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reddit is using GitHub to share code with you!

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API

- [Page History](#)

Rules

We're happy to have API clients, crawlers, scrapers, and Greasemonkey scripts, but they have to obey some rules:

In general, and especially for crawlers, make fewer than one request per two seconds

- Respect robots.txt
- Most pages are cached for 30 seconds, so you won't get fresh data if you request the same page that often. So don't hit the same page more than once per 30 seconds
- NEVER lie about your user-agent. We will ban such clients outright if we catch them.
- Requests for multiple resources at a time are always better than requests for single-resources in a loop. Talk to us on the mailing list if we don't have a batch API for what you're trying to do.
- If you need help testing your API client or assessing its impact on us, please ask on [the mailing list](#). If your API client could hurt reddit, and we catch it before you do, we'll have to ban it. It's nothing personal, but we have to keep the site up and 50% of the time when something goes wrong it's a badly written robot.

Glossary

Thing

An object, such as a Link, Comment, or Account.

Modhash

A key which reddit requires for API functions modifying state to protect against XSRF attacks.

Fullname

A base-36 id of the form `t{0-9}+[a-z0-9]+` (e.g. `t3_6nw57`) that reddit associates with every Thing. In the example, the type prefix `t3_` specifies that the fullname is for a Link, and the id `6nw57` specifies the Link's id36. (Note: the numbers according to id type are not constant, and may vary between reddit installations.)

API References

- [API: me.json](#)
- [API: mine.json](#)
- [API: info.json](#)
- [API: vote](#)

Fetching Information

To download raw data from reddit, simply find the page that contains the desired data, and append an extension to the URL:

- Adding `.json` to the URL will return raw data in JSON form. Example: <http://www.reddit.com/r/programming/comments/6nw57/.json>
- Adding `.rss` or `.xml` to the URL will return the data formatted as an RSS feed. Example: <http://www.reddit.com/.rss>

In many applications, it is useful to query reddit Links by URL or Fullname. This is possible using the following queries, followed by an extension of your choice:

Link by Fullname

`http://www.reddit.com/by_id/FULLNAME.EXTENSION`

Link by Fullname (With Comments)

`http://www.reddit.com/comments/ID36.EXTENSION`

Getting User "About" Page (Includes Karma Totals)

`http://www.reddit.com/user/USERNAME/about.json`

TODO: Clarify licensing of reddit.com information

Fetching more

If you're fetching comments from a thread with more comments than the API will return in a single response, the last comment will look like this:

```
{'data': {'id': 'abc1010', 'name': 't1_abc1010', 'kind': 'more'}}
```

To get these comments, you can fetch the url `http://reddit.com/comments/FULLNAME/abc1010.json`, where FULLNAME is the FULLNAME of the story.

Logging In

To to a simple login, send an HTTP POST to `http://www.reddit.com/api/login` Must include two POST parameters - `user` and `passwd`

This will return a [SetCookie](#) line. It is best to manage this cookie with some automated tool or framework

Here are some examples made using the [curl](#) command from a unix/linux terminal

Correct Login

Making the request to <http://www.reddit.com/api/login>. We set two POST parameters: `user=some_user` and `passwd=correct_passwd`. `curl` automatically converts returned HTTP headers into cookies, so the [SetCookie](#) is converted into a cookie. The `-c` option requests that `curl` print all cookies associated with this request into `Cookie.txt`

```
$> curl -d user=some_user -d passwd=correct_passwd -c Cookie.txt http://www.reddit.com/api/login
```

```
$> cat Cookie.txt
```

Breaking down what you are looking at here -

```
domain      .reddit.com
tailmatch   TRUE
path        /
secure      FALSE
expires     0
name        reddit_session
value       long-alphanumeric :)
```

Incorrect Login

```
$> curl -d user=some_user -d passwd=wrong_password -c Cookie.txt http://www.reddit.com/api/login
```

```
$> cat Cookie
```

```
# Netscape HTTP Cookie File
# http://curl.haxx.se/rfc/cookie_spec.html
# This file was generated by libcurl! Edit at your own risk.

.reddit.com    TRUE    /          FALSE    2145916799    reddit_first    %7B%22firsttime%22%3A%20%22first%22%7D
$>
```

Note that if you enter a username that does not exist, it still returns the "invalid password" message (in my experience). This behavior might be subject to change, so check it if you need it.

TODO: Clean this section up and make more user friendly

Submitting New Stories

It is possible to submit without a cookie, but that requires supplying the answer to the captcha.

Post the following to <http://www.reddit.com/api/submit>:

uh=f0f0f0f0&kind=link&url=yourlink.com&sr=funny&title=omg-look-at-this&id%23newlink&r=funny&renderstyle=html

```
uh    the user modhash
kind  either "link" or "self"
sr    the subreddit
title the text to appear as a link to your new story
r     appears to be the subreddit again (?)
```

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The JSON reply will be a somewhat larger one, and it can potentially contain an error message.

Here's one error message:

You haven't verified your email address; until you do, your submitting privileges will be severely limited. Please try again in an hour or verify your email address. If you'd like an exemption from this rule, please write to the moderators of this reddit.

If the submission worked, the JSON reply will contain the link to the newly created story.

Sharing Stories

The idea here is that we want to have reddit email a story to a friend on our behalf.

For sharing to work, the `reddit_session` cookie needs to be present in the request.

Post the following to `http://www.reddit.com/api/share`:

```
parent=t1_abc1010&share_from=Foo&replyto=foo@bar.org&share_to=afriend@example.com&message=i+share+this&id%23sharelink_t1_abc1010&uh=f0f0f0f0&renderstyle=html
```

field	value
parent	the thing you want to share
share_from	the name of the person who is sending the message
replyto	the email address of the person who is sending the message
share_to	the email address of the recipient of the message
message	the text that precedes the link to the story in the message
uh	the user modhash

The JSON reply is another short one:

```
{}
```

Changes to the API

Changes to this API can happen without warning. Use the Firefox add-on [LiveHeaders](#) or the Webkit inspector's Network section to see what fields are being posted this week.

The JSON replies can also change without warning.

Downtime

As of this writing, downtime will simply return the down page. Not sure if this comes with a non-200 HTTP response.

See Also

- If you can read [Python](#), the [API source](#) is the definitive reference for API calls.
- [More API info on the talklittle project](#)

Last edited by knobe, June 24, 2011

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Markdown Cheat Sheet

Format Text

Headers

```
# This is an <h1> tag
## This is an <h2> tag
##### This is an <h6> tag
```

Text styles

```
*This text will be italic*
_This will also be italic_
**This text will be bold**
__This will also be bold__

*You **can** combine them*
```

Lists

Unordered

```
* Item 1
* Item 2
  * Item 2a
  * Item 2b
```

Ordered

```
1. Item 1
2. Item 2
3. Item 3
  * Item 3a
  * Item 3b
```

Miscellaneous

Images

```
![GitHub Logo](/images/logo.png)
Format: ![Alt Text](url)
```

Links

```
http://github.com - automatic!
[GitHub](http://github.com)
```

Blockquotes

```
As Kanye West said:
> We're living the future so
> the present is our past.
```

Code Examples in Markdown

Syntax highlighting with [GFM](#)

```
```javascript
function fancyAlert(arg) {
 if(arg) {
 $.facebox({div:'#foo'})
 }
}
```
```

Or, indent your code 4 spaces

Here is a Python code example without syntax highlighting:

```
def foo:
    if not bar:
        return true
```

Inline code for comments

I think you should use an
<code>`<code>` element here instead.