



User Centered API Versioning

Niall Burkley

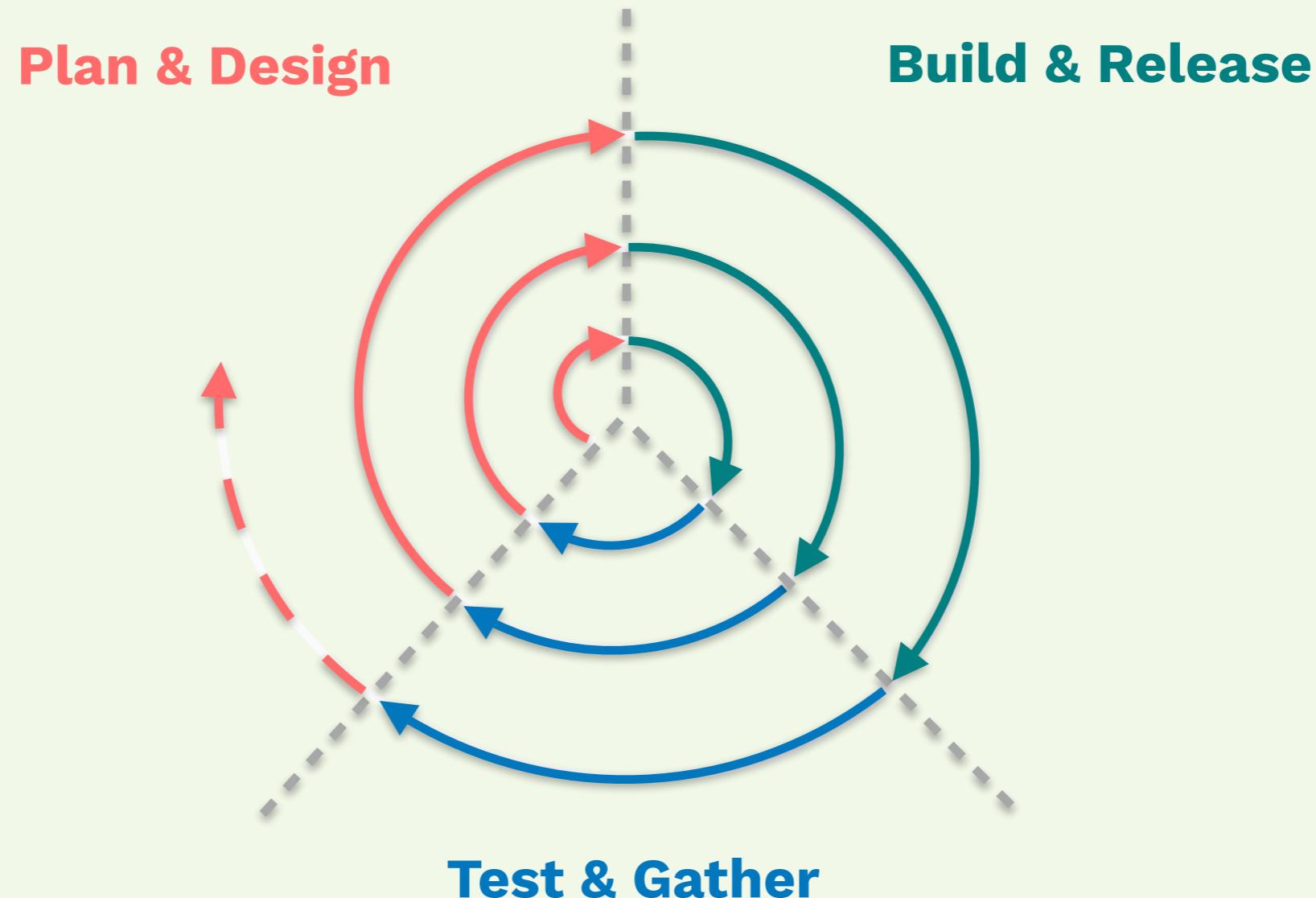
@niallburkley





Meltwater API

Iterative Development



But...

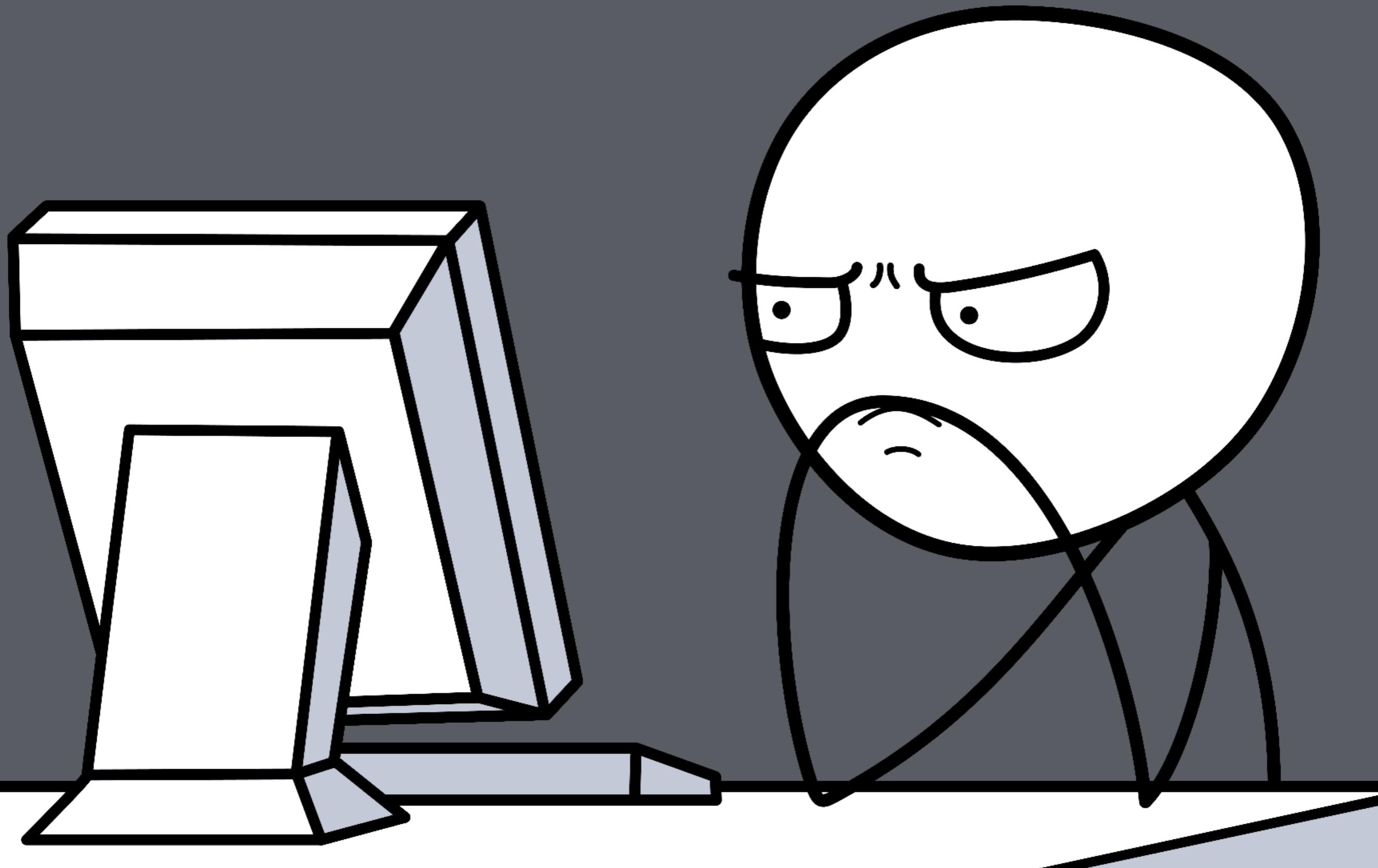
we're building
an API?



An API is a contract

Changing
our
API...





Versioning

/api/v1/documents

/api/v2/documents

/api/v3/documents

Migrations

The screenshot shows a portion of the Twitter Developer documentation. At the top, there's a purple header bar with links for 'Developer', 'Use cases', 'Products', 'Docs', and 'More'. A search bar is also present in the header. Below the header, the main content area has a light gray background. On the left side, there's a sidebar with several categories: 'Basics', 'Accounts and users', 'Tweets', 'Direct Messages', 'Media', 'Trends', 'Geo', 'Ads', and 'Campaign Management'. Under 'Ads', there are sub-links for 'General', 'Analytics', 'Audiences', 'Campaign Management', and 'Creatives'. The main content area features a large, bold title 'General' at the top. Below it, there are two tabs: 'Overview' (which is active) and 'Guides'. The 'Overview' tab contains a brief text about migrating from v0 to v1 endpoints. To the right of this text, there's a large, bold heading 'Migration Guide; v0 => v1'. Below this heading, another section titled 'Consolidation of analytics endpoints' is shown with a detailed explanation of how endpoints have been consolidated in version 1.

Search all documentation...

General

Basics

Accounts and users

Tweets

Direct Messages

Media

Trends

Geo

Ads

General

Analytics

Audiences

Campaign Management

Creatives

Overview Guides

We recommend you start moving away from analytics v0 endpoints to the newly introduced analytics v1 endpoints as soon as possible. As per our [Version 1 Announcement](#), v0 will be deprecated on *June 30, 2016*.

Migration Guide; v0 => v1

Consolidation of analytics endpoints

In version 0 of the Ads API, a separate analytics endpoint existed for each entity type, from funding instruments to promoted tweets to organic tweets. With version 1 of the API, we've consolidated these into just two endpoints - one for synchronous stats queries, and another for asynchronous stats queries. These two endpoints can be used to fetch stats for all entity types, specified using the `entity` and `entity_ids` parameters. The synchronous endpoint will return smaller batches of data ideal for real-time campaign optimizations. The asynchronous endpoint is intended for larger queries of complex data, ideal for generating reporting or historical backfills.

Complicated migrations

The screenshot shows the 'General' section of the Twitter Developer Documentation. The left sidebar lists various API endpoints under categories like 'Accounts and users', 'Tweets', 'Direct Messages', 'Media', 'Trends', 'Geo', 'Ads', 'Metrics', 'Publisher tools & SDKs', 'Developer utilities', and 'API reference index'. The main content area is titled 'Migration Guide: v0 => v1' and discusses moving from version 0 to version 1 of the Analytics API. It covers topics such as 'Consolidation of analytics endpoints', 'Rate Limiting', 'Moving from metrics to metric groups', and 'Example'. The 'Example' section provides code snippets for both version 0 and version 1 of the Analytics Query API.

General

Migration Guide: v0 => v1

We recommend you start moving away from analysis v0 endpoints to the newly introduced analysis v1 endpoints as soon as possible. As per our Version 1 deprecation, v0 will be deprecated on June 20, 2016.

Consolidation of analytics endpoints

In version 0 of the Ads API, it's necessary to make a separate request for each analytics type. Now, bidding instruments are promoted directly to specific metrics, with version 1 endpoints which consolidate these into a single endpoint. Use the synchronous metrics endpoint, and switch to asynchronous stats endpoint. These two endpoints can be used to track stats for an array of types, specified using the `entity_id` and `entity_type` parameters. The synchronous endpoint will return smaller batches of data ideal for mid-fight campaign optimizations. The asynchronous endpoint is intended for larger queues of complex data, ideal for preventing reporting or freshness backlogs.

- Synchronous Analytics: GET `/stats/accounts/account_id`
- Asynchronous Analytics: POST `/stats/async/accounts/account_id`

For more details on these two endpoints and the differences in each, see the [Analytics Overview](#).

Rate Limiting

With the introduction of separate synchronous and asynchronous analytics endpoints, we are decreasing post-launch rate limiting in favor of a single efficient query-based rate limiting model similar to our non-v0 endpoints for both v1 analytics endpoints. The asynchronous analytics endpoint will have a per-advertiser limit on the total number of concurrent asynchronous data queries. For more details on the rate limits for each endpoint, see the [Rate Limiting section](#) of the [Analytics Details](#).

Moving from metrics to metric groups

The `metrics` parameter has been deprecated in favor of `metric_group`, groups of related metrics such as video metrics or engagement metrics. This simplifies analytics queries by eliminating the need to explicitly query each specific metric. In addition, the metrics will provide an optional `placement` parameter for the requested placement, removing the need to aggregate across placements previously required in version 0. A complete list of available `metrics` and their corresponding `placement` is available on our [Metrics and Requirements](#) page. Do note that version 1 provides additional metrics not previously available in version 0, and a newer version of metrics currently available in version 0 will no longer be available in version 1.

Simplifying responses using placement

Using the newly introduced `placement` parameter, we are now able to return pre-aggregated metrics for all placements across Twitter or on the Twitter Audience Platform. This eliminates the need for developers to aggregate metrics across placements. For example, the version 0 `promoted_tweet_impressions`, `promoted_tweet_opens`, and `promoted_tweet_profile_impressions` metrics are now pre-aggregated and returned simply as `impressions` when `placement` is set to `all_in_stream`. All available `placement` values are listed in the [Ad Placement](#) page under the `placements` section. Do note that placement values in a single value, so separate queries are required to fetch analytic data for placements on Twitter and placements on the Twitter Audience Platform.

Changes to start_time and end_time

The `start_time` and `end_time` parameters are now required for all analytic queries. In addition, all values passed to `start_time` and `end_time` must be at whole hours (30 minutes and 30 seconds) granularities.

Example

Version 0

In version 0 of analytics, for both engagement and billing metrics for a particular Tweet Engagement campaign, the following metrics would need to be explicitly queried on the campaign analytics endpoint (GET `/stats/campaign/account_id/placement_id`). Note that a separate engagement metric exists for each type of placement. Also note that no `start_time` is required in v0.

Metrics:

- `promoted_tweet_impressions`
- `promoted_tweet_opens`
- `promoted_tweet_referrals`
- `promoted_tweet_retweets`
- `promoted_tweet_screenshots`
- `promoted_tweet_tweets`
- `promoted_tweet_clicks`
- `promoted_tweet_search_impressions`
- `promoted_tweet_search_placements`
- `promoted_tweet_search_queries`
- `promoted_tweet_search_favorites`
- `promoted_tweet_search_listens`
- `promoted_tweet_charge_carts`
- `promoted_tweet_charge_clicks`
- `promoted_tweet_charge_engagements`
- `promoted_tweet_charge_impressions`
- `promoted_tweet_charge_referrals`
- `promoted_tweet_charge_tweets`
- `billable_impressions`
- `billable_charge_local_micro`

Analytics Query:

```
https://api.twitter.com/1.1/stats/campaign?account_id=12345&placement_id=12345&start_time=2015-01-01T00:00:00Z&end_time=2015-01-01T23:59:59Z
```

Version 1

In Analytics v1, the same metrics can be fetched in a significantly simplified request to either the synchronous or asynchronous analytics endpoint. Note that `start_time` is now required parameter.

v1 Metrics Groups: `ENGAGEMENT` * `BILLING`

v1 Placements: `ALL_IN_STREAM`

v1 Analytics Query:

```
https://api.twitter.com/1.1/stats/engagement?account_id=12345&placement_id=12345&start_time=2015-01-01T00:00:00Z&end_time=2015-01-01T23:59:59Z
```

Documentation and terms | Terms of service | Privacy | © 2016 Twitter, Inc.

An alternative?

What the user wants...

Stable API

What the user wants...

Documentation

What the user wants...

Easy to Upgrade

What the user wants...

Don't make me do it

Best for us?

What we want...

Easy to Change

What we want...

Easy to Maintain

What we want...

Incentive to Upgrade

**Support ALL the
versions!**

An aerial photograph of a multi-level highway interchange in a city. The roads are filled with cars, and the surrounding area is covered in trees with autumn-colored leaves. A large, semi-transparent black rectangular box covers the center of the image, containing the text "What!?" in white.

What!?

[Blog](#) › [Engineering](#)[Share this post on Twitter](#) 

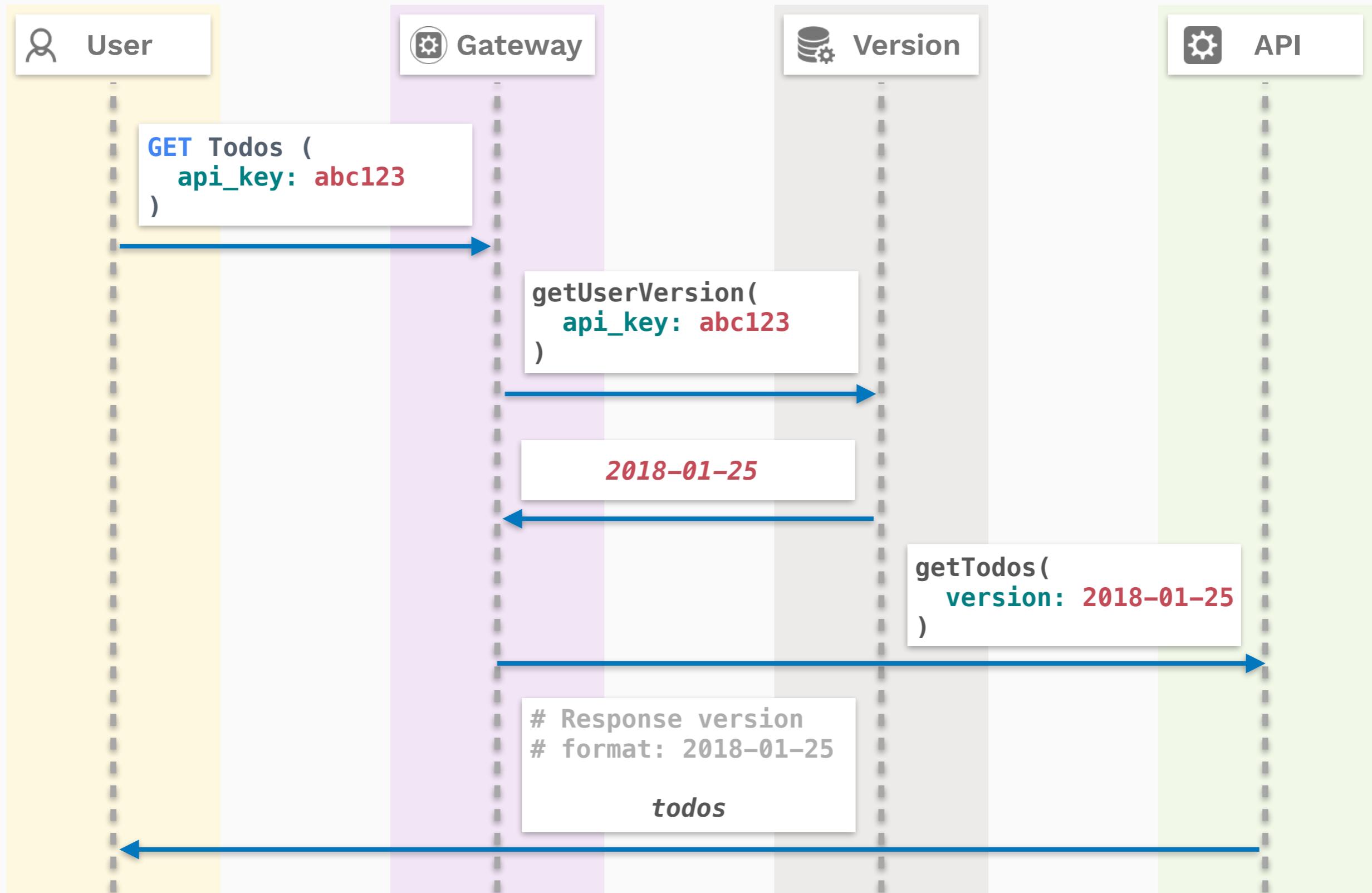
APIs as infrastructure: future-proofing Stripe with versioning

[Brandur Leach](#) on August 15, 2017 in [Engineering](#)

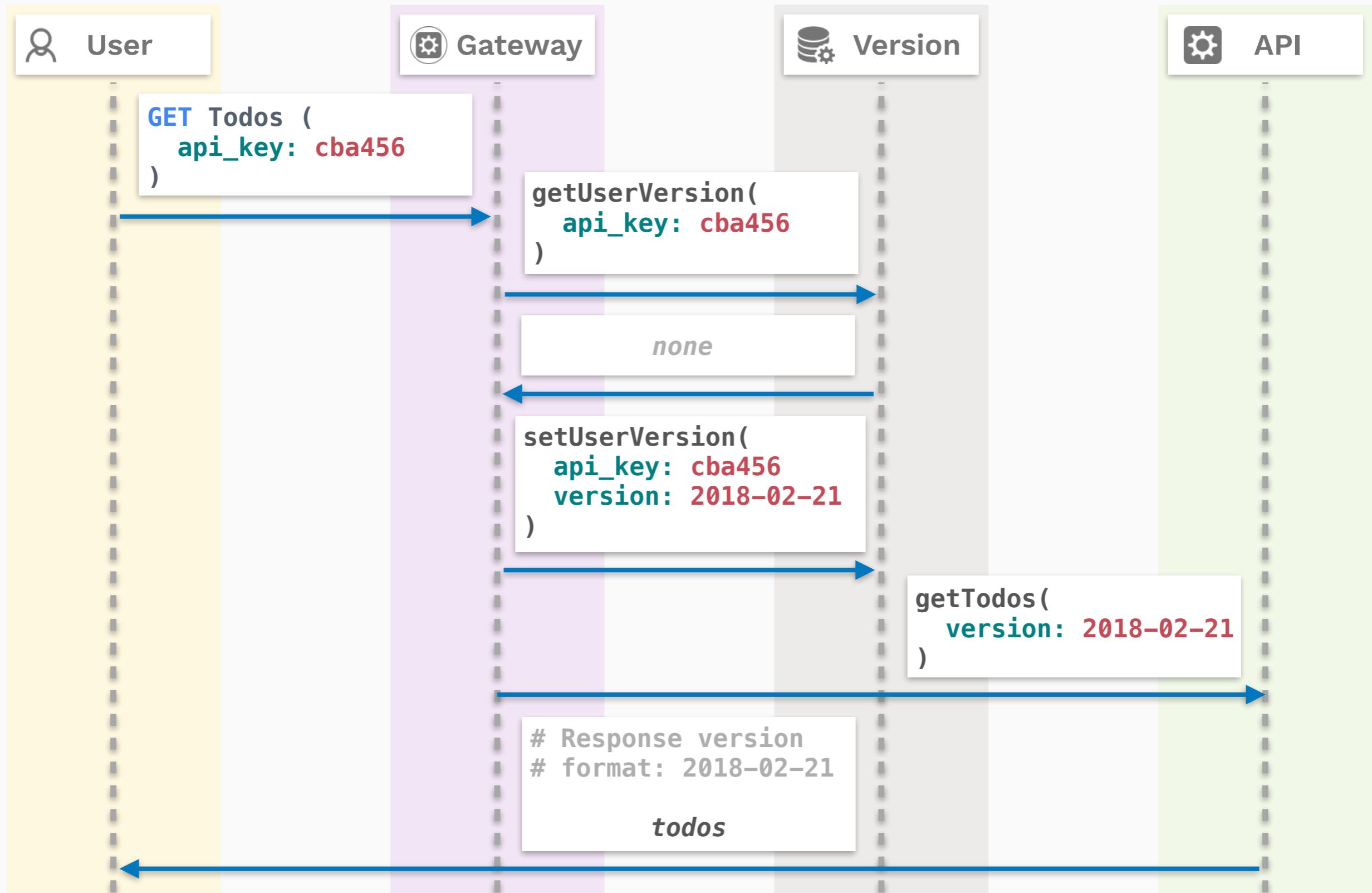
When it comes to APIs, change isn't popular. While software developers are used to iterating quickly and often, API developers lose that flexibility as soon as even one user starts consuming their interface. Many of us are familiar with how the Unix operating system evolved. In 1994, *The Unix-Haters Handbook* was published containing a long list of missives about the software—everything from overly-cryptic command names that were optimized for Teletype machines, to irreversible file deletion, to unintuitive programs with far too many options. Over twenty years later, an overwhelming majority of these complaints are still valid even across the dozens of modern derivatives. Unix had become so widely used that changing its behavior would have challenging implications. For better or worse, it established a contract with its users that defined how Unix interfaces behave.

**How does this work
for the user?**

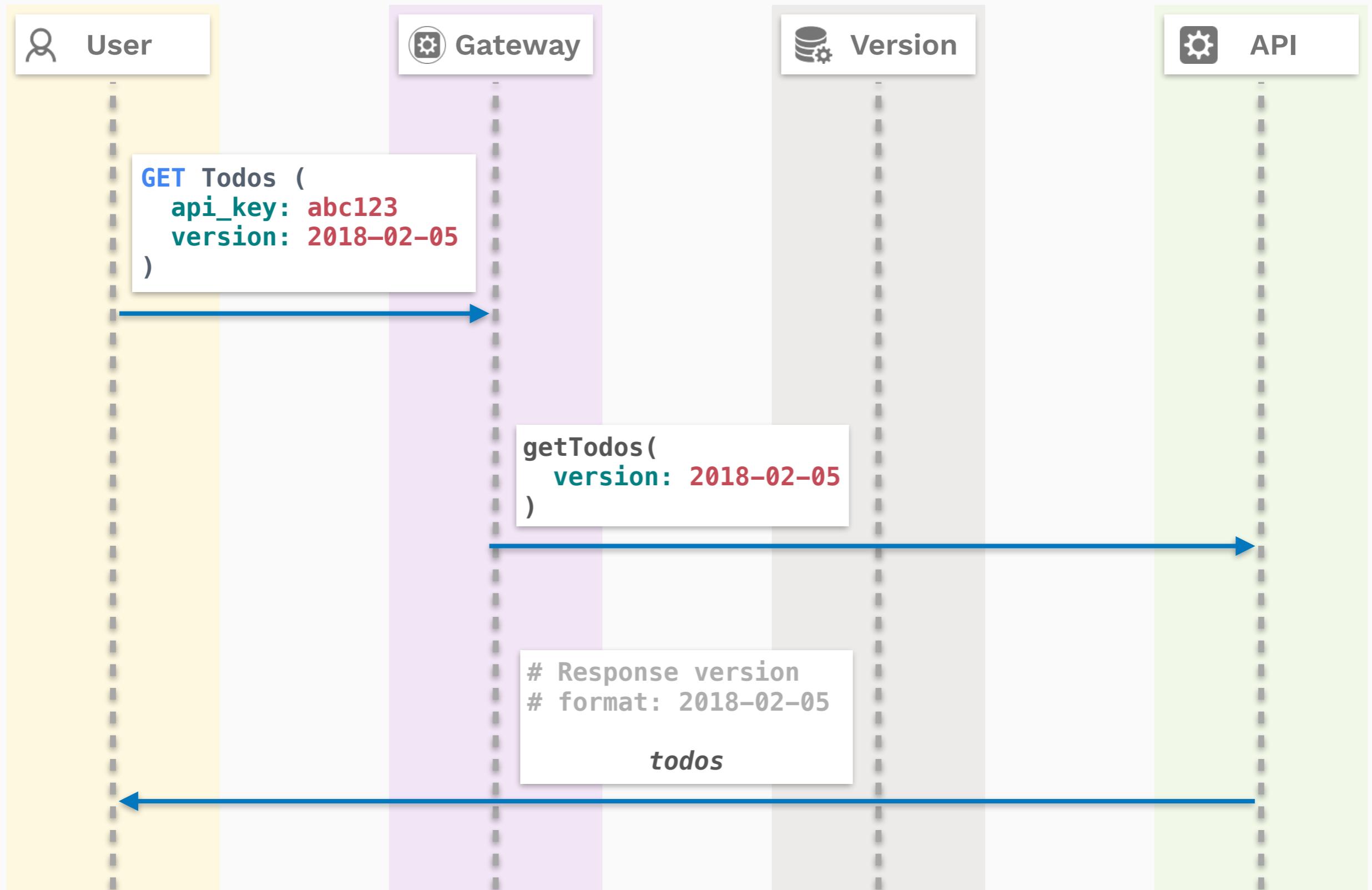
Existing User's API Call



User's first API Call



Specifying a different API version



Managing Versions

Status Live

User Key `56fa7d45487a4af43e93317af7e8737d` [Regenerate](#)

Add this as a `user-key` header parameter to your API calls to authenticate.

Search API Version `2017-10-07`

Managing Versions

Status	 Live
User Key	<code>56fa7d45487a4af43e93317af7e8737d</code> Regenerate
Add this as a <code>user-key</code> header parameter to your API calls to authenticate.	
Search API Version	2017-10-07 <small>*Upgrade Available. Check out the Changelog for details</small>

Managing Versions

DESCRIPTION

2017-06-28 (current)

2017-08-05

2017-11-15

2017-12-25

✓ 2018-02-21 (latest)

SEARCH API VERSION

Update Application



How to build it?

**Our
implementation...**

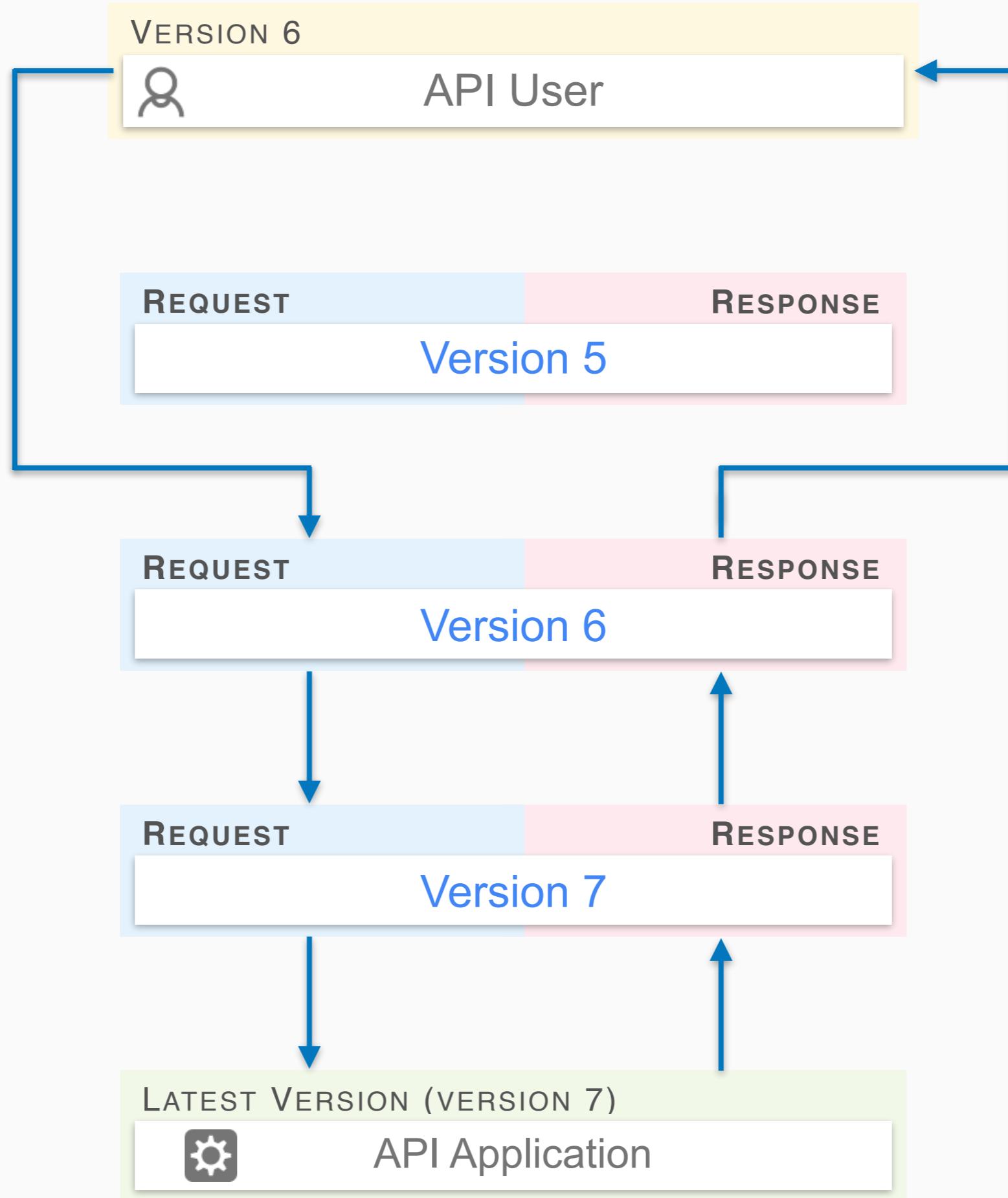
Keep it current

Our
implementation...

Release
rolling versions

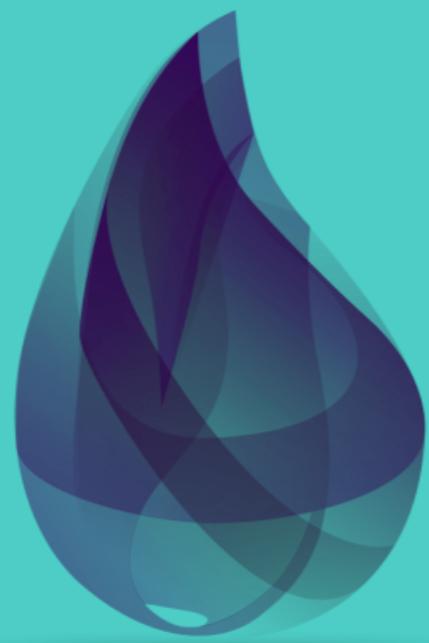
Our
implementation...

Versions as
transformations



Implementation





connection
| > endpoint
| > router
| > pipeline
| > controller

connection
| > endpoint
| > plug
| > router
| > plug
| > pipeline
| > controller

connection
| > endpoint
| > authentication
| > router
| > apply_version
| > pipeline
| > controller

Sample application

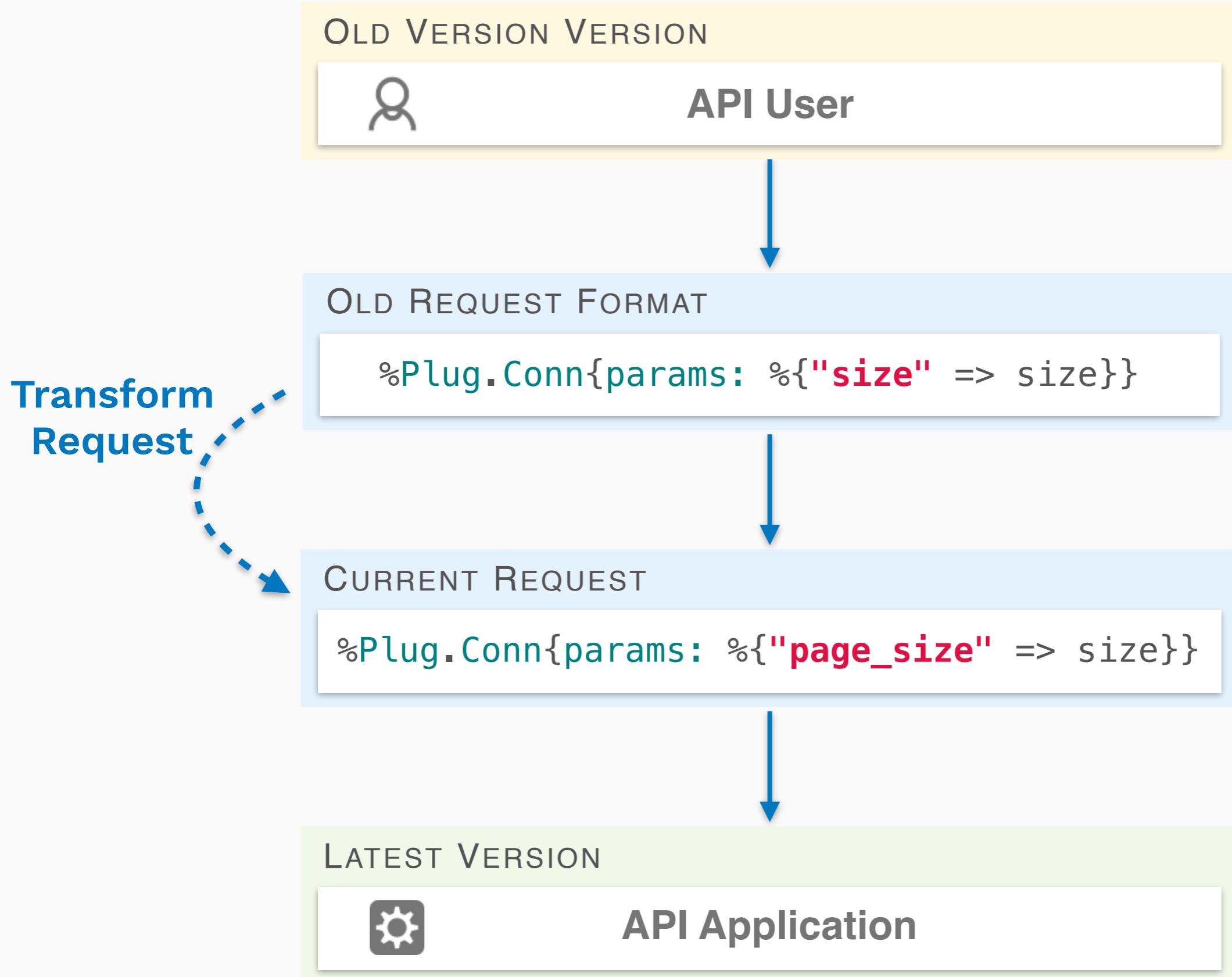


```
$> curl -X GET -G /api/todos --data 'size=2'
```

```
$> curl -X GET -G /api/todos --data 'size=2'  
  
{  
  "data": [  
    {  
      "title": "Build Sample App",  
      "id": 1,  
      "description": "Put together a sample app for versioning"  
    },  
    {  
      "title": "Add documentation",  
      "id": 2,  
      "description": "Write up some documentation"  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

```
curl -X GET -G /api/todos --data 'size=2'
```

```
curl -X GET -G /api/todos --data 'page_size=2'
```



```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.ModifyRequest do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(%Plug.Conn{params: %{ "size"=> size} = params} = conn, _)
    do
      updated_params =
        params
        |> Map.put("page_size", size)
        |> Map.delete("size")

      %{conn | params: updated_params }
    end
  def call(conn, _), do: conn

end
```

```
$> curl -X GET /api/todos

{
  "data": [
    {
      "title": "Build Sample App",
      "id": 1,
      "description": "Put together a sample app for versioning"
    },
    {
      "title": "Add documentation",
      "id": 2,
      "description": "Write up some documentation"
    }
  ]
}
```

```
...  
{  
{  
  "title": "Add documentation",  
  "id": 2,  
  "description": "Write up documentation"  
}  
}  
...
```

```
...  
{  
{  
  "title": "Add documentation",  
  "id": 2,  
  "details": "Write up documentation"  
}  
}  
...
```

LATEST VERSION



API Application



CURRENT RESPONSE

```
{  
  "title": "Add documentation",  
  "id": 2,  
  "details": "Write up documentation"  
}
```

Transform
Response



OLD RESPONSE FORMAT

```
{  
  "title": "Add documentation",  
  "id": 2,  
  "description": "Write up documentation"  
}
```



OLD VERSION VERSION



API User

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.TransformResponse do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn, _opts) do
    Plug.Conn.register_before_send(conn, fn conn =>
      transform_description(conn)
    end)
  end

  def call(conn, _), do: conn

  defp transform_description(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn) do
    end
  end
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.TransformResponse do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn, _opts) do
    Plug.Conn.register_before_send(conn, fn conn ->
      transform_description(conn)
    end)
  end
  def call(conn, _), do: conn

  defp transform_description(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn) do
    body
  end
end
```

```
defp transform_description(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn) do
  json_body = Poison.decode!(body)

  transformed_data =
    json_body["data"]
    |> Enum.map(fn(item) ->
      |> Map.put("details", item["description"]))
      |> Map.delete("description")
    end)

  %{conn | resp_body: Poison.encode!(%{json_body | "data" => transformed_data})}
end
```

```
defp transform_description(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn) do
  transformed_body =
    body
    |> to_string
    |> String.replace("\"description\":", "\"details\":")
  %{conn | resp_body: transformed_body }
end
```

OLD VERSION



API User

OLD REQUEST FORMAT

```
%Plug.Conn{params: %{"size" => size}}
```

CURRENT REQUEST

```
%Plug.Conn{params: %{"page_size" => size}}
```

LATEST VERSION



API Application

OLD RESPONSE FORMAT

```
%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body}
```

CURRENT RESPONSE

```
%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body}
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Change do
  @doc """
  Transforms the request on the way into the application.
  """
  @callback transform_request(Plug.Conn.t) :: Plug.Conn.t
  @doc """
  Registers callback to transform response on the way out
  of the application
  """
  @callback transform_response(Plug.Conn.t) :: Plug.Conn.t
end
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Changes.Versions do
  ...
  @all_versions %{
    "2017-10-02" => [
      TodosWeb.Changes.RevertMultipleAuthors
    ],
    "2017-10-03" => [
      TodosWeb.Changes.RemoveDocumentLocation,
      TodosWeb.Changes.RenameSourceId
    ],
    "2017-10-04" => [
      TodosWeb.Changes.ResetSourceReachDefault
    ]
  }
  ...
end
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Changes.Versions do
  ...
  def changes_for(requested_version) do
    @all_versions
    |> versions_since(requested_version)
    |> Keyword.values
    |> List.flatten
  end

  defp versions_since(versions, requested_version) do
    Enum.filter(versions, fn({version_date, _changes}) ->
      requested_version <= version_date
    end)
  end
  ...
end
```

```
connection
|> endpoint
|> authentication
|> router
|> apply_version
|> pipeline
|> controller
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.ApplyVersion do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(conn, _) do
    # 1. get request version

    # 2. get changes for version

    # 3. apply request changes

    # 4. apply response changes
  end
end
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.ApplyVersion do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(conn, _) do
    changes =
      get_req_header(conn, "x-api-version")
      |> List.first()
      |> TodosWeb.Versions.changes_for()

    # apply request changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn =>
      change.transform_request(conn)
    end)

    # apply response changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn =>
      Plug.Conn.register_before_send(conn, fn conn =>
        change.transform_response(conn)
      end)
    end)

  end
end
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.ApplyVersion do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(conn, _) do
    changes =
      get_req_header(conn, "x-api-version")
      |> List.first()
      |> TodosWeb.Versions.changes_for()

    # apply request changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn =>
      change.transform_request(conn)
    end)

    # apply response changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn =>
      Plug.Conn.register_before_send(conn, fn conn =>
        change.transform_response(conn)
      end)
    end)

  end
end
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.ApplyVersion do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(conn, _) do
    changes =
      get_req_header(conn, "x-api-version")
      |> List.first()
      |> TodosWeb.Versions.changes_for()

    # apply request changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn =>
      change.transform_request(conn)
    end)

    # apply response changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn =>
      Plug.Conn.register_before_send(conn, fn conn =>
        change.transform_response(conn)
      end)
    end)

  end
end
```

Multiverse

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `Nebo15 / multiverse`. The repository has 3 stars, 28 forks, and 4 open issues. It features 51 commits, 1 branch, 7 releases, and 2 contributors. The code is licensed under MIT. A recent commit by `AndrewDryga` formatted the code with Elixir 1.6 formatter. The repository contains a `README.md` file.

Elixir package that allows to add compatibility layers via API gateways. <https://hex.pm/packages/multiverse>

api plug elixir hex versioning gateways elixir-lang

51 commits 1 branch 7 releases 2 contributors MIT

Branch: master ▾ New pull request Create new file Upload files Find file Clone or download ▾

AndrewDryga Format the code with Elixir 1.6 formatter Latest commit 83b89dc 13 days ago

README.md

Multiverse

deps downloads 45/week hex v1.0.0 license MIT build passing coverage 100% ebert 12 issues

This plug helps to manage multiple API versions based on request and response gateways. This is an awesome practice to hide your backward compatibility. It allows to have your code in a latest possible version, without duplicating controllers or models.

Okay...
what about other
kinds of changes?

Route Change Between Versions

```
$> curl -X GET /api/todos
```

Route Change Between Versions

```
$> curl -X GET /api/todo_items
```

Route Change Between Versions

```
TodosWeb.Change.TodosRoute do
  @behaviour TodosWeb.Change

  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{request_path: "/api/todos"} = conn) do
    %{conn | path_info: ["api", "todos_items"] }
  end
  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{} = conn), do: conn

  def handle_response(%Plug.Conn{} = conn), do: conn
end
```

New Route for Latest Version

NEW VERSION:

`curl -X POST /api/todos/share`

=> HTTP 200

OLD VERSION:

`curl -X POST /api/todos/share`

=> HTTP 404

New Route for Latest Version

```
TodosWeb.Change.NewShareRoute do
  @behaviour TodosWeb.Change

  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{request_path: "/api/todos/share"} = conn) do
    # this will internally redirect to a path that doesn't exist
    # The user will get a 404, but since we haven't changed the
    # `request_path` the 404 message will still show /api/todos/share
    %{conn | path_info: ["api", "todos", "NOT_FOUND"] }
  end
  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{} = conn), do: conn

  def handle_response(%Plug.Conn{} = conn), do: conn
end
```

Route is Removed

```
$> curl -X POST /api/todos/follow
```

Route is Removed

```
$> curl -X POST /api/todos/follow
```

Remove Field from Response Payload

```
{  
  "title": "Build Sample App",  
  "id": 1,  
  "description": "Put together a sample app",  
  "tags": ["conference", "code"]  
}
```

Remove Field from Response Payload

```
{  
  "title": "Build Sample App",  
  "id": 1,  
  "description": "Put together a sample app",  
  "tags": ["conference", "code"]  
}
```

Remove Field from Response Payload

```
TodosWeb.Change.RemoveTags do
  @behaviour TodosWeb.Change

  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{} = conn), do: conn

  def handle_response(%Plug.Conn{request_path: "/api/todos", resp_body: body} = conn) do
    json_body = Poison.decode!(body)

    transformed_data =
      json_body["data"]
      |> Enum.map(fn(todo_item) -> Map.put(todo_item, "tags", []) end)

    %{conn | resp_body: Poison.encode!(%{json_body | "data" => transformed_data})}
  end

end
```

Validation Rule Changes

```
{  
  "title": "Build Sample App", Max Length: 50  
  "id": 1,  
  "description": "Put together a sample app",  
  "tags": ["conference", "code"]  
}
```

Validation Rule Changes

```
{  
  "title": "Build Sample App", Max Length: 30  
  "id": 1,  
  "description": "Put together a sample app",  
  "tags": ["conference", "code"]  
}
```

Validation Rule Changes

```
TodosWeb.Change.TitleValidator do
  @behaviour TodosWeb.Change

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{params: %{"todo"=> %{}} = params} = conn, _)
    do
      updated_params =
        params
        |> put_in(params, ["todo", "version"], current_version())

      %{conn | params: updated_params }
    end
    def handle_request(conn, _), do: conn

    def handle_response(conn, _), do: conn
  end
```

Validation Rule Changes

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Changes.Versions do
  ...
  def max_title_length(version) when version >= "2017-10-03", do: 30
  def max_title_length(_version), do: 50
  ...
end
```

Validation Rule Changes

```
defmodule Todos.TodoList.Todo do
  import Ecto.Changeset

  def changeset(%Todo{} = todo, %{version: version} = attrs) do
    todo
    |> cast(attrs, [:title, :description])
    |> validate_required([:title, :description])
    |> validate_length(:title, max: max_title_length(version))
  end

  defp max_title_length(version) do
    TodoWeb.Versions.max_title_size(version)
  end
end
```

**Enough already...
What have we achieved?**



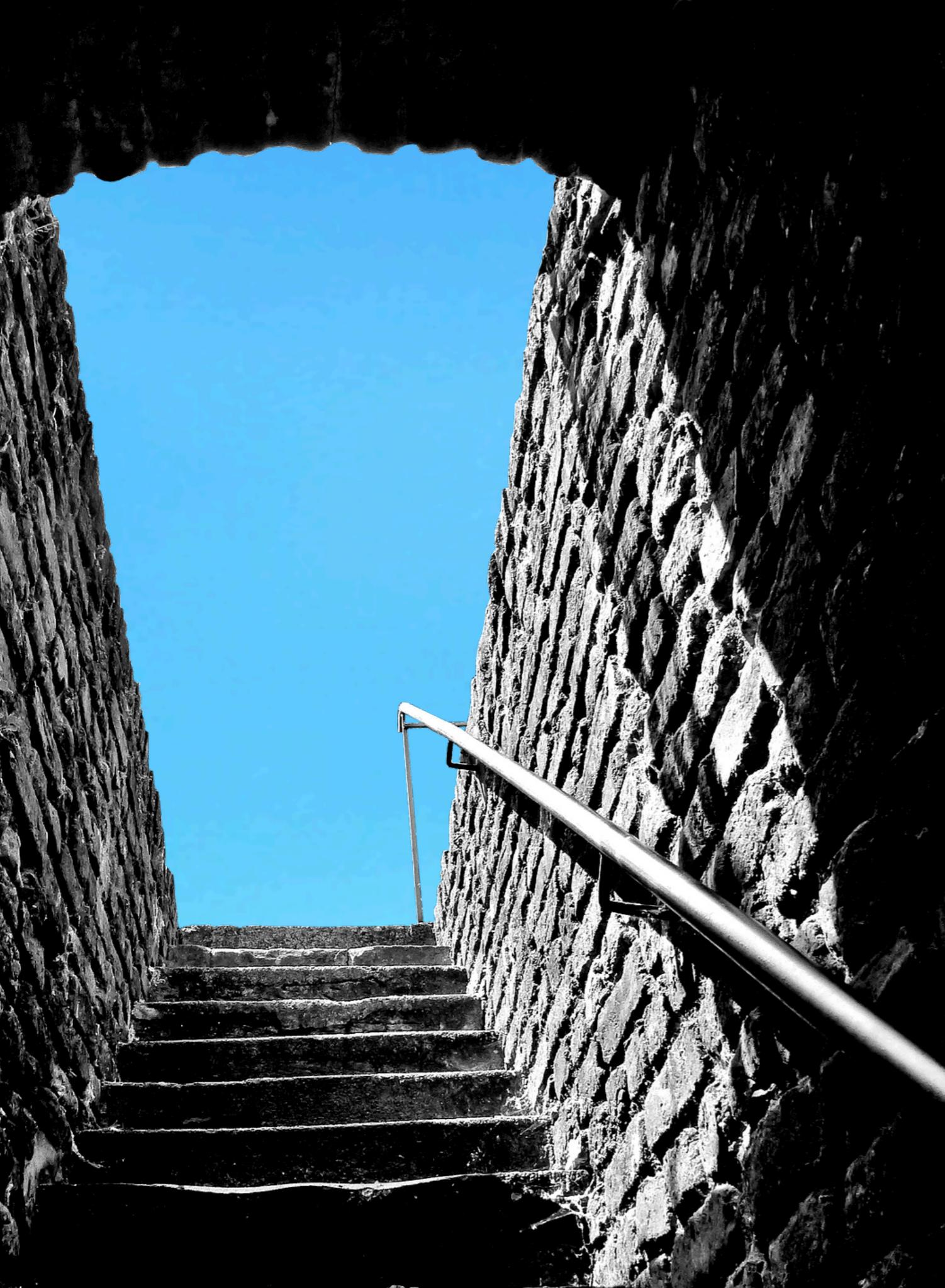
Stable API

Documentation

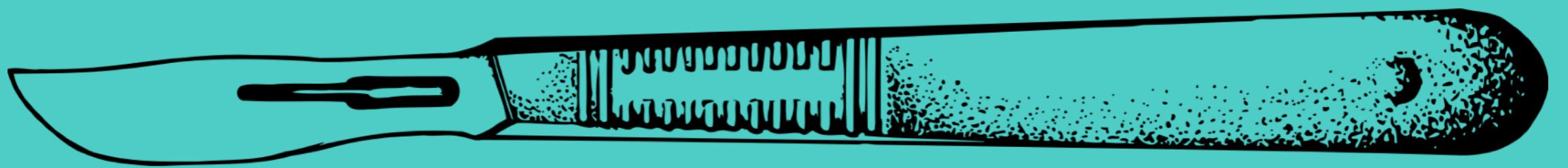


Don't make
me do it





Easy to
upgrade



Easy to Change



Incentive to Upgrade

Manageable



**Why doesn't everyone
do this?**

Final Thoughts

Thank you!