



Twilio 201: Build Your First App

Facilitator's/Organizer's guide

This troubleshooting guide is for the workshop **Twilio 201: Build Your First App**. In this workshop participants will use Glitch, NodeJS, and the Twilio SMS API to build an app to send a text to a specific number and get back a gif or meme. This guide is to help workshop leaders understand some of the common bugs in the workshop and their potential solutions.

SECTION 1: GET STARTED

1. Before this workshop, participants should sign up for a Twilio account and a Glitch account. Workshop leaders should encourage participants to register for these services at the beginning to make progress faster in later stages of the workshop.

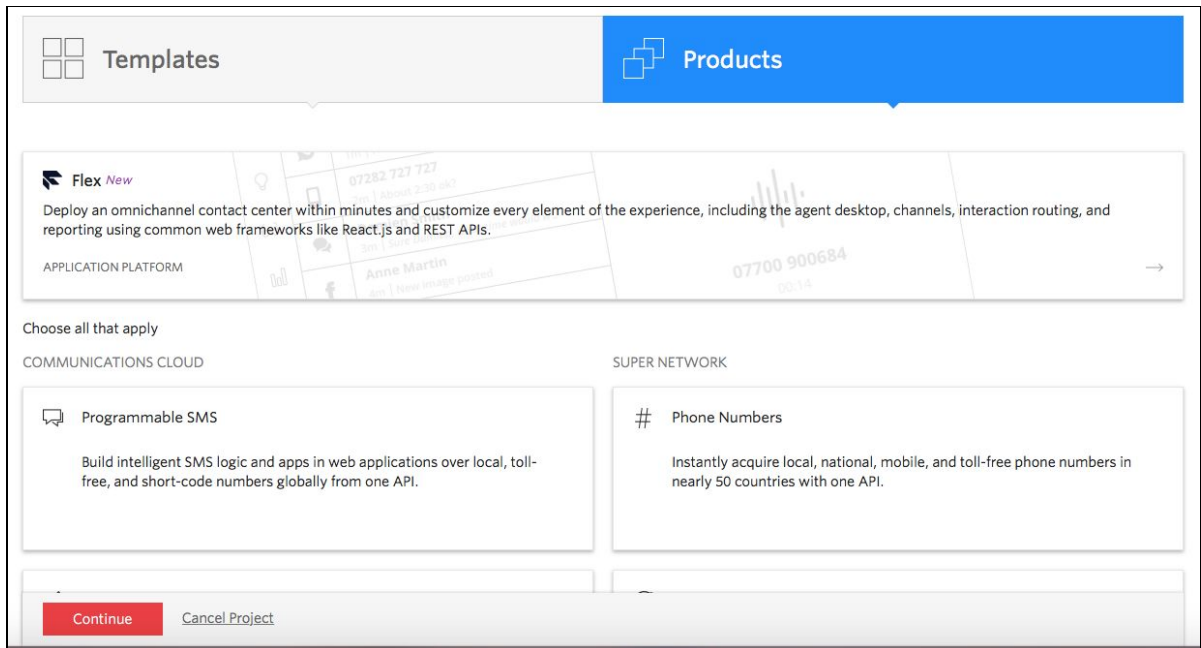
In order to register for Twilio, participants will need a working mobile phone number and email address. To register for Glitch, participants will need either a Facebook or Gmail account.

To register for Twilio visit: www.mlhlocal.host/twilio

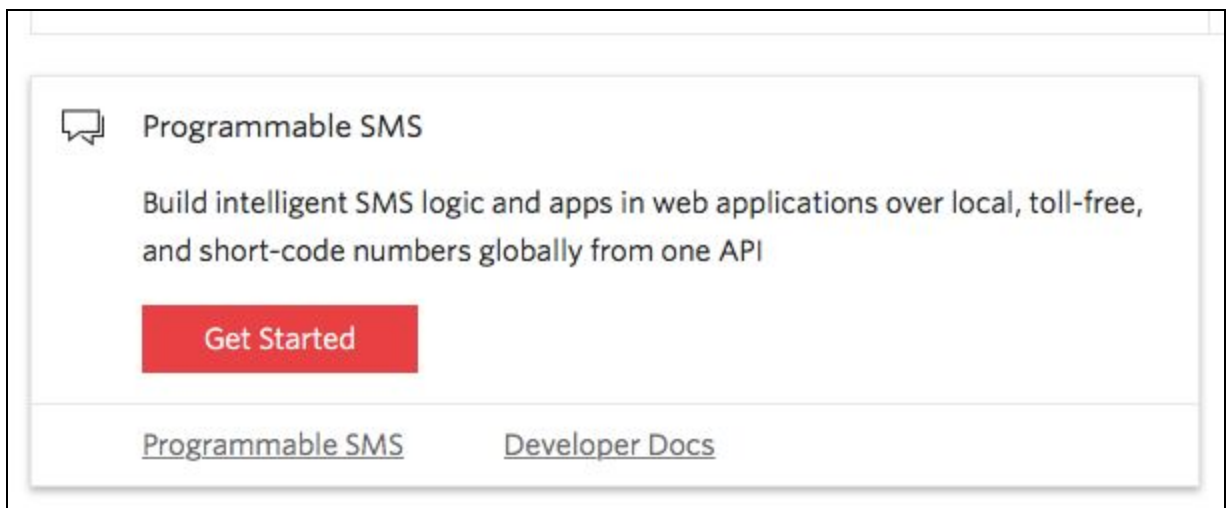
To register for Glitch visit: <https://glitch.com>

SECTION 2: CREATE YOUR PROJECT

1. As participants create a new project, they must navigate first to the Top Left corner and Select **Create New Project**. Within the **Create New Project** page, if you do not see the Programmable SMS option, make sure that you are in the **Products** panel. Then Select **Programmable SMS**. There is a chance that a promotion may be running, so this screen might look slightly different than the one in the Powerpoint presentation.



2. Participants can skip steps to invite others to their team. When they have reached their dashboard, they should Select **Get Started**. While it may seem like **Programmable SMS** (below the button), would also get to the same place, it does not.



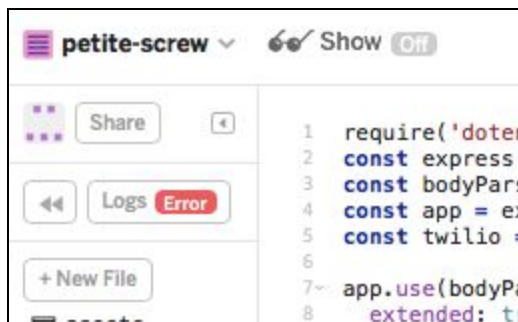
SECTION 3: REMIX THE CODE

1. When participants have registered for both services, the specific code we will work with is on Glitch and can be accessed [here](#).

To begin to edit the code, participants first need to scroll down the page and Select **Remix this Code**. If participants step away, this codebase might become inactive. Simply refresh the page if this happens. Changes are automatically saved.

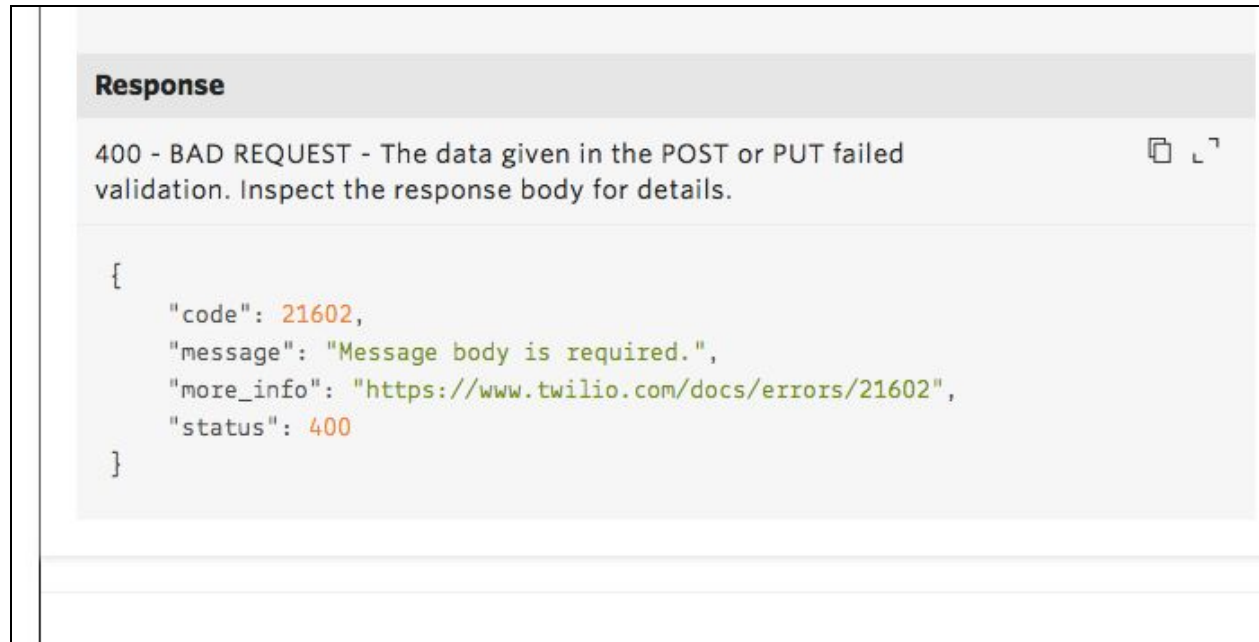


2. When participants select **Remix Your Code**, at the beginning it will show an error in the **Logs**. This is because we do not have an authentication token yet in the **.env** file. Participants should not worry about this error at the start of this workshop.

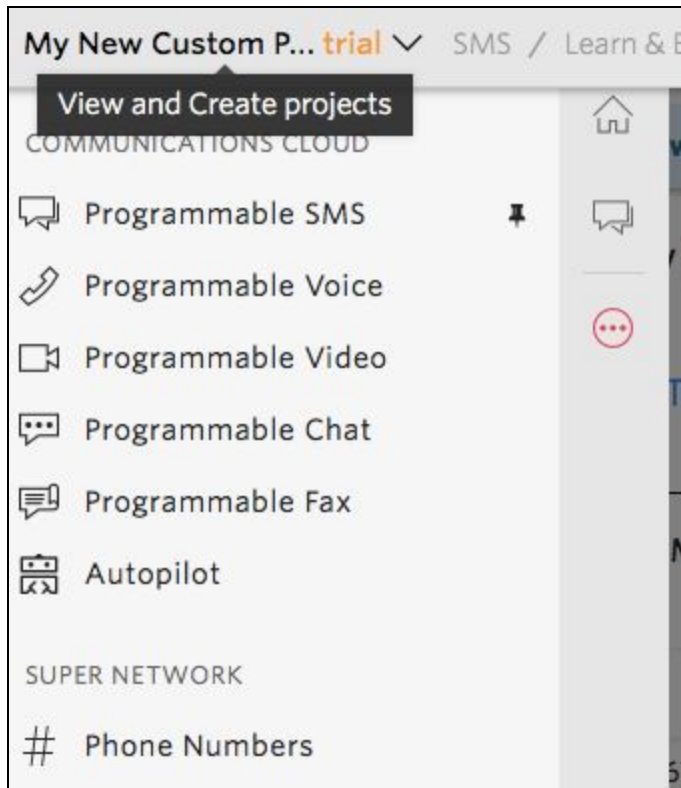


SECTION 4: REGISTER PHONE NUMBER

1. In order to communicate with the Twilio API workshop participants need a phone number to text to receive a meme. Select **Get a Number**, and choose a number. If participants select **Make a Request** now they will end up with a **404 - Bad Request error**. This is because there is no authentication token in the Glitch code that would allow the two different services to connect to each other.



2. Instead, go to the icon on the Left panel with three dots, Select it, and then Select **Phone Numbers**, then Select your highlighted number.



SECTION 5: AUTHENTICATION

1. Participants have to scroll down to the Messages section of the **Programmable SMS** page. Under Messages is a box to place a webhook. When a person messages your Twilio number, the webhook says where the message should be passed to. In this case, it goes to the Glitch app.

Messaging

CONFIGURE WITH	Webhooks, TwiML Bins, Functions, Studio, or Proxy		
A MESSAGE COMES IN	Webhook	<input type="text"/>	HTTP POST
PRIMARY HANDLER FAILS	Webhook	<input type="text"/>	HTTP POST

2. Before the webhook will work authentication tokens need to be put in to the Glitch app. These authentication tokens can be found on the Twilio [console](#). Your tokens will be specific to your account.

My New Custom Project Dashboard

Project Info

We've customized your dashboard based on the products you selected. Use the product getting started guides to get up and running.

We can't wait to see what you build!

PROJECT NAME


My New Custom Project [edit](#)


ACCOUNT SID


ACde7bd0308a3c90d7c267901f1e883029

AUTH TOKEN

[view](#)

 Owner

 1 [manage](#)

 2FA Disabled [edit](#)

3. Copy the authentication tokens and paste them into your Glitch accounts within the `.env` page. Make sure that there are no spaces between the "=" sign and your token. There should also be the "+" sign in front of the number. Different spacing may cause errors in later steps.

```
1 TWILIO_ACCOUNT_SID=ACde7bd0308a3c90d7c267901f1e883029
2 TWILIO_AUTH_TOKEN=6d9123b87f7bacc149c1183a88f5734c
3 TWILIO_PHONE_NUMBER=+3018885518
4
5 API_URL=https://mlh-twilio-api.herokuapp.com
```

SECTION 6: ADD YOUR WEBHOOK

1. In the final section we have to launch our app in Glitch to retrieve the web address to put into the webhook section on our Twilio number dashboard. To retrieve the web address, click **Show Live** on the Left hand side of the screen.

cut-supermarket  Show Live

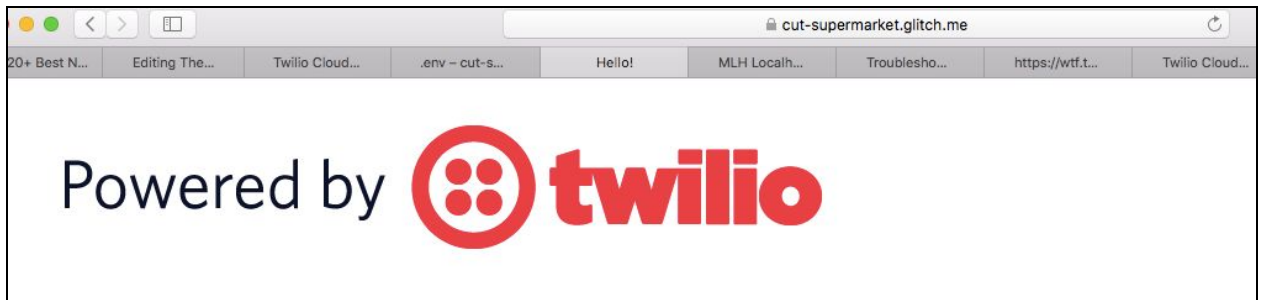
 Share

 Logs

 + New File

```
1 TWILIO_ACCOUNT_SID=ACde7bd0308a3c90d7c267901f1e883029
2 TWILIO_AUTH_TOKEN=6d9123b87f7bacc149c1183a88f5734c
3 TWILIO_PHONE_NUMBER=+3018885518
4
5 API_URL=https://mlh-twilio-api.herokuapp.com
```

2. A new page will open up that says **Powered by Twilio**. Copy the URL on this page, then head back to the Twilio number dashboard.



3. Paste the URL address into the **Messaging** section. Double check to make sure that your web address was posted in the right section. Your app will not work if you paste your link into the **Voice & Fax** section. You should also keep all of the pre-configured options.

A screenshot of the Twilio Messaging configuration interface. The title 'Messaging' is in blue. Below it, there's a section 'CONFIGURE WITH' with a dropdown menu showing 'Webhooks, TwiML Bins, Functions, Studio, or Proxy'. Underneath, there are two rows of configuration. The first row is 'A MESSAGE COMES IN' with a dropdown set to 'Webhook', a text input field containing 'https://cut-supermarket.glitch.me', and a dropdown set to 'HTTP POST'. The second row is 'PRIMARY HANDLER FAILS' with a dropdown set to 'Webhook', a text input field containing 'https://cut-supermarket.glitch.me', and a dropdown set to 'HTTP POST'.

4. The final step is to text 'MLH Updates' to your Twilio number! If you want to let other friends try your app, they need to become a registered Twilio user. If others use the app without registering with Twilio, they will not receive a meme and you will get an error in your Twilio debugging dashboard.

A screenshot of a terminal window. The text in the terminal is as follows: 'Error: The number is unverified. Trial accounts cannot send messages to unverified numbers; verify at twilio.com/user/account/phone-numbers/verified, or purchase a Twilio number t', 'Example app listening on port 3000!', '/rbd/pnpm-volume/1804dfe9-769b-4940-925e-a42dbc7f9da3/node_modules/.registry.npmjs.org/q/2.0.3/node_modules/q/q.js:876', 'throw error;', '^', 'Error: The number is unverified. Trial accounts cannot send messages to unverified numbers; verify at twilio.com/user/account/phone-numbers/verified, or purchase a Twilio number t', 'Example app listening on port 3000!'.

5. If you want to go on and add your own memes to the app, go ahead! Just make sure that these memes are in **.gif** format or else you will get errors in your code.