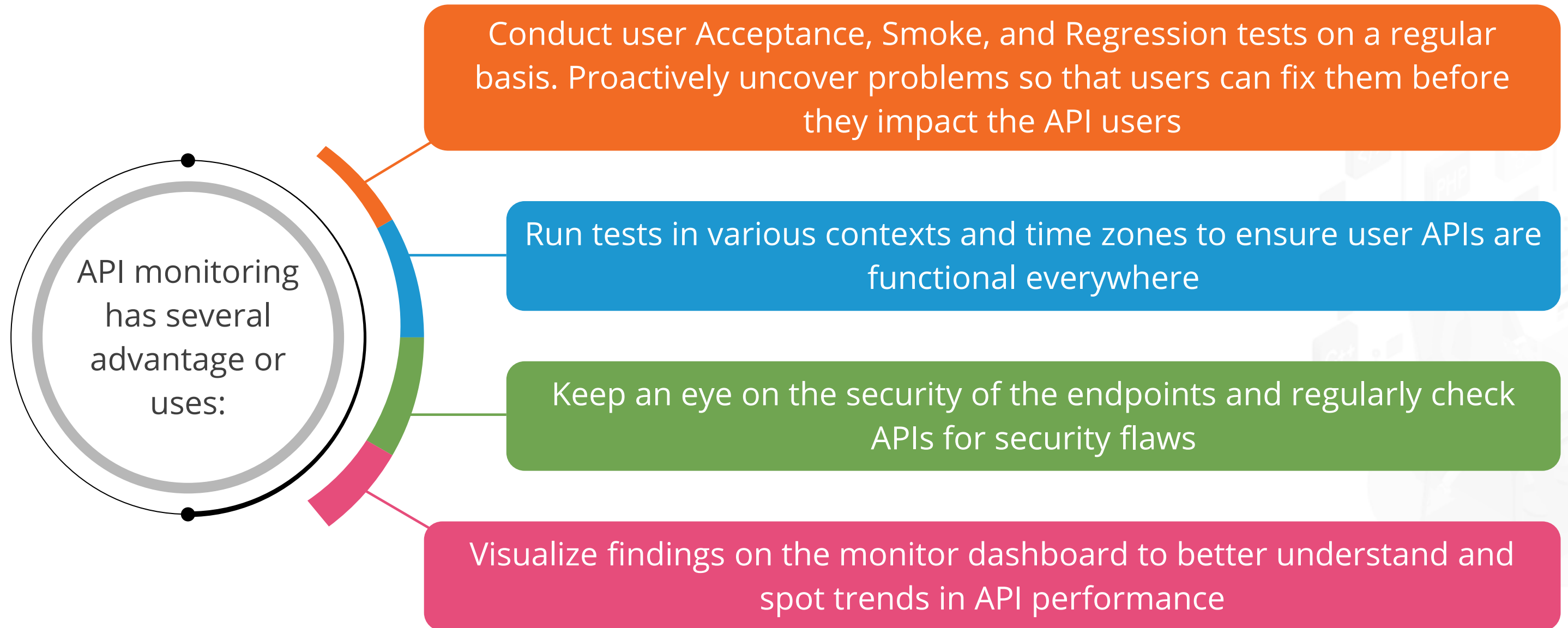
Advantages or Uses of API Monitoring

API monitoring has several advantage or uses:

Make sure that the API is operational in production and other settings are functional by checking its health and performance

Verify the API response structure and content to ensure it is operating as intended

Check that the important API flows, and edge cases are operating as expected by testing complex, multistep workflows
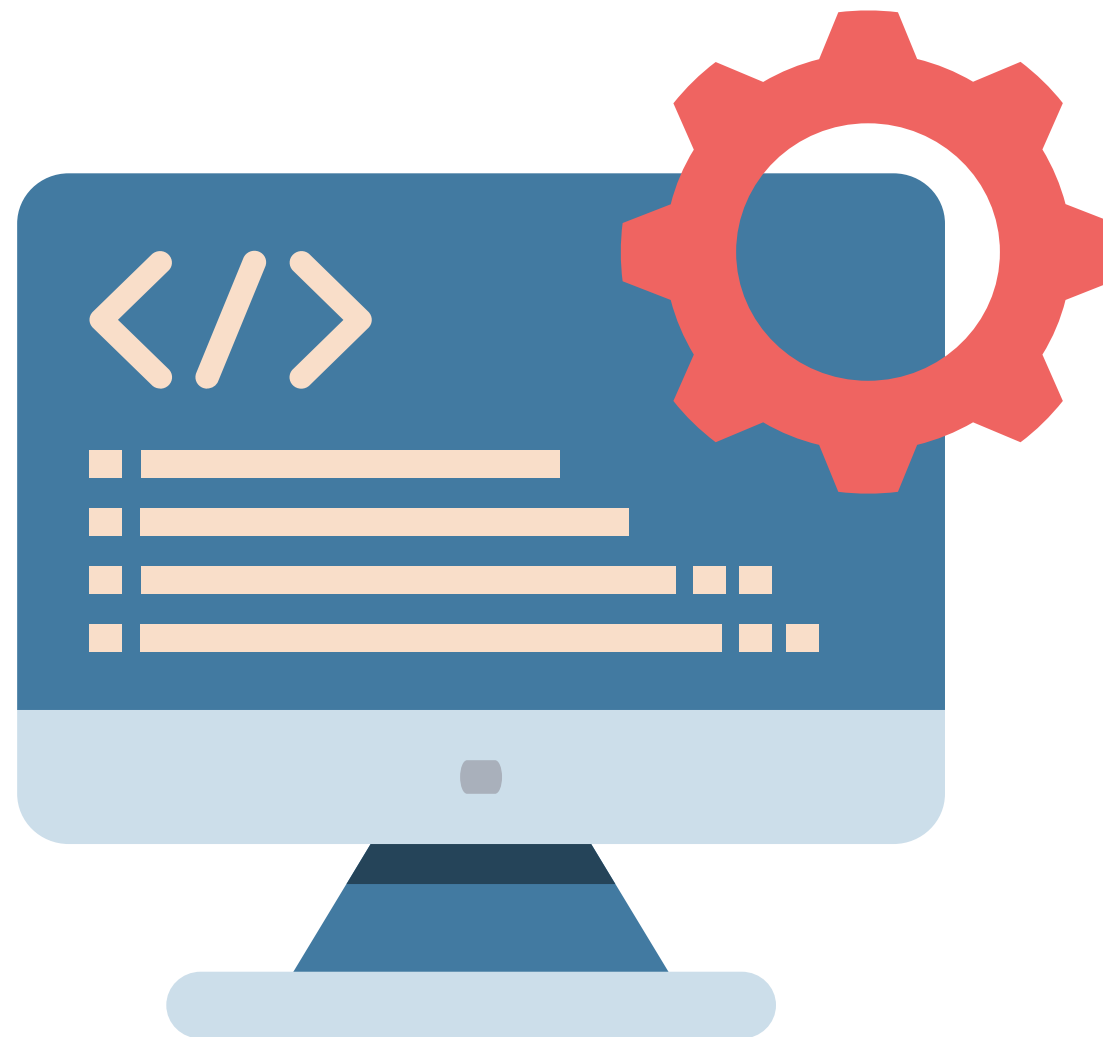
Advantages or Uses of API Monitoring

API monitoring has several advantage or uses:

Conduct user Acceptance, Smoke, and Regression tests on a regular basis. Proactively uncover problems so that users can fix them before they impact the API users

Run tests in various contexts and time zones to ensure user APIs are functional everywhere

Keep an eye on the security of the endpoints and regularly check APIs for security flaws

Visualize findings on the monitor dashboard to better understand and spot trends in API performance

API Documentation

Documentation

Users can see what endpoints are available and how to communicate with them successfully if they provide API documentation.

Source: https://www.audelabeauty.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/system.png

Need of API Documentation

API documents are needed for various reasons:

- Since businesses create APIs with permission to use, they require a well-organized formal document to instruct developers on how to use them.

- Documentation acts as a platform for using API since it is an intermediary between the user and the product.

- Users can not use the product without appropriate API documentation, which results in a loss for the company.

- Some of the documentation pages popular among developers are PayPal, Twitter, and Facebook's API documentation.

FULL STACK

API Documentation with Postman

Features of Documentation in Postman

It supports Markdown syntax, a common documentation syntax on any Github project. It enables easier and more familiar text formatting and layout.

There are no precise standards or syntax for writing documentation. Information from requests and data collecting help produce documentation most effectively.
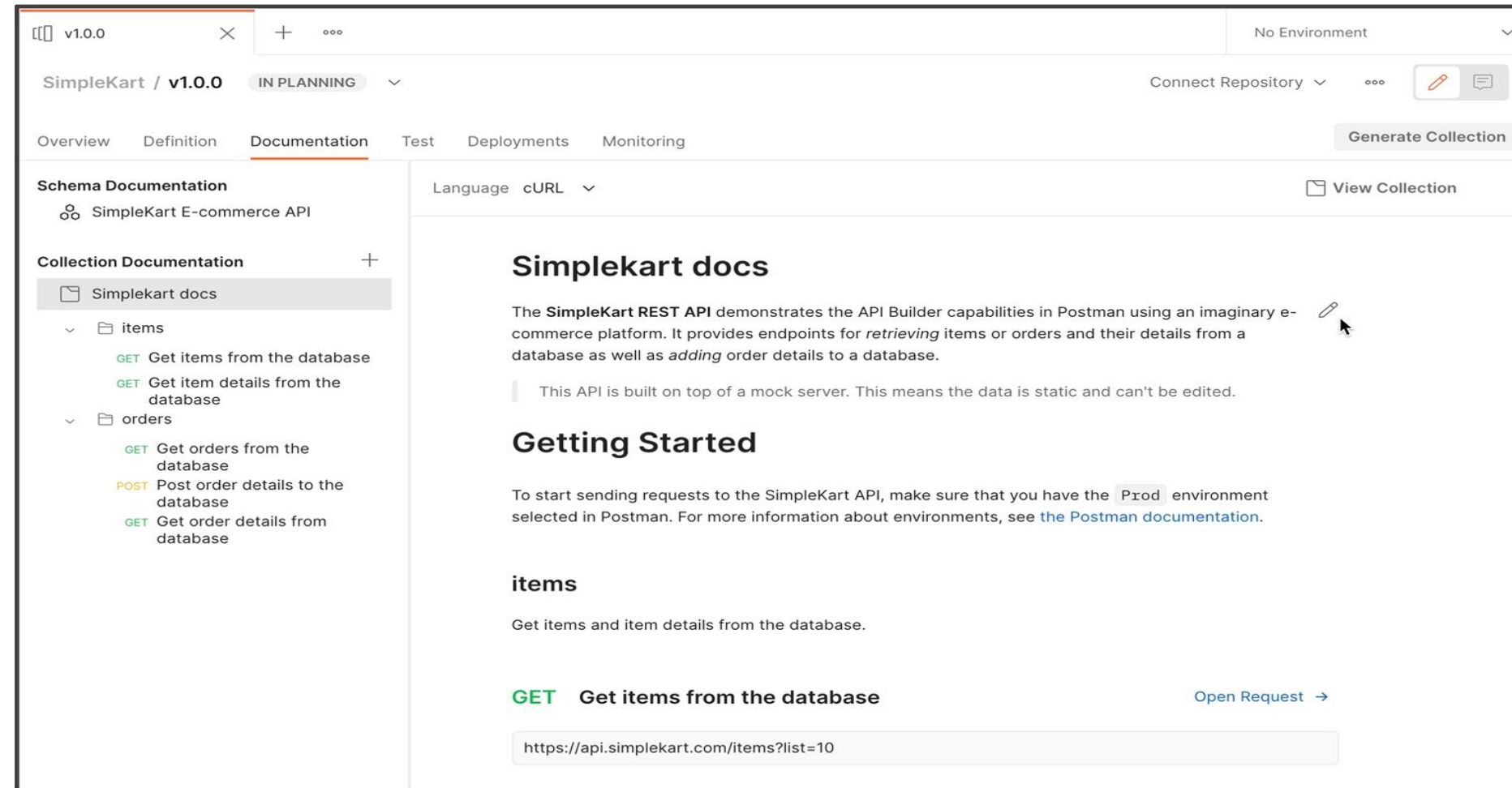
The key characteristics of Postman documentation generator are as follows:

Users can post it to a custom domain or a public URL (for enterprise users).

It helps create code snippets in various languages including C#, PHP, Ruby, Python, and Node for calling the API.
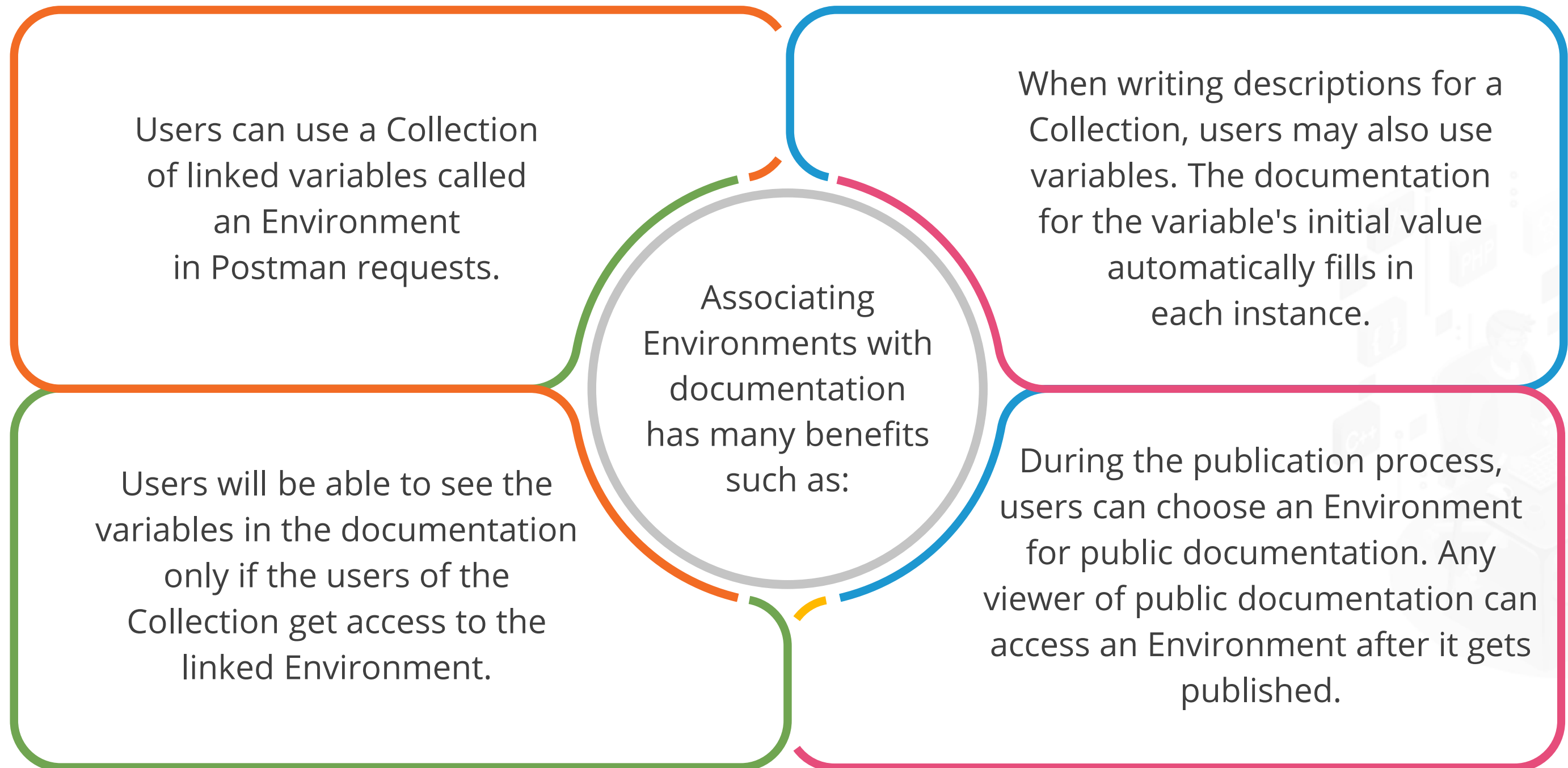
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Functionalities of the Documentation Tab

The Documentation tab in the API Builder provides a place to view, create, add, and manage all the users' API documentation.

Postman automatically generates API documents for any OpenAPI 3.0 schema defined in the API Builder.

Associating Environments with Documentation

Users can use a Collection of linked variables called an Environment in Postman requests.

When writing descriptions for a Collection, users may also use variables. The documentation for the variable's initial value automatically fills in each instance.

Associating Environments with documentation has many benefits such as:

Users will be able to see the variables in the documentation only if the users of the Collection get access to the linked Environment.

During the publication process, users can choose an Environment for public documentation. Any viewer of public documentation can access an Environment after it gets published.

Before Publishing

Users must be aware of the following before publishing the documentation:

- Documentation gets published only with the user's company consent.

- Once users log in to the Postman app, all their local Collections and requests get synced with the Postman cloud. As users cannot publish API documentation in Postman without signing in, this will also sync with their documentation.

- Users' written materials will be made public and available to everyone.

- Users must be a Postman Enterprise or Postman Pro member to make their Postman private. If so, they can discreetly distribute their documentation within the team or company.

Key Takeaways

- Postman workspaces allow users to organize their API work and collaborate across the organization or worldwide.

- If an application runs slowly, API monitoring helps understand the cause before users can correct it.

- API documentation allows users to know what endpoints are available and how to interact with them successfully.

- The Documentation tab in the API Builder provides a place to view, create, add, and manage all of the user's API documentation.