

On The *Fast* Track to Station

The Transformation of a Docs
Portal Into a Platform Tool

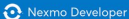
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@rabbigreenberg



2017


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Welcome to Nexmo Developer

We are improving our Documentation, API references, learning resources & tooling to help you more effectively use our services. We want to help you find everything you need to integrate Nexmo APIs into your code.

As we start this transition, we'd love to hear from you with thoughts & suggestions. If you've got something, positive or negative, to tell us, please tell us using the feedback tool at the bottom of each guide or [file an issue](#) on GitHub - Nexmo


Connected Code

Everything you need to build connected applications with Nexmo




Send and receive SMS

- Overview
- Guides
- Building Blocks
- Tutorials
- API Reference




Programmable Voice

- Overview
- Guides
- Building Blocks
- Tutorials
- API Reference | NCCO Reference




User Authentication Verify

- Overview
- Guides
- Building Blocks
- Tutorials
- API Reference



User Identity Number insight

- Overview
- Guides
- Building Blocks
- Tutorials
- API Reference



Management Account


- Overview
- Guides
- Building Blocks
- API Reference

Developer API

Account | Messages | Numbers | Pricing


Global APIs

Application | Conversion



SDKs & Tools

The Nexmo libraries allow you to get up and running with Nexmo APIs quickly in your language of choice.



Community

Find out about our talks, community hacks, and what events we'll be at.

Do you have a question?

We're always here to help, [send us an email](#) or get in touch on [Stack Overflow](#).

DOCUMENTATION

- SMS
- Voice
- Verify
- Number Insight
- Developer API
- Account

API REFERENCE

- SMS
- Voice
- Verify
- Number Insight
- Developer API
- Global APIs

NEXMO DEVELOPER


- Community
- Contribute
- Changelog
- Legacy Documentation

GET TO KNOW US

- Nexmo Platform
- About Nexmo
- Careers
- Leadership
- Press





SUPPORT


- Knowledgebase



The **Vonage** API Platform

[API Status](#) [All Systems Operational](#)



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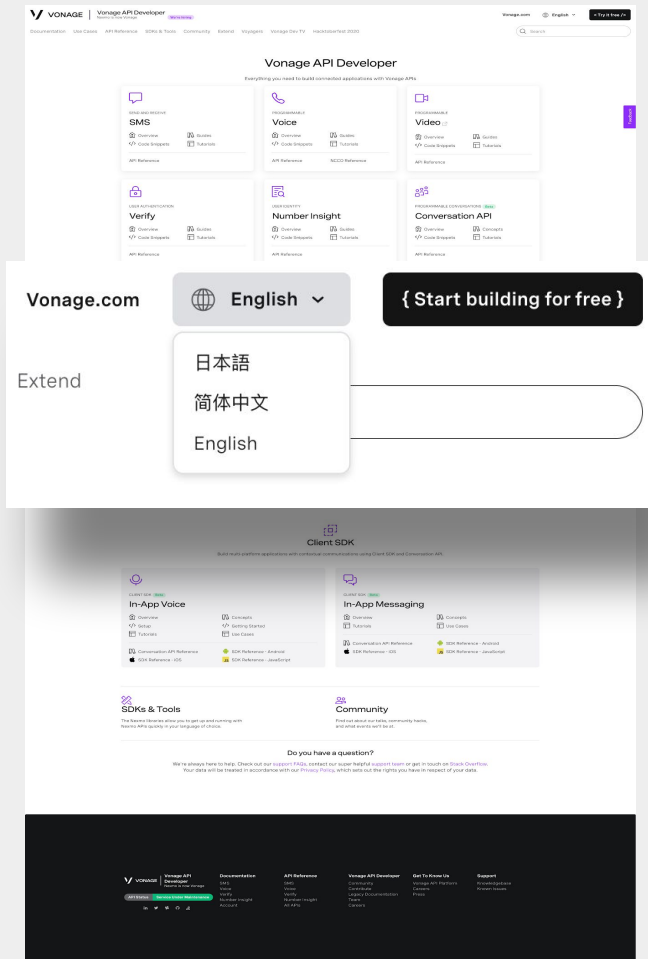
4



The Journey Begins With:

- **Custom Platform** - Not out of the box
- **Ruby on Rails** - Well trodden technical path, lots of community support
- **Markdown Content** - Lower threshold to contribution, standard formatting
- **Focus on Manual Testing** - More reliant on human bug catching
- **Documentation & Code Intertwined**

2021



4 Years Later:

- **Custom Platform Tool** - One tool, *Station*, to generate numerous unique portals
- **Markdown Renderer** - Lower threshold to contribution with ability to create custom formatting with no code
- **OpenAPI Renderer** - API docs universally rendered with standardized specification
- **Automated Testing Suite** - Automating the things that can be automated so people can do the things automation cannot
- **Internationalization** - Thinking beyond the English speaking world
- **Documentation & Code Separated**

The Station Tooling Ecosystem

Small Tools To Support Big Goals



NEXMO-MARKDOWN-RENDERER

Transform markdown
into fully rendered
web pages



NEXMO-OAS-RENDERER

Present OpenAPI
specifications
inside Station



CUSTOM GITHUB ACTIONS

Run testing suite, check
for spelling, find broken
links, and a lot more

Each small tool is a
single-purpose
modularized component
of Station



Why Did We Build Station?



It Started With
A Question...



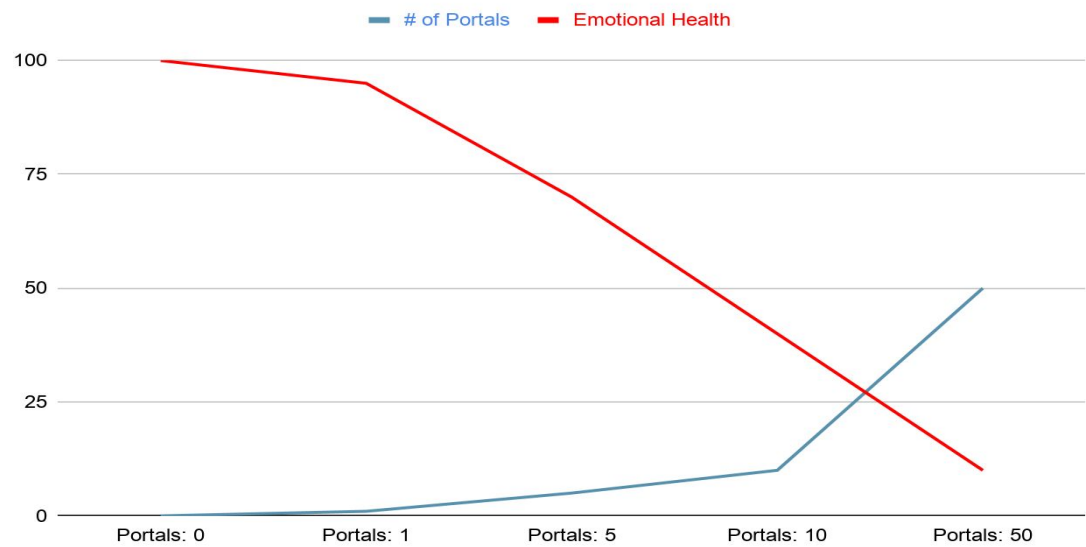
Can You
Duplicate *That*
For Us?

Yes*

*But, Let's Do Something Else

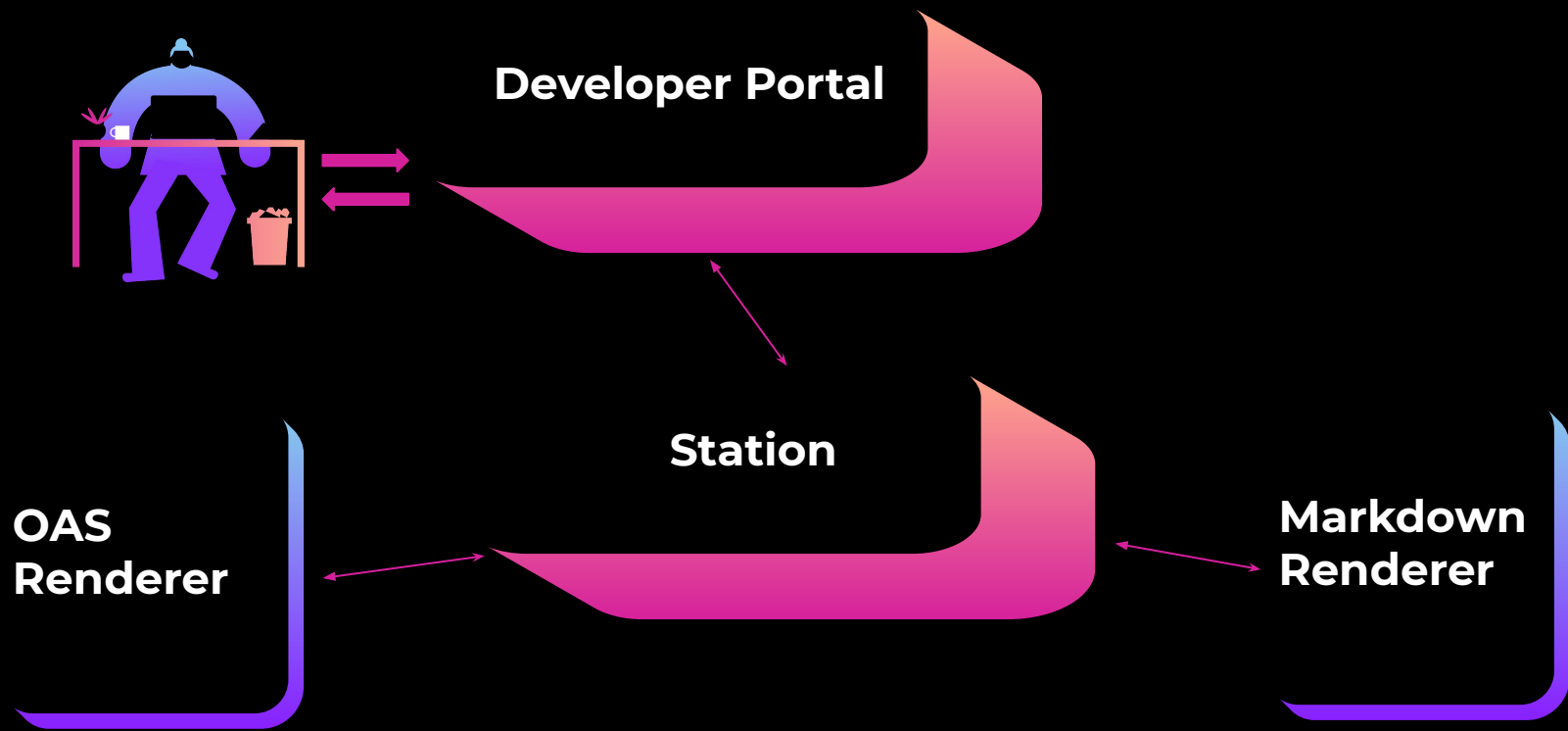
Impact of Number of Unique Portals To Emotional Health

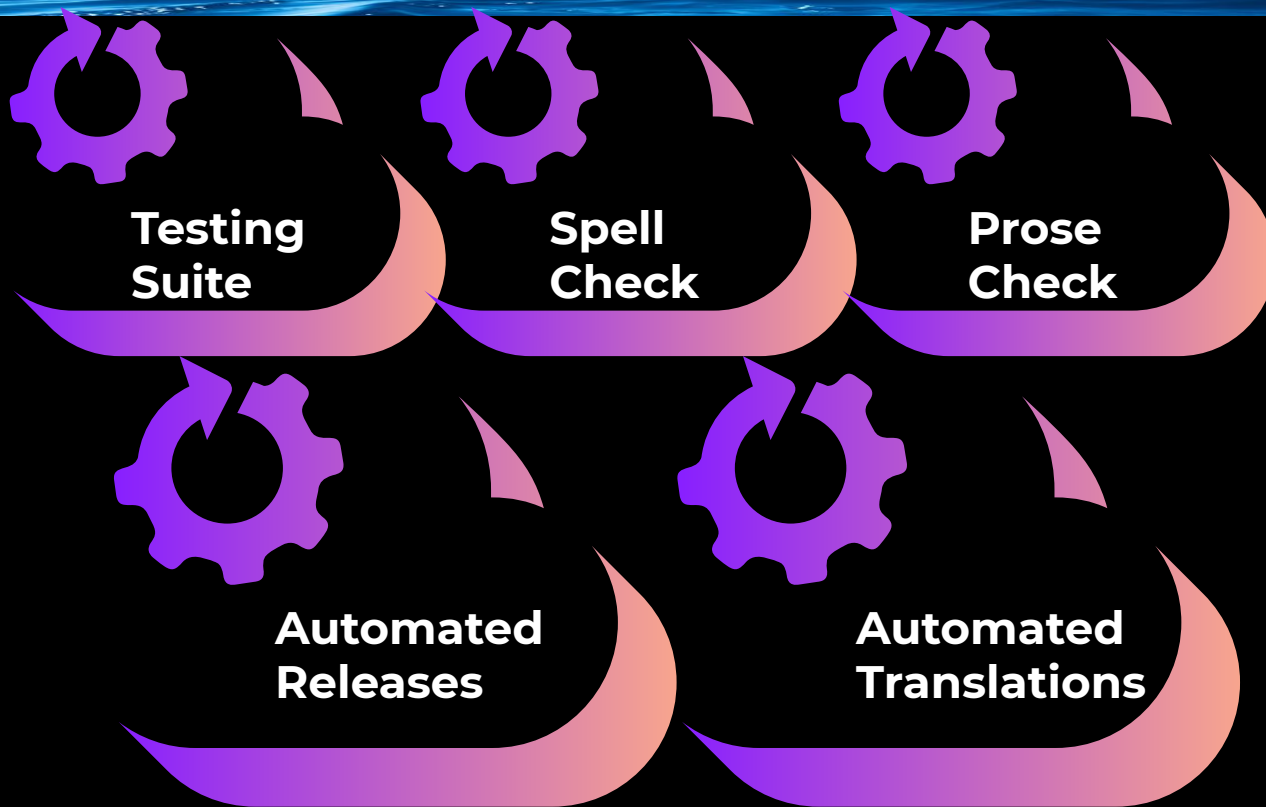
There is an inverse relationship between the number of portals and emotional health



Note: This table comes only from my imagination, and does not represent empirically derived information.

Architectural Overview





Technical Decisions

Going off the Rails...

(a bit)



*One of the early productivity
mottos of Rails went:*

**“You’re not a
beautiful and
unique snowflake”.**

- Ruby on Rails Doctrine

Technical Decisions >>> Redefining Conventions

Custom Paths

```
1 config.docs_base_path = ENV.fetch('DOCS_BASE_PATH', '.')
2 config.middleware.use ::ActionDispatch::Static, "#{Rails.configuration.docs_base_path}/public", index:
  'index'
3 config.oas_path = ENV.fetch('OAS_PATH', './_open_api/api_specs/definitions')
4 config.paths['app/views'].unshift("#{Rails.configuration.docs_base_path}/custom/views")
5 config.i18n.load_path += Dir[Pathname.new(config.docs_base_path).join('config', 'locales', '**', '*.yaml')]
```

Custom Data

```
1  <% info[:navigation_links].each do |topic_arr| %>
2    <div>
3      <h5><%= Footer.navigation_category_titleize(topic_arr[0]) %></h5>
4      <% topic_arr[1].each do |link| %>
5        <a href="<%= Footer.navigation_link(link) %>"><%= Footer.navigation_link_text(link) %></a>
6      <% end %>
7    </div>
8  <% end %>
```


Technical Decisions

A View For Every Occasion

This Code

```
1   if File.exist?("#{Rails.configuration.docs_base_path}/custom/landing_pages/#{yaml_name}.yaml")
2     @landing_config = YAML.load_file("#{Rails.configuration.docs_base_path}/custom/landing_pages/#{yaml_name}.yaml")
3   else
4     @landing_config = YAML.load_file("#{Rails.root}/config/landing_pages/#{yaml_name}.yaml")
5   end
6
7   @landing_config['page'].each do |row|
8     some_columns_have_widths = row['row'].select { |c| c['width'] }.count.positive?
9     if some_columns_have_widths
10      row['row'] = row['row'].map do |c|
11        c['width'] ||= 1
12      end
13    end
14    row['column_count'] = row['row'].map { |c| c['width'] }.sum
15  end
16 end
```

Enables This...

```

1  - row:
2    - column:
3      - type: line_divider
4  - row:
5    - column:
6      - type: structured_text
7        structured_text:
8          header: "Frequently Asked Questions"
9          text:
10             - content: __Do I need to use Vonage APIs to apply?__
11               type: large
12             - content: Yes, you'll need to have used Vonage APIs, whether for work or for personal projects,
13               or contributed to one of our GitHub repositories to apply to be a Voyager.
14               type: large
15             - content: __How long is the program?__
16               type: large
17             - content: Becoming a Voyager comes with a one year tenure. Within that one year you'll need to
18               participate in a number of activities to be eligible for renewal. You can withdraw from the program at any time.
19               type: large
20             - content: __Is there compensation provided for Voyagers?__
21               type: large
22             - content: No, participation in the program has no financial compensation attached, what you gain
23               is professional development opportunities. As part of Voyagers, you'll have the opportunity to apply to the
24               [Developer Spotlight program](https://developer.nexmo.com/spotlight) that provides monetary reward, or the chance
25               to donate the amount to a charity, for blog writing.
26             - content: __What does a typical month look like?__
27               type: large
28             - content: Each month there are a number of activities available for Voyagers to join such as
29               webinars, discussions, online hackdays and more. It's up to you how involved you want to be. The program was
30               built with busy professionals in mind.
31             - content:
32               type: large

```

To Become This...

Technical Decisions >>> Exceptions as Guides

Missing Files

```
1  def initialize(navigation)
2    @navigation = navigation
3
4    after_initialize!
5  end
6
7  private
8
9  def after_initialize!
10    raise 'You must provide a config/top_navigation.yml file in your documentation path.' unless File.exist?
      (CONFIG)
11  end
```


Missing Parameters

```
1  def hiring_display
2    raise 'You must provide a true or false value for the hiring display parameter inside the header section of
    the config/business_info.yml file' unless config['header']['hiring'].try(:has_key?, 'display')
3
4    config['header']['hiring']['display']
5  end
```

For Your Consideration

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Throughout the process, we deliberated the following technical questions:

- Refactor or start anew?
- Customization vs. Complexity
- Modularization



Resources



- **Station on GitHub:**
<https://vonage.dev/398sFfJ>
- **Station on Rubygems:**
<https://vonage.dev/2KZEZaq>
- **Station Documentation:**
<https://vonage.dev/3ofmw7Y>
- **Bootstrap Portal Project:**
<https://vonage.dev/38gkT4u>
- **Vonage API Developer Portal:**
<https://developer.vonage.com>
- **Vonage Business Communications Portal:**
<https://developer.uc.vonage.com/>

Thank you.

Questions? Comments?

Please Be In Touch!

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