

Buffer Integration Guide

Overview

This service integrates with Buffer API to schedule and manage social media posts across multiple platforms.

Prerequisites

1. Buffer account (<https://buffer.com>)
 2. Buffer API access token
 3. Connected social media profiles in Buffer
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Step 1: Create Buffer Account

1. Visit <https://buffer.com>
 2. Sign up or log in
 3. Connect your social media accounts:
 - Twitter/X
 - Facebook
 - LinkedIn
 - Instagram
 - TikTok
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Step 2: Get Buffer API Access Token

Option A: Using Buffer's Developer Portal

1. Visit <https://publish.buffer.com/profile>
2. Go to **Settings** → **API**
3. Click **Create New Access Token**
4. Copy the access token

Option B: OAuth Flow (Production)

For production applications, implement OAuth 2.0:

1. Register your app at <https://buffer.com/developers>
2. Get your Client ID and Client Secret
3. Implement OAuth flow:

```
https://bufferapp.com/oauth2/authorize?  
  client_id=YOUR_CLIENT_ID&  
  redirect_uri=YOUR_REDIRECT_URI&  
  response_type=code
```

4. Exchange authorization code for access token

Step 3: Configure Service

Environment Variables

Add to `.env` file:

```
# Buffer Configuration
BUFFER_API_URL=https://api.bufferapp.com/1
BUFFER_ACCESS_TOKEN=your_buffer_access_token_here
```

Test Configuration

```
# Start the service
./start.sh

# Test Buffer connection
curl -X GET "http://localhost:8007/api/v1/buffer/profiles" \
  -H "Authorization: Bearer YOUR_JWT_TOKEN"
```

Step 4: Connect Social Accounts

Create Social Account in Service

```
curl -X POST "http://localhost:8007/api/v1/social-accounts" \
  -H "Authorization: Bearer YOUR_JWT_TOKEN" \
  -H "Content-Type: application/json" \
  -d '{
    "platform": "twitter",
    "account_name": "@yourusername",
    "buffer_profile_id": "BUFFER_PROFILE_ID",
    "access_token": "BUFFER_ACCESS_TOKEN"
  }'
```

Get Buffer Profile IDs

```
curl -X GET "http://localhost:8007/api/v1/buffer/profiles" \
  -H "Authorization: Bearer YOUR_JWT_TOKEN"
```

Response:

```
[
  {
    "id": "5f7c8b9a1e4f3a0001234567",
    "service": "twitter",
    "formatted_service": "Twitter",
    "formatted_username": "@yourusername"
  }
]
```

Step 5: Schedule Posts

Create Draft Post

```
curl -X POST "http://localhost:8007/api/v1/posts" \  
-H "Authorization: Bearer YOUR_JWT_TOKEN" \  
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \  
-d '{  
  "social_account_id": 1,  
  "content": "Hello from Social Media Service! 🚀",  
  "scheduled_time": "2025-12-25T10:00:00",  
  "platform": "twitter"  
'
```

Schedule via Buffer

```
curl -X POST "http://localhost:8007/api/v1/posts/1/schedule" \  
-H "Authorization: Bearer YOUR_JWT_TOKEN"
```

Buffer API Features Used

1. Get User Profile

```
GET /user.json?access_token=TOKEN
```

2. Get Profiles (Social Accounts)

```
GET /profiles.json?access_token=TOKEN
```

3. Create Update (Post)

```
POST /updates/create.json  
{  
  "profile_ids": ["PROFILE_ID"],  
  "text": "Post content",  
  "scheduled_at": 1640433600,  
  "media": {"photo": "https://example.com/image.jpg"}  
}
```

4. Get Update Statistics

```
GET /updates/{id}/statistics.json?access_token=TOKEN
```

Platform-Specific Notes

Twitter/X

- Character limit: 280
- Supports images, GIFs, videos
- Hashtags recommended

Facebook

- Character limit: 63,206 (but shorter is better)
- Supports links, images, videos
- Best times: 1-4 PM weekdays

LinkedIn

- Character limit: 3,000
- Professional tone
- Best times: Tuesday-Thursday, 7-8 AM

Instagram

- Requires image/video
- Character limit: 2,200
- First comment can include additional hashtags

Error Handling

Common Errors

401 Unauthorized

```
{"error": "Unauthorized", "message": "Invalid access token"}
```

Solution: Refresh your Buffer access token

403 Forbidden

```
{"error": "Forbidden", "message": "Profile not accessible"}
```

Solution: Reconnect the social account in Buffer

503 Service Unavailable

```
{"error": "Buffer API unavailable"}
```

Solution: Wait and retry, Buffer may be experiencing issues

Rate Limits

- **Buffer API:** 60 requests per minute per access token
 - **Service handles:** Automatic retry with exponential backoff
 - **Best practice:** Cache Buffer profile data
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Security Best Practices

1. **Never commit tokens** to version control
 2. **Use environment variables** for sensitive data
 3. **Rotate tokens regularly** (every 90 days)
 4. **Use OAuth in production** instead of personal access tokens
 5. **Implement token encryption** in database
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Testing

Test Buffer Connection

```
pytest tests/test_buffer_integration.py -v
```

Manual Testing

```
# Get profiles
curl https://api.bufferapp.com/1/profiles.json?access_token=YOUR_TOKEN

# Test authentication
curl https://api.bufferapp.com/1/user.json?access_token=YOUR_TOKEN
```

Troubleshooting

Issue: “Buffer profile not found”

Solution: Sync profiles using `/social-accounts/{id}/sync-buffer`

Issue: “Post scheduling failed”

Checks:

1. Verify Buffer access token is valid
2. Check social account is connected in Buffer
3. Ensure scheduled time is in the future
4. Verify content meets platform requirements







Issue: “Analytics not syncing”

Solution: Use `/analytics/sync` endpoint to manually trigger sync

Resources

- **Buffer API Docs:** <https://buffer.com/developers/api>
 - **Buffer Status:** <https://status.buffer.com>
 - **Support:** <https://support.buffer.com>
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Next Steps

1.  Create Buffer account and get access token
2.  Configure service with Buffer credentials
3.  Connect social accounts
4.  Test post scheduling
5.  Monitor analytics
6.  Start scheduling posts!