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What should we return with the grain (or with a list of grains)?

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Doug Winsby (https://autocare.communifire.com/people/dougwinsby) 🟧🟧🟧🟧🟧   ⋮
1/29/2020

This is an API design question.

Generally, when designing an API, we want to anticipate its use and minimize requests.

With that in mind, when we ask for a grain, we currently return the grain and its associated slice. For example:

GET /grains/10000000-1111-0000-0000-000000000000

```
{
  "id": "10000000-1111-0000-0000-000000000000",
  "grain_type": "aces-file",
  "grain_key": "disc brakes",
  "encoding": "gzipb64",
  "payload": "H4sIAAAAAAAC/ypOzEspyCxILVIoyk/OLlYEAAAA//8BAAD//451mN4QAAAA",
  "created_at": "2020-01-23T23:26:31.676921Z",
  "slice": {
    "id": "2bea8308-1840-4802-ad38-72b53e31594c",
    "slice_name": "Slice2",
    "content_hash": "2268e5deabf5e6d0740cd1a77df56f67093ec943",
    "content_count": 1,
    "content_date": "0001-01-01T00:00:00Z",
    "created_at": "2020-01-23T22:53:30.903001Z",
    "updated_at": "2020-01-23T22:53:30.903001Z"
  }
}
```

The amount of extra information seems large, but is probably insignificant, especially if the payload is big.

When we create a "list request", however, it might start to add up. To handle different use cases (for asking for a list of grains), we have an option to include the payload with a query string (currently, the default is to suppress it, but maybe including the payload should be the default, I'm not sure):

```
/grains?payload=yes
```

So here is a response for a list of grains (without payloads):

```
{
  "grains": [
    {
      "id": "10000000-1111-0000-0000-000000000000",
      "grain_type": "aces-file",
      "grain_key": "disc brakes",
      "encoding": "gzipb64",
      "created_at": "2020-01-23T23:26:31.676921Z",
      "slice": {
        "id": "2bea8308-1840-4802-ad38-72b53e31594c",
        "slice_name": "Slice2",
        "content_hash": "2268e5deabf5e6d0740cd1a77df56f67093ec943",
        "content_count": 1,
        "content_date": "0001-01-01T00:00:00Z",
        "created_at": "2020-01-23T22:53:30.903001Z",
        "updated_at": "2020-01-23T22:53:30.903001Z"
      }
    },
    {
      "id": "10000000-2222-0000-0000-000000000000",
      "grain_type": "pies-file",
      "grain_key": "disc brakes",
      "encoding": "gzipb64",
      "created_at": "2020-01-26T20:27:44.331875Z",
      "slice": {
        "id": "2bea8308-1840-4802-ad38-72b53e31594c",
        "slice_name": "Slice2",
        "content_hash": "2268e5deabf5e6d0740cd1a77df56f67093ec943",
        "content_count": 1,
        "content_date": "0001-01-01T00:00:00Z",
        "created_at": "2020-01-23T22:53:30.903001Z",
        "updated_at": "2020-01-23T22:53:30.903001Z"
      }
    }
  ],
  "page": 0
}
```

The question is if we should include slice information with the grain, with the list, neither or both? Please consider how this API might be used and weigh-in with your thoughts.

The secondary question is if the default should be to include the payload or not.

grain-requests (/spaces/127/sandpiper/searchresults?keyword=%22grain-requests%22&searchtags=1)

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1/30/2020

Since we already have it with the slice, I think we should just add an optional query string to include it. So the default would be just the grain, but adding `?slice=include` would include the slice information.

You can have multiple options with an ampersand:

> `/grains?payload=include&slice=include`

optional (/spaces/127/sandpiper/searchresults?keyword=%22optional%22&searchtags=1)

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1/31/2020

Change of plans. The list grains resource will not have the option to include slice information. We will have the ability to get a list of grains for a slice instead.

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4/2/2020

We thought we were through with the `grain` service, but it turns out we designed `GET /grains` to return a list of **all** grains (that you have a right to see). This might be useful, so we will probably keep that functionality, but we certainly also need a list of grains **by slice**.

So the question is how to design the API for that request. Here are two options:

> `/grains/slice/{slice-id}`
> `/grains?slice={slice-id}`

Remember also that we already have the option to include the payload with ?payload=yes. So that would look like either:

```
/grains/slice/{slice-id}?payload=yes
/grains?slice={slice-id}&payload=yes
```

Does anyone have a preference?

grain-list-by-slice (/spaces/127/sandpiper/searchresults?keyword=%22grain-list-by-slice%22&searchtags=1)

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4/3/2020

☑ Answered

Without any feedback, I decided to implement it this way:

```
/grains/slice/{slice-id}
/grains/slice/{slice-id}?payload=yes
```

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