Documenting Vendor APIs

Each Vendor API has to document their available calls. They do this by providing a specially formatted JSON document that describes the Vendor API and the available resources.

The documentation of the Vendor APIs will be displayed in the developer portal. If you are a XING employee you can view every vendor documentation. External developers and partners needs to be included in the list of `whitelisted_users`.

We assigned a custom MIME type to the JSON based vendor documentation format: `application/vnd.xing.vendor-documentation+json`

Changelog

Date	Change
2015-08-03	Owners of applications that have the permission to call a Vendor API automatically get access to the documentation of that Vendor API. In order to give access to other external developers or partners they need to be included in the list of whitelisted_users.
2014-09-04	Optional field `whitelisted_users` got introduced. If this field is not sent or it's empty **only XING employees** will be able to see this vendor documentation.

Format of the documentation

This JSON schema document describes the format of a vendor API documentation. **Below this schema you can find a detailed explanation.**

```
{
  "title": "Vendor Proxy documentation JSON schema definition",
  "description": "The documentation will be displayed in the [vendor
documentation](https://dev.xing.com/docs/vendor_resources).",

  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "name":        { "type": "string" },
    "description": { "type": "string" },
    "resources":   { "type": "array", "items": { "$ref": "#/definitions/resource" }
},
    "whitelisted_users": { "type": "array", "items": { "type": "integer" },
"minItems": 0 }
  },
  "required": ["name", "description", "resources"],

  "definitions": {
    "resource": {
      "type": "object",
      "properties": {
        "name":        { "type": "string" },
        "description": { "type": "string" },
        "http_method": { "enum": ["get", "post", "put", "delete"] },

        "external_resource_path" : {
          "type":    "string",
          "pattern": "^/vendor/"
        },

        "required_parameters": { "$ref": "#/definitions/parameters" },
        "optional_parameters": { "$ref": "#/definitions/parameters" },
        "parameter_examples":  { "$ref": "#/definitions/parameter_descriptions" },
```

```
        "parameter_hints":      { "$ref": "#/definitions/parameter_descriptions" },

        "returns": {
          "type": "object",
          "properties": {
            "success": { "type": "object", "properties": { "code": { "$ref":
"#/definitions/http_status_code" } } },
            "error":   { "type": "array", "items": { "$ref": "#/definitions/error"
} } }
          }
        },

        "location_header":  { "type": "string" },
        "example_request":  { "type": "string" },
        "example_response": { "type": "string" }
      }
    },

    "parameters": { "type": "object", "patternProperties": { "^.*$": { "type":
"string" } } },

    "parameter_descriptions": { "type": "object", "patternProperties": { "^.*$": {
"type": "string" } } },

    "http_status_code": { "type": "integer" },

    "error": {
      "type": "object",
      "properties": {
        "code":       { "$ref": "#/definitions/http_status_code" },
        "error_name": { "type": "string", "pattern": "^[A-Z_]+$" },
        "message":    { "type": "string" }
      }
```

```
      }
    }
  }
```

Top level

This is the response to the `GET` request to `/vendor/NAMESPACE` with the accept header `application/vnd.xing.vendor-documentation+json`.

```
{
  "name":           "Name of the vendor API",
  "description": "Longer description of the whole API",
  "whitelisted_users": [1, 2, 3],
  "resources":    [RESOURCE]
}
```

The key **whitelisted_users** contains a list of user IDs, who are allowed to see the vendor documentation. Please keep in mind, that XING Employees are always allowed to see a documentation.

Resource

A resource describes an vendor API endpoint. For each vendor API call you need to provide on resource entry.

```
{
  "name":         "Short name of the resource",
  "description": "Long description of the call. Can contain Markdown and HTML",

  "http_method":           "get",
  "external_resource_path": "/vendor/NAMESPACE/my/vendor/api/resource",

  "required_parameters": {
    "name_of_the_parameter": "description of the parameter",
    "name_of_another_required_parameter": "another description"
  }
  "optional_parameters": {
    "my_optional_parameter": "description of the parameter"
  }

  "parameter_examples": {
    "name_of_the_parameter": 23
  },
  "parameter_hints": {
    "my_optional_parameter": "hint what a parameter might look like"
  }

  "returns": {
    "success": {
      "code": 200
    },
    "error": [
      {
        "code":       404,
        "error_name": "NOT_FOUND",
        "message":    "foobar not found"
      }
    ]
  }
  "location_header": "",

  "example_request": "GET
https://api.xing.com/vendor/NAMESPACE/my/vendor/api/resource?param=value&other_para
m=other_value",
  "example_response": "{\"foo\": \"bar\"}"
}
```

Testing the documentation

Before the documentation can be tested on a sandbox, the vendor API to be enabled by the XWS team in the XWS Vendor Proxy. Please contact the XWS team for help.

The vendor documentation is available on any sandbox via `https://dev.YOUR_SANDBOX_NAME.env.xing.com:3007/docs/vendor_resources`