Lab - Using Postman to Create Rooms and Messages

Objectives

Part 1: Create a Room with Postman and Cisco Webex Teams APIs.

Part 2: List and Search Messages with Postman and the Cisco Webex Teams API

Background / Scenario

In this lab, you will replicate the process of making calls to the Cisco Webex Teams API using Postman. You will use Postman to make an API call that will create a Webex Teams room. You will then use the roomId to add another student to the room. You will save this API call in a Postman collection so it can be conveniently reused again if needed. You will also use Postman to list messages in the room.

Required Resources

- Cisco Webex Teams account
- Cisco Webex Teams desktop application
- Postman application

Part 1: Create a Room with Postman and the Cisco Webex Teams APIs

Step 1: Setup a POST request with authorization.

a. Start **Postman**.

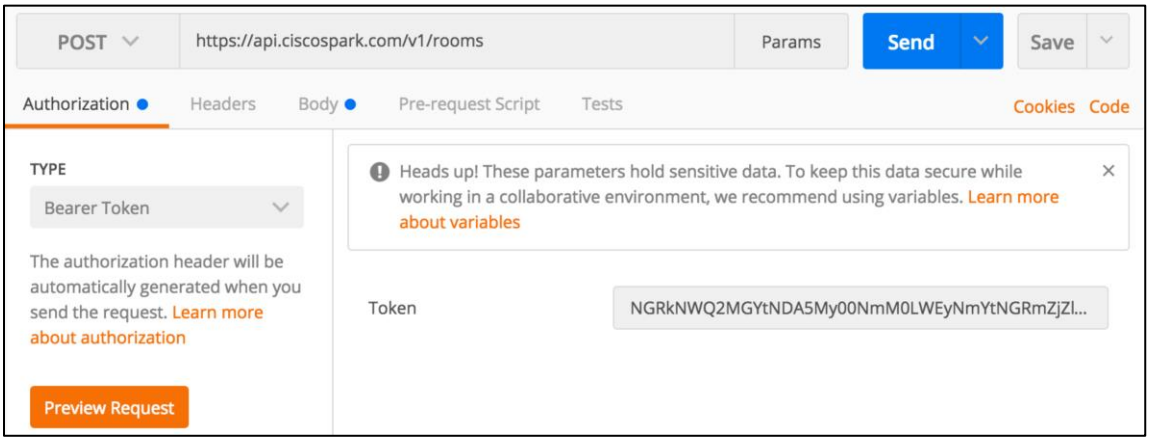
b. Select the HTTP **POST** method.

c. Enter the URL: https://api.ciscospark.com/v1/rooms.

d. Select the **Authorization** tab.

e. Below **Type**, click the down arrow and select **Bearer Token**.

f. In the Token field, paste your access token.



Step 2: Add the room title and the request parameter to the HTTP body.

Parameters can also be part of the request body. In cases where many values and options are possible, REST APIs may accept parameters that describe/limit the request in the HTTP body of the query itself (e.g. in a JSON object).

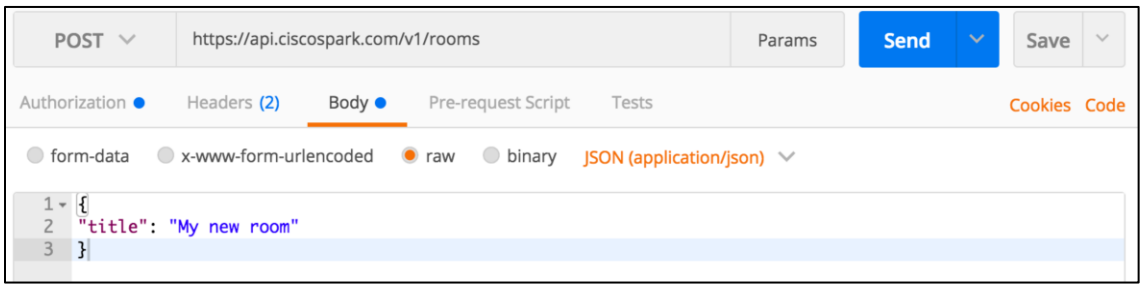
When you used the Cisco Webex Teams for Developers website to create a room, a POST message was used with the title of the room entered in the Request Parameters section.

When using Postman, this request parameter, which is the title of the room, is entered in the HTTP body of the POST message.

a. Select the request **Body** tab and the **raw** option.

b. Select **JSON (application/json)** from the orange drop down list that is next to the **binary** radio button.

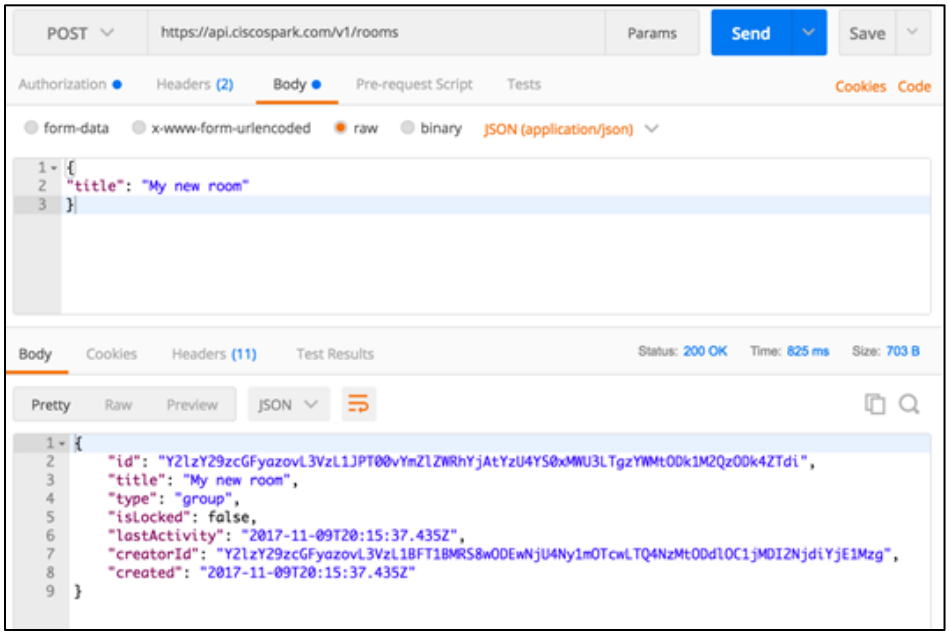
c. Enter the name of your new room using the JSON format shown in the figure.



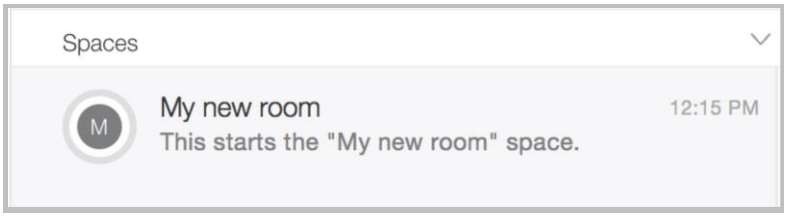
d. Click **Send**.

Step 3: Verify the new room is created.

a. The **Status: 200 OK** response shows that the room was successfully. The JSON response is shown in **Body** section.



b. Verify that the new room was created in your Webex Teams application.

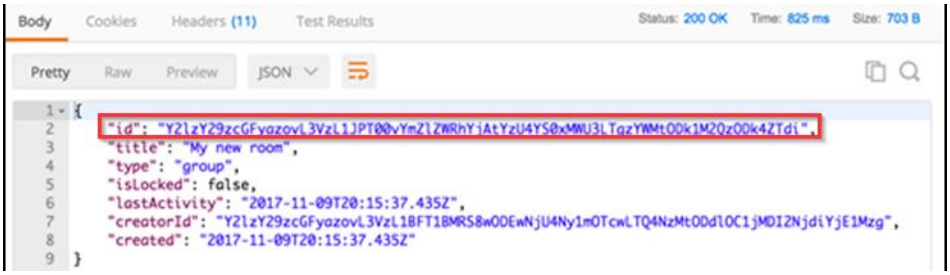


c. Save the Postman API to your **My Cisco Webex Teams APIs** collection.

Step 4: Add people and send messages to the new room.

a. Add several people to the room using Postman. Return to the Cisco Webex Teams for Developers documentation and review the requirements for adding people, if necessary.

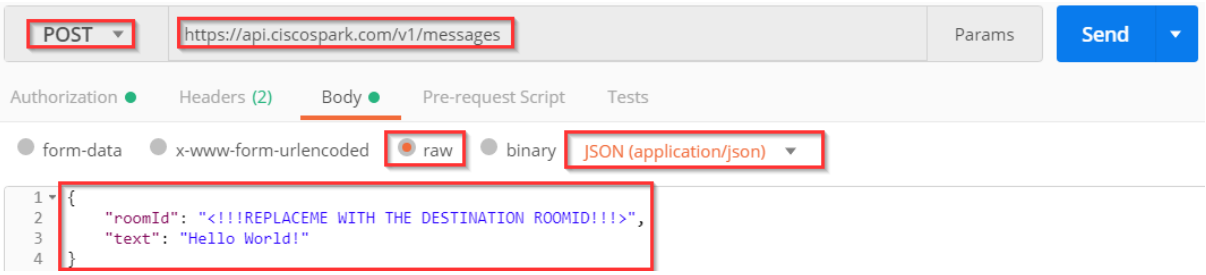
To add users into the new room, you need to get the **roomID** of the destination room. In the previous step, you used the /rooms to create a new room called “My new room”. The successful reply of that API call contains the id parameter that is the unique **roomId**, as shown below



To add users from a different room, find the unique **roomIds** using a GET call to the /rooms API endpoint. This call will give you a list of the rooms where the user is currently enrolled into.

To add a user to a room, use a POST call to the /memberships API endpoint, with the body of the request containing the two parameters: the destination room’s “roomId” and the user’s email address as “personEmail”.

b. Send several messages to all the members of the room using Postman. Review the requirements in the API documentation, if necessary.



Part 2: List and Search Messages with Postman and the Cisco Webex Teams API

Step 1: Setup a GET request to retrieve messages from a room.

a. In **Postman**, select the HTTP **GET** method.

b. Enter the URL: https://api.ciscospark.com/v1/messages.

c. Setup the authorization and content-type values.

Step 2: List messages in the room by using the room ID as a query parameter.

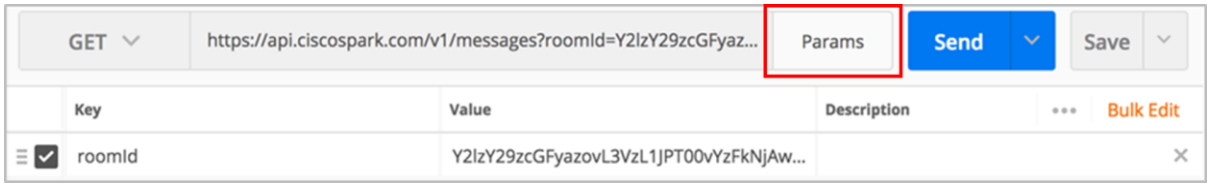
Query parameters are entered using a "**?**" followed by the key/value pair.

When you used the Cisco Webex Teams for Developers website to list messages, a GET message was used with the room ID entered in the Query Parameters section.

a. Add the room ID parameter. The room ID can be entered by choosing **Params** next to the URL, then adding:

Key: **roomId**

Value: **the room ID value**. Use the ID of the room you created in this lab, or of another room that has messages in it.



Or simply by entering a "?" followed by the room ID directly after the URL

b. Click **Send**.

Step 3: Verify the response for the list of messages.

a. The **Status: 200 OK** message shows that the request was successful and the list of messages is displayed in the **Body** of response section.

b. Return to the Cisco Webex Teams application and compare the JSON data with what you see in the application.

c. In Postman, copy the **id** of one of the messages in the response body. This will be used in Step 5 to obtain message details.

Step 4: Search for text in the message.

The message text appears in the “text” key for each message. In busy rooms, the list of messages that is retrieved from the API can be quite long. Postman has a feature that allows searching the body of the JSON response in order to simplify finding specific messages.

a. Click the magnifying class icon in the right-hand corner of the response Body window.

b. Enter a search term or string. Postman will search both the keys and values in the response. In a later lab, you will see how Python can be used to automate this process for you.

Note: Clicking the double rectangle icon that is next to the magnifying glass copies the entire contents of response body into the clipboard. This simplifies using the response JSON in other tools, such as JSON Viewer.

Step 5: Get message details using a path parameter.

Unlike query parameters, a path parameter does not require a question mark and a key/value pair. For path parameters, the parameter is entered as part of the URL path, using a "**/**" character to separate the API endpoint URL path from the parameter. Path parameters are frequently used to reference a single item, while query parameters are often used to refer to a list of items.

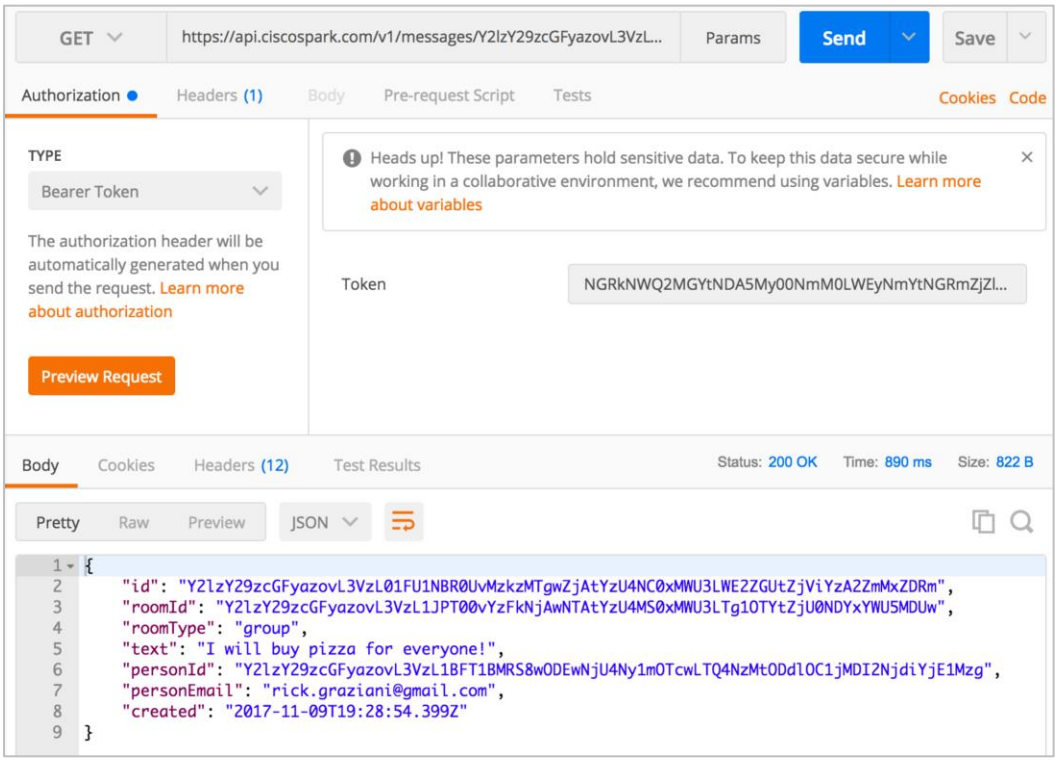
You will now use the id of one of the messages that you copied in Step 3 to get the details for that message.

a. Select the HTTP GET method and enter the URL: https://api.ciscospark.com/v1/messages.

b. At the end of the URL append a “**/**” followed by the id you copied in Step 3.

c. Setup the request with the other values that are required.

d. Click **Send**.



Step 6: Verify the request for message details.

Status: 200 OK shows that the request was successful and the message details are displayed in the **Body** of the response section.

Review the information that is available from Cisco Webex Teams for individual messages.