# What is a Developer Portal?

Last updated by | Jeny AMATYA | 28 Nov 2022 at 11:18 GMT+10

A developer portal is the interface between a set of APIs and their various stakeholders. The portal can play several roles to achieve the business goals of an organization.

A lot of API teams publish their "Swagger" documentation and call it a developer portal. That is wrong on two accounts: the documentation format formerly known as Swagger is now called the Open API spec, and more crucially, reference documentation is only one part of the minimum viable developer portal.

Yes, your developer portal needs to contain API reference documentation (no matter what specification format you use) but a developer portal should also be a sort of self-service support hub, a trust signal, a communication nexus for API stakeholders and a key DevRel tool that helps an organization to provide the best possible developer experience for its APIs.

# WHAT IS **A DEVELOPER PORTAL?**

A developer portal is where you publish your API's documentation.

A list of endpoints is not enough **– Swagger UI alone, is not a devportal!**

Developer portals need to explain the business value of your APIs.

## **Trust** – A developer portal is a trust signal for your API

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| GET | `/Trust` | A great looking devportal can help to inspire trust in an API |
| POST | `/Trust/Policies` | Policies are not just for lawyers, make them clear and readable |
| PUT | `/Trust/Content` | Keep the content on your devportal fresh.<br>Blog posts & release notes, uptime or maintenance communication show your API is alive |

## **Self-service** – A developer portal should be a self-service hub

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| DELETE | `/Self-service/Time` | Reduce the time to first hello world |
| GET | `/Self-service/Key` | Automate the provisioning of API keys |
| POST | `/Self-service/Tutorials` | Provide onboarding tutorials to help developers avoid (authentication) hurdles |

## **Product** – A developer portal is a dashboard for your API products

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| POST | `Product/Benefits` | What are the benefits of your API products?<br>Why should a developer choose your API? |
| PUT | `Product/Expectations` | Set clear expectations for your API products |

GET `Product/Community` Actively manage your community, if you have a forum, don't let it become a tumbleweed town