

curl

The [Client Uniform Resource Locator \(curl\)](#) command line tool sends API requests via URLs and returns responses.

Requests to Infura APIs commonly use curl.

We recommend the resource [Everything curl](#).

Install curl

Your operating system may include curl, or you may need to [download and install it](#).

curl commands

Many Infura requests take the form:

```
curl https://mainnet.infura.io/v3/YOUR-API-KEY \ -X POST \ -H "Content-Type: application/json" \ -d '{"jsonrpc":"2.0","method":"eth_blockNumber","params":[],"id":1}'
```

The code snippet above is an API call to Infura's Ethereum mainnet endpoint.

It requests the latest block number using the method `eth_blockNumber`.

curl analysis

Let's step through each line of the code snippet to understand what's happening.

The first line uses the `curl` command to send a request to the URL `https://mainnet.infura.io/v3/YOUR-API-KEY`.

curl command

`curl https://mainnet.infura.io/v3/YOUR-API-KEY \` info Replace `YOUR-API-KEY` with a specific [API key](#).

-X flag

The `-X` flag specifies a common [HTTP method](#).

`-X POST \`

-H flag

The `-H` or `--header` flag specifies [header](#) information.

The example specifies the `Content-Type` to be `application/json` which means the requested resource is a JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) object.

`-H "Content-Type: application/json" \`

-d flag

The `-d` or `--data` flag specifies more information sent along with the curl request.

In the example, the data object is a list of key value pairs in JSON format. This follows the [JSON RPC 2.0 specification](#) which requires the four specific keys seen here.

The `method`, `params`, and `id` values are modifiable.

The `jsonrpc` value is required by the specification.

`-d '{"jsonrpc":"2.0","method":"eth_blockNumber","params":[],"id":1}'`

Running curl

Enter curl code in a terminal window, or a command line tool from your computer's operating system and click return.

Output

curl returns a response object if the request is successful.

{"jsonrpc":"2.0","id":3,"result":"0xe0a763"}

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