

Lab - Using Postman to Submit a Request to ISS Location API

Objectives

- Use Postman with the ISS Location API

Background / Scenario

In this lab you will practice using Postman with the ISS Location API. Postman is a tool for testing REST APIs. It is available as a Chrome app or standalone install. It contains everything required for constructing and sending REST API requests. It also has a number of features that make it valuable as a tool for API programmers.

Required Resources

- Postman application

Step 1: Enter the required request information for ISS Location API.

Postman is a tool that is used to test and verify the operation of REST APIs. It has many features that make it very easy and convenient to use.

- Start **Postman**.
- From the **method** drop-down box, select the default HTTP method **GET**. Opening the drop down displays the other HTTP methods that are available.
- With **GET** selected, in the **Enter request URL** field, type **http://api.open-notify.org/iss-pass.json**
- The ISS Location API needs a set up latitude and longitude coordinates. Use the values for Washington, DC. Under **Params**, add the following **KEY** and **VALUE** parameters:
 - **KEY** = lat; **VALUE** = 38.892063
 - **KEY** = lon; **VALUE** = -76.6121237
- Click **Send**.

Step 2: Explore the JSON response received from the ISS Location API.

Similar to the previous labs in which API requests were made using the Cisco Webex for Developers web site, a successful request in Postman also results in the return of JSON data. Examine the JSON data in the **Body** tab. You can view the different display formats that are available by selecting **Pretty**, **Raw**, and **Preview**.

- Explore the JSON that is returned by the API.

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- b. Practice getting information from the ISS Location API by submitting requests for other locations. Enter the locations as URL parameters and send the requests.

The screenshot shows the Postman interface with a GET request to `http://api.open-notify.org/iss-pass.json?lat=38.892063&lon=-76.612137`. The request is successful, returning a 200 OK status with a response time of 149 ms and a size of 699 B. The response body is displayed in JSON format, showing a successful message and request details.

Request Details:

- Method: GET
- URL: `http://api.open-notify.org/iss-pass.json?lat=38.892063&lon=-76.612137`

Parameters:

KEY	VALUE	DESCRIPTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lat	38.892063	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lon	-76.612137	
Key	Value	Description

Response Body (JSON):

```
1 {
2   "message": "success",
3   "request": {
4     "altitude": 100,
5     "datetime": 1540224036,
6     "latitude": 38.892063,
7     "longitude": -76.612137,
8     "passes": 5
9   },
10  "response": [
11    {
12      "duration": 513,
13      "risetime": 1540225234
14    },
15    {
16      "duration": 604,
17      "risetime": 1540231037
18    }
19  ]
20 }
```