

Good API vs Bad API

in list [Breakouts](#)

Description

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☒ An Ideal API

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- ☐ 0) This API will be the best case scenario
- ☐ 1) Easy Setup - Can be with the help of the documentation and requires minimal extra steps
- ☐ 2) Clean and regular JSON/XML data
- ☐ 3) Tags return what they promise, a "dog breeds" tag gives me a list of dog breeds and not something else
- ☐ 4) Well written and up to date documentation
- ☐ 5) No limit or a high limit on calls per day (500 - 1000 would be good, 300 is workable if minimize your calls)
- ☐ 6) Reliable servers, where the owner of the servers will publicly advertise when down time happens

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☒ The Worst API EVER

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- ☐ 0) If you can check 60% of these boxes, it'd be a good idea to pivot from this API
- ☐ 1) TONS of Setup - can be done in 5 hours, requires several accounts, a key, authentication, and tons of special settings all at the same time.
- ☐ 2) Irregular Data - Structure of JSON that wouldn't be consistent
- ☐ 3) Tags that straight don't return what they seem to promise IE a list of Dogs breeds includes cats and parrots
- ☐ 4) Poor/Dated Documentation - Several years old, okay fine, but if it's from the 90's eh
- ☐ 5) An API that limits your calls per day: a limit of 500 would be hard to reach, 300 you'd have to ration, something like 100-50 you'd eat through rapidly. Ideally you'd find one that will let you use it as much as possible

- ☐ 6) Unreliable servers - their servers go down OR break each time there's an update or you sneeze

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