

Document: Steps to Send a WhatsApp Message from Your Application :

1. Choose the Right Method for Integration

To send WhatsApp messages from your application, you can either use:

- WhatsApp Business API: Provided officially by Meta (parent company of WhatsApp). It's suitable for medium to large businesses.
- Third-Party Services: Platforms like Twilio, MessageBird, or RapidAPI simplify the integration by providing pre-built solutions.

2. Pre-requisites for Setup

- WhatsApp Business Account :
 - Register your business on Facebook Business Manager. Get your business verified (this is mandatory for the WhatsApp Business API).
- Phone Number:
 - A dedicated phone number that is not already linked to another WhatsApp account.
- Hosting Environment :
 - For the WhatsApp Business API, you need a server to host the API client.
 - For third-party services, no hosting is required as they manage the backend.

3. Obtain API Credentials :

- For WhatsApp Business API:
 - Request API access from Meta or use a Business Solution Provider (BSP).
 - Install the API client (Docker container).
 - Retrieve your API keys or tokens.
- For Third-Party Providers:
 - Sign up and generate your API key (e.g., Twilio Account SID and Auth Token).

4. Code Implementation

Write code to send a message using the API of your choice. Below is an example for Twilio:

```

import com.twilio.Twilio;
import com.twilio.rest.api.v2010.account.Message;
import com.twilio.type.PhoneNumber;

public class WhatsAppMessageSender {
    // Twilio credentials
    public static final String ACCOUNT_SID = "your_account_sid";
    public static final String AUTH_TOKEN = "your_auth_token";

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Twilio.init(ACCOUNT_SID, AUTH_TOKEN);

        // Send a WhatsApp message
        Message message = Message.creator(
            new PhoneNumber("whatsapp:+1234567890"),
            new PhoneNumber("whatsapp:+14155238886"),
            "Hello! This is a test message from my app."
        ).create();

        System.out.println("Message sent with SID: " + message.getSid());
    }
}

```

5. Testing

- ☐ Use the sandbox environment provided by the service (e.g., Twilio Sandbox for WhatsApp) for testing.
- ☐ Verify message delivery and error handling.

6. Deploy to Production

- ☐ Switch from sandbox to the production environment. Ensure that your application
- ☐ complies with WhatsApp's message template policies (required for non-transactional messages).

7. Monitor and Handle Errors

- ☐ Implement logging for sent messages. Handle API errors such
- ☐ as invalid numbers, quota exceeded, etc.

Additional Notes

- ☐ **Costs** : Sending WhatsApp messages involves costs. Check the pricing on the official Meta or third-party provider's website.
- ☐ **Templates**: For non-transactional messages, pre-approved templates are required by WhatsApp.

References

- ☒ [WhatsApp Business API Documentation](#)
- ☒ Twilio WhatsApp API Documentation

Creating Meta Developer Account :

Step 1:

- Log In to Your Facebook Account
- Go to <https://developers.facebook.com/>.
- Click Get Started in the top-right corner.
- Log in with your Facebook account credentials.

Step 2:

- Set Up Your Developer Account
- After logging in, you'll be prompted to set up your developer account:
- Confirm Email: Verify the email address associated with your Facebook account.
- Enter Developer Details:
- Provide your first and last name.
- Agree to the Meta Developer Terms.
- Submit your details.

Step 3:

- Verify Your Account
- Depending on your location or the platform's requirements, you may need to:
- Verify Your Identity: Meta might require you to upload an ID for verification.
- Add a Payment Method: If you're creating apps that involve paid services (e.g., WhatsApp Business API).

Step 4:

- Create an App
- Once your developer account is ready:
- Navigate to the Meta for Developers Dashboard (<https://developers.facebook.com/apps>).
- Click Create App in the upper-right corner.
- Choose the app type based on your needs:
- Business: For apps related to business tools like WhatsApp API.
- Consumer: For apps meant for direct user interaction.
- Enter your app name and contact email.
- Complete any required security checks (e.g., Captcha).

Step 5:

- Set Up WhatsApp Business API
- After creating your app:
- Go to the App Dashboard.

- Add the WhatsApp product:
- Navigate to Add a Product on the left sidebar.
- Select WhatsApp and click Set Up.
- Follow the guided steps to configure the WhatsApp Business API.
- Verify Your Business:
- If required, submit your business details for Meta's review.

Step 6:

- Get Access Tokens
- In the WhatsApp product setup, you'll see an option to generate a temporary access token.
- Use this token for testing. For production, set up long-lived access tokens.

Additional Notes:

- Live Mode: Switch your app to Live Mode after setup to allow real user interaction.
- Business Verification: Necessary to use the WhatsApp Business API at scale.