Documenting use cases provides us with an understanding of how an API is being used. A use case can be described in a flow chart table or even an OpenAPI Specification file of what the API can do. (Lauret, 2019) The book provides us with a few examples. On the table the columns are who, what, how, inputs, outputs and goals which gives you a good idea of what the intentions are when using this API. Even the flow chart of what you’re doing is readable.

Another thing to consider documenting is security. “An API guide must include advice about how to register as a developer, register a consumer app, and get tokens using the available OAuth flows” (Lauret, 2019). Documenting security you would just reuse some of the design documents you have already created to describe how you are implementing security to the API and where. (Lauret, 2019)

The whole point of documenting goals is to reference what the goals’ purpose will be. Also, what do we need in order to use it. (Lauret, 2019) Goals are defined as a POST or GET request and then we would need a description on what its doing. (Lauret, 2019) The goal describes what it’s doing functionally. The book suggests that all the goals could be described as a request body schema, but it may be more beneficial to create a document that will list the goals and make them more readable (Lauret, 2019)

There are a few things needed for creating a reference document. First it needs lists for each component for the interface and a description of components. (Lauret, 2019) The components will also include the goals, inputs and outputs for when its successful or it fails. (Lauret, 2019)

References:

Lauret, A. (2019). *The Design of Web APIs*. Manning.