

API Experience is Developer Experience

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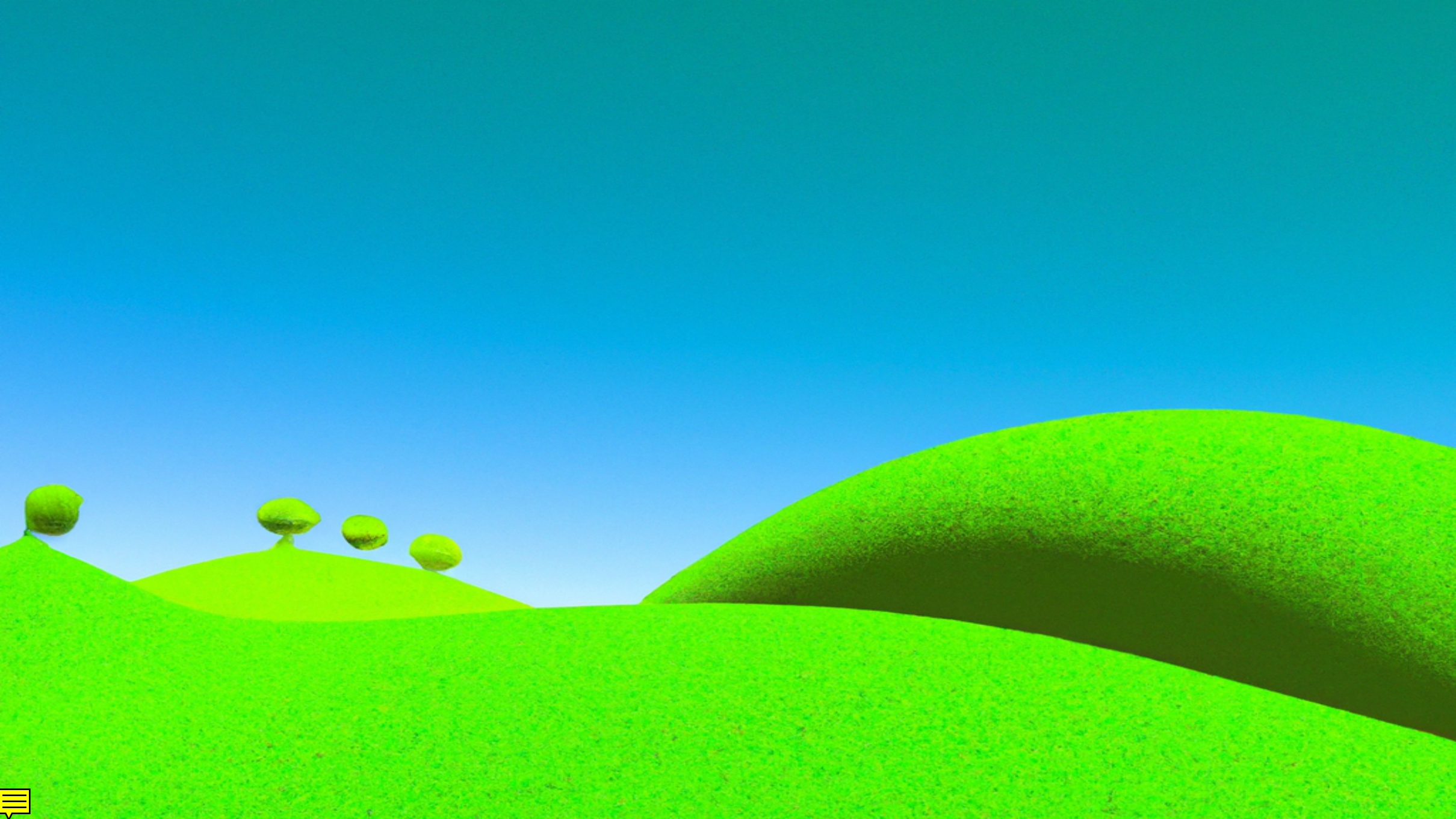
Postman State of the API report 2023

Top decision factor: how well an API integrates with internal apps and systems.

<https://www.postman.com/state-of-api/>

API project pre-requisites

- API styles and governance
- Versioning and deprecation policy
- Change review process
- Tools to support the lifecycle



Start with standards

OpenAPI descriptions

A standard way to describe an API

- JSON/YAML format
- Endpoints and verbs
- Parameters and schemas
- Reuse elements with \$ref
- Responses, including error responses

<https://openapis.org>

OpenAPI example

```
openapi 3.0.1
servers
  - url http://datasette.local
  - url https://datasette.io
info
  description Execute SQL queries against a Datasette database and return
    the results as JSON
  title Datasette API
  version v1
paths
  /content.json
    get
      description Accepts SQLite SQL query, returns JSON. Does not allow
        PRAGMA statements.
```

Credit: <https://github.com/APIs-guru/openapi-directory>

Design API governance

Start with an existing ruleset

Designing rulesets

- Level 0: Is the document valid?
- Level 1: Does it meet basic (compliance) standards?
- Level 2: Is it consistent with the rest of the API?
- Level 3: Is it a joy to work with?

Process matters

Proposing API changes

Use a source control workflow

- Useful and timely feedback mechanisms
- Consider user needs, and existing conventions
- Think (very hard) about how things are named

Automate for success

- Use linting to check API fits guidelines
- Create documentation previews
- Spin up mock servers

API Council

Bring key API contributors together for every review:

- Would you want to use this API?
- Is the naming sensible and intuitive?
- Is the change consistent with the existing API?

API experience at scale

API catalog

Central registry/marketplace/inventory

- All APIs are registered here
- OpenAPI descriptions
- Establish documentation conventions
- Team contact information
- Standards/readiness

API catalog



Home

Browse APIs

API scorecard

My Apps

Search the docs

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Filter...

Capability Group

All

API Stage

stable (90)

draft (34)

beta (13)

API Status

deprecated (15)

active (122)

API Catalog

This is a description of the API Catalog

APIs (137)

Operations - Account Recovery

The ability to identify, articulate, assess, aggregate, monitor, communicate, and control (acce...

draft active Silver ⚠️

[View documentation](#)

Operations - ACH Operations

Ability to request, initiate, authorize, validate, record, execute and settle an instance of a...

stable deprecated Silver ⚠️

[View documentation](#)

Operations - Collateral Allocation Management

Ability to establish, organize, analyze, administer, and report on all aspects of property or other...

stable active Silver ⚠️

[View documentation](#)

Operations - Collateral Asset Administration

Operations - Collections

Ability to establish, organize, analyze, administer, and report on

Operations - Contractor and Supplier Agreement

API lifecycle tools

tl;dr <https://openapi.tools/>

API lifecycle tools

- Linting, standard rulesets or make your own
- Documentation, build a preview of proposed changes
- Mock servers, try before you build
- Extensions, improve an existing description
- SDKs, improve developer onboarding

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API Lifecycle DevX

Resources

- <https://lornajane.net>
- <https://redocly.com>
- <https://openapi.tools>
- <https://www.postman.com/state-of-api/>
- <https://github.com/APIs-guru/openapi-directory>