

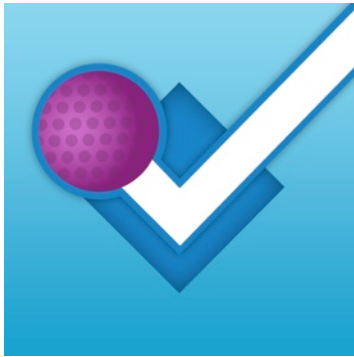
API Versioning

Ben Ramsey • REST Fest • 20 Aug 2011

Popular versioning

<http://api.example.org/v1/>

Lots of folks do this



PayPaltm

Lots of folks do this

- <http://api.twitter.com/1/>
- <https://api.del.icio.us/v1/>
- <https://api.foursquare.com/v2/>
- <http://api.linkedin.com/v1/>
- <https://api.paypal.com/2.0/>

But there are problems

The image shows a browser window titled "API Documentation | foursquare Developers". The page content includes a blue header with the Foursquare logo and the text "A single point for all programmatic access". Below this, there are two main sections: "foursquare APIv2" and "foursquare APIv1". The "APIv2" section lists several features and includes a green button labeled "API V2 DOCUMENTATION". The "APIv1" section contains a notice: "As of August 1st, 2011, version 1 of the API has been shut off. You should build your apps on our new and improved v2 API." A blue callout bubble with a white background and a blue border is positioned over the "APIv1" notice, containing the text: "foursquare APIv1" and "As of August 1st, 2011, version 1 of the API has been shut off. You should build your apps on our new and improved v2 API." A black arrow points from the callout bubble to the "APIv1" section on the page.

API Documentation | foursquare Developers

foursquare APIv1

As of August 1st, 2011, version 1 of the API has been **shut off**. You should build your apps on our new and improved v2 API.

foursquare APIv2

All new applications should be built on this if they wish to be future-proof. In addition to extensive documentation, the new API adds a bunch of neat stuff:

- OAuth2 only, which should be easier to use (even usable from pure Javascript!), and easier for us to monitor.
- JSON only, which behind the scenes allows us to significantly improve performance.
- New envelope for responses, which among other things provides a consistent place for error responses.
- New endpoints, such as user badges, venue herenow, user venuehistory, and bundled requests.
- Significantly more consistent and REST-ful.
- API explorer

API V2 DOCUMENTATION

foursquare APIv1

As of August 1st, 2011, version 1 of the API has been shut off. You should build your apps on our new and improved v2 API.

Engineering Blog

We have started a blog to talk about some of the tools and techniques we have developed at foursquare HQ. Head to the [Engineering Blog](#)...

Developer Forum

Ask the experts all your API-related questions in our robust [developer forum](#)...

Jobs

Love our API? Join foursquare and be the brains behind it all. See our currently available [jobs](#)...

But there are problems

- Client needs to be aware of the URL
- No clear upgrade path
- Clients need to change all their URLs and push out updates (think about desktop and mobile clients)
- Need to communicate deprecated features and phase them out over time
- Developers need to be very active in the community to keep up-to-date
- Other problems?

Hypermedia versioning

Accept: application/vnd.moontoast.orders+xml;version=2

Accept: application/prs.ramsey.foobar+json;version=3

Accept: application/x.myservice+xml;version=1

Benefits

- Hypermedia
- Evolvable
- Upgrade path
- Clients can specify version preference:

Accept:

**application/x.myservice+xml;version=1;q=0.5,
application/x.myservice+xml;version=2**

There are problems here, too

- You should register your media types with IANA:
<http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4288>
- Developers need to support your media type
- Other problems?

Which should you use? Let's discuss.

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