

Writing Beautiful RESTful APIs

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Best Practices: Versioning



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- Why is versioning important?
- Usage in the root URL
- Usage as a query parameter
- Personal opinion



Why is versioning important?

- Versioning is very important when creating an API
- Ideally, you should never release an API without a version
- Versions let users know if the API has changed since their last use and what they can expect
- A version can have several forms depending on your level of maturity
- You should maintain a consistent strategy across all APIs



Usage in the root URL

- Usage in the root URL may look something like this:
`api/v1/orders`
- This approach can be handled outside of relying on individual developers to handle



Usage as a query parameter

- Usage as a query parameter may look something like this:

`api/orders?v=1`

- This approach can create issues because it requires individual developers to manage



Personal opinion

- Including the version in the root URL is the way to go
- It looks more succinct and can be managed via a properties file instead of requiring the developer to include it on the end of each of their requests
- Keep in mind that versions should only change when the interface changes, not when the implementation changes
- It is also important to maintain at least 2 versions, so users are not forced to upgrade immediately and have time to plan upgrades