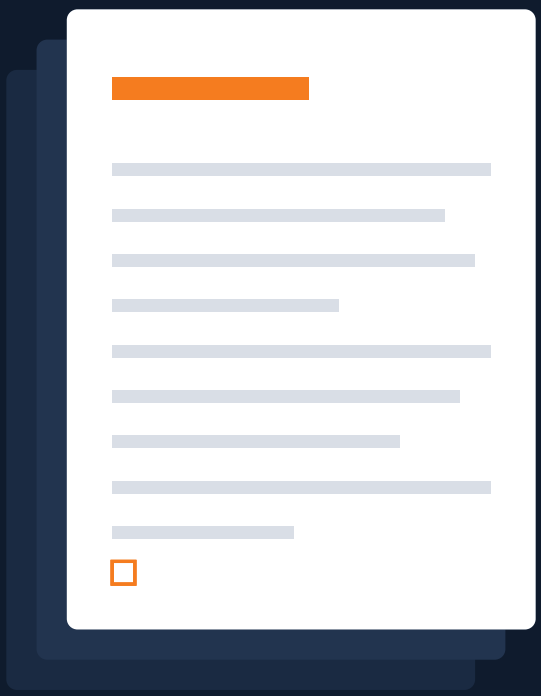
Documentation
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FREE TEMPLATE

API DOCUMENTATION

API Authentication

How to authenticate with OAuth 2.0, API keys or JWT, securely.

INTENDED USERS

Security Leads, App Developers

TYPICAL USE CASE

Setting up OAuth 2.0, API keys or JWT access

About this template

Authentication is where most integrations stall. This template explains supported methods, how to obtain and use credentials, scopes, token lifetimes, rotation and security requirements, with flows developers can follow step by step.

Detail	
Intended users	Security Leads, App Developers
Typical use case	Setting up OAuth 2.0, API keys or JWT access

How to use it

- Replace every *[grey bracketed placeholder]* with your own details.
- Delete the orange **Guidance** boxes and green **Example** boxes before you publish or circulate it.
- Add or remove table rows as needed; keep the section order so readers can find things quickly.

Document Control

API name		**API version**	
Doc version		**Owner**	
Base URL		**Last updated**	

Version	Date	Author	Summary of changes
[1.0]	*[DD/MM/YYYY]*	*[Name]*	*[Initial release]*

01 Supported Methods

GUIDANCE *List each method and when to use it.*

Method	Use when	Token lifetime
[API key]	*[Server-to-server]*	*[Until rotated]*
[OAuth 2.0 auth code + PKCE]	*[User-facing apps]*	*[1 hr access / 30 day refresh]*
[Client credentials]	*[Machine-to-machine]*	

02 Getting Credentials

#	Step	Where	Notes
1	*[Sign in to the developer portal]*		
2	*[Create an app / key]*		
3	*[Store the secret securely]*		

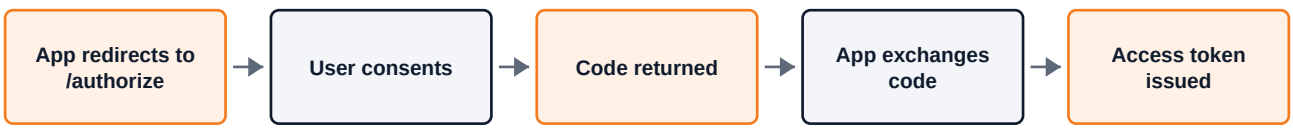
03 API Keys

Header format	
Key prefixes	
Rotation process	
Revocation	

HEADER
`Authorization: Bearer [YOUR_API_KEY]`

04 OAuth 2.0 Flow

GUIDANCE *Number each step of the flow and show the request for each.*



Endpoint	URL
Authorize	*[https://auth.example.com/authorize]*
Token	*[.../oauth/token]*

Endpoint	URL
Revoke	*[.../oauth/revoke]*

TOKEN REQUEST
`POST /oauth/token` `grant_type=authorization_code&code=[CODE]&redirect_uri=[URI]&client_id=[ID]&code_verifier=[VERIFIER]`

05 Scopes & Permissions

Scope	Grants access to
[read:orders]	

06 JWT Structure (if used)

Claim	Meaning
iss	*[Issuer]*
sub	*[User / client ID]*
exp	*[Expiry]*
scope	*[Granted scopes]*

07 Security Requirements

	Item
☐	*[HTTPS / TLS 1.2+ only]*
☐	*[Never expose secrets client-side]*
☐	*[Store secrets in a vault]*
☐	*[Rotate keys every ... days]*
☐	*[Validate token signature and expiry]*

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08 Auth Errors

Status	Error	Fix
401	*[invalid_token]*	
403	*[insufficient_scope]*	

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