

How to Use Security: Calculating the sig Value

Every secure API call will require one additional parameter - signature or "sig". The sig parameter is a 32 character string used to authenticate the API request. A sig is computed as follows:

Step 1: Gather Parameters

Gather all parameters and values you want to pass in the API call (email, uuid, etc).

Step 2: Sort Parameters

Sort the parameters in an alphabetical order.

Step 3: Create a String

Create a string by concatenating all sorted parameters and values together.

Note: Do not URL-escape special characters (for example, %40 for @) at this stage.

Step 4: Prepend Secret Key

Prepend the string with your **Secret Key**.

Step 5: compute MD5 hash:

Compute the MD5 hash value of the string. This is the value of the "sig" parameter of the api call.

Example: Enroll API call

Suppose you have a secret_key value of "mRz2DOoknIiXqodxiyBTkn7fwIHUFcS", and you want to make the following request:

```
http://loyalty.500friends.com/api/enroll.gif?  
  uuid=Ok7fIz9V0jLqER7&  
  email=enroll_email@yoursite.com
```

Here is how to calculate the sig value to authenticate the request:

Step 1: The parameters and their values are:

```
uuid: Ok7fIz9V0jLqER7  
email: enroll_email@yoursite.com
```

Step 2: Parameters in alphabetical order

email - uuid

Step 3: create a string:

```
emailenroll_email@yoursite.comuuidOk7fIz9V0jLqER7
```

Step 4: prepend your secret key:

```
mRz2DOoknIiXqodxiyBTkn7fwIHUFcSemailenroll_email@yoursite.comuuidOk7fIz9V0jLqER7
```

Step 5: compute MD5 hash:

```
1b9ca3c20db0dc265de93478481ae97f
```

Step 6: Escape the Parameter Values in the URL:

If there are any spaces or other special characters included in the URL, escape them so that they're recognized. (i.e. details=pants > chinos, escaped would be details=pants%20%3E%20chinos)

The final API call:

```
https://loyalty.500friends.com/api/enroll.gif?  
  uuid=Ok7fIz9V0jLqER7&  
  email=enroll_email@yoursite.com&  
  sig=1b9ca3c20db0dc265de93478481ae97f
```