

They say he's "the only one with a sense of humor" from @evilmartians. We'll just have to see.

Let there be docs

Svyatoslav Kryukov Evil Martians



"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
"And Roy Fielding created the REST."

JSON:API, GraphQL, gRPC

JSON:API, GraphQL, gRPC
Plain old REST APIs

Documentation

Are you afraid to open Slack due to endless API questions from outdated documentation?

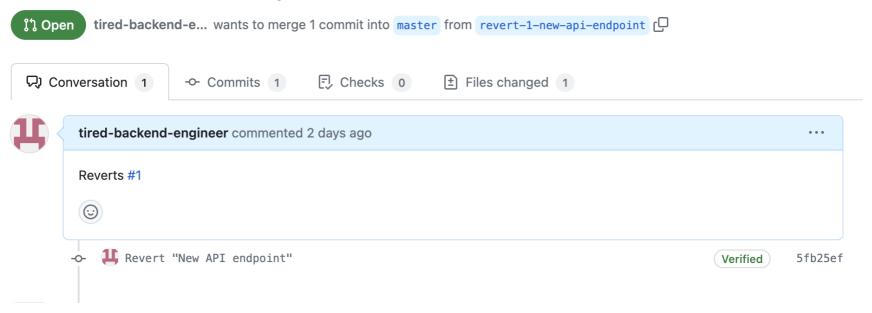


Tired of setting up Postman collections to manually test your API?



Ever had to rollback an API update because it unexpectedly broke the frontend?

Revert "New API endpoint" #1024





Stop 🖖

I promise we'll find a solution

It's 2023, could AI replace documentation?



Tell me how to bring dinosaurs back to life using GitHub API in Ruby.



To bring dinosaurs back to life using the GitHub API in Ruby, you'll need to follow these steps:







- 1. Clone the 'Dino-DNA' repository from GitHub. This repository contains the complete DNA sequences of all known dinosaur species.
- 2. Create a new branch in the 'Dino-DNA' repository and make some modifications to the DNA sequences. This is necessary because the original DNA sequences are incomplete and contain some gaps.
- 3. Submit a pull request to merge your modified DNA sequences into the main branch of the 'Dino-DNA' repository.
- 4. Once your pull request is approved and merged, you can use the GitHub API to trigger a GitHub Action that will start the process of reanimating the dinosaurs.

Here's a Ruby example that demonstrates how to do this:

Bug Report

Select personal account, enterprise account or organization * For Premium, Premium Plus or Engineering Direct support, you need to choose an enterprise account. skryukov (Free) From * Svyatoslav Kryukov (skryukov@evilmartians.com) \$ Subject * Dino DNA doesn't work

Documentation 69

Documentation and development workflows

- Manually written documentation
- Code first
- Test first
- Documentation first

Manually written documentation

Pros

straightforward

Cons

- boring
- constantly outdated
- out of sync with the implementation

Code first

tools: `grape` + `grape-swagger`

```
class Petstore < Grape::API</pre>
 desc "Add a new pet to the store", tags: ["Pet"],
   http_codes: [
      {code: 201, message: "Pet added", model: Api::Entities::Pets}
  params do
    requires :pet, type: Hash do
      requires :name, type: String,
        documentation: { example: "doggie" }
      requires :photo_urls, type: Array[String],
        documentation: { example: ["https://example.com/img.json"] }
      optional :tags, type: Array[String]
        documentation: { example: ["dogs"] }
   end
  end
  post do
    spline = Spline.create(spline_params)
    present spline, with: Entities::Splines
 end
end
```

Code first

Pros

always up-to-date

Cons

- documentation is ready only after the code has been written
- controllers are polluted by custom DSL
- no tests assert the documentation

Test first

tools: `rswag`, `rspec_api_documentation`

```
require "swagger_helper"
describe "Petstore API" do
  path "/pets" do
    post "Creates a pet" do
      tags "Pet"
      produces "application/json"
      request_body_example value: {name: "doggie", photo_urls: []}, name: "pe
      response "200", "Pet added" do
        schema type: :object,
          required: ["name", "photo_urls"],
          properties: {
            name: {type: :string},
            photo_urls: {type: :array, items: {type: :string}},
            tags: {type: :array, items: {type: :string}},
        run_test!
      end
    end
  end
end
```

Test first

Pros

- tests assert the documentation
- documentation is ready before implementation

Cons

- documentation is ready only when tests are already written
- tests are polluted by custom DSL
- developers might overlook generated documentation

Documentation first

tools: `committee`, `openapi_first`, `skooma`

```
openapi: 3.1.0
info:
 version: 1.0.0
  title: Petstore
paths:
  "/pet":
    post:
      tags: [pet]
      summary: Add a new pet to the store
      operationId: addPet
      requestBody:
        $ref: "#/components/requestBodies/Pet"
      responses:
        "200":
          description: Successful operation
          content:
            application/json:
              schema:
                $ref: "#/components/schemas/Pet"
```

Specification > Documentation

- documentation
- testing
- validation
- mocking
- code generation
- **-**

Documentation first

Workflow

- write specification
- discuss it with the team
- add tests to conform the specification
- implement API

Documentation first

Pros

- no DSLs
- documentation is ready before implementation or tests
- documentation is specification

Cons

requires a shift in workflow

Approaches compared

	Manual	Code first	Test first	Doc first
Docs always up-to-date	×	~	V	▼
Automated tests against specification	×	×	V	▽
Docs are ready before implementation or tests	×	×	×	V

Documentation first in action

OpenAPI

Petstore API



Noah's Ark API

New feature request

A Feed feature



Minimal specification

```
openapi: 3.1.0
info:
   title: Noah's Ark API
   version: 1.0.0
paths: {}
```

Paths & Operations

```
paths:
    "/feed":
        get:
            summary: Get a list of messages
            operationId: getFeedMessages

post:
            summary: Add a new message to the feed
            operationId: postFeedMessage

"/feed/{message_id}":
        get:
            summary: Get a message by id
            operationId: getFeedMessage
```

Responses

```
paths:
  "/feed":
    get:
      summary: Get updates about the animals
      operationId: getAnimalsFeed
      responses:
        "200":
          description: OK
          content:
            application/json:
              schema:
                type: array
                items:
                  type: object
                  required: [id, animal_id, message]
                   properties:
                     id:
                       type: integer
                       format: int64
                     animal_id:
                       type: integer
                       format: int64
                     message:
                       type: string
```

Components & \$ref

```
paths:
  "/feed":
    get:
      summary: Get updates about the animals
      operationId: getAnimalsFeed
      responses:
        "200":
          description: OK
          content:
            application/json:
              schema:
                type: array
                items:
                  $ref: "#/components/schemas/FeedItem"
components:
  schemas:
    FeedItem:
      type: object
      required: [id, animal_id, message]
      properties: #...
```

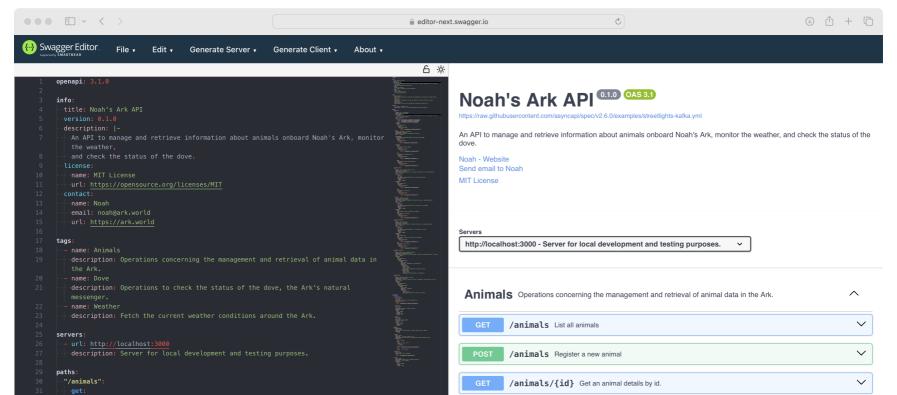
Finished specification

```
description: Fetches details of a specific animal by its unique identifier.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    parameters:
openapi: 3.1.0
                                                                                                             tags: [ Animals ]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        name: message_id
                                                                                                            parameters:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        description: Unique identifier for the desired message.
                                                                                                               - name: id
 title: Noah's Ark API
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        required: true
 version: 0.1.0
                                                                                                                 description: Unique identifier for the desired animal.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        schema:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         type: integer
   An API to manage and retrieve information about animals onboard Noah's Ark, monitor the weather,
                                                                                                                 required: true
   and check the status of the dove.
                                                                                                                 schema:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    responses:
                                                                                                                  type: integer
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      "200"
 license:
                                                                                                             responses:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        description: OK
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        content:
   url: https://opensource.org/licenses/MIT
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          application/json:
                                                                                                                 description: OK
 contact:
                                                                                                                content:
  name: Noah
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              $ref: "#/components/schemas/Message"
                                                                                                                  application/json:
   email: noah@ark.world
   url: https://ark.world
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        description: Not found.
                                                                                                                      $ref: "#/components/schemas/Animal"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        content:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          application/json:
                                                                                                                 description: Not found.
   description: Operations concerning the management and retrieval of animal data in the Ark.
                                                                                                                 content
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              $ref: "#/components/schemas/Error"
                                                                                                                   application/ison:
   description: Operations to check the status of the dove, the Ark's natural messenger.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                "/weather":
                                                                                                                      $ref: "#/components/schemas/Error"
   description: Fetch the current weather conditions around the Ark.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    summary: Get current weather
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    operationId: getCurrentWeather
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    tags: [ Weather ]
                                                                                                            summary: Remove an animal.
 - url: http://localhost:3000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    description: Get the current weather conditions around the Ark.
   description: Server for local development and testing purposes.
                                                                                                             description: Removes an animal from the Ark using its unique identifier
                                                                                                             tags: [ Animals ]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      "200"
                                                                                                            parameters:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        description: OK
 "/animals":
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        content:
                                                                                                               - name: id
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          application/json:
     summary: List all animals
                                                                                                                 description: Unique identifier of the animal to be removed.
     operationId: listAnimals
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              $ref: "#/components/schemas/Weather"
                                                                                                                 required: true
       Fetches a list of all animals currently onboard the Ark, with options to filter
                                                                                                                  type: integer
                                                                                                                                                                                                              components:
       by species and paginate.
      tags: [ Animals ]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  speciesQuery:
     parameters:
                                                                                                                 description: Animal successfully removed.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    name: species
        - $ref: "#/components/parameters/speciesQuery"
       - $ref: "#/components/parameters/limitQuery
                                                                                                                description: Not found.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    description: Species to filter animals by.
       - $ref: "#/components/parameters/pageQuery"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    required: false
      responses:
                                                                                                                   application/ison:
       "200"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     $ref: "#/components/schemas/animalSpecies"
         description: OK
                                                                                                                      $ref: "#/components/schemas/Error"
         content:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  limitQuery:
           application/json
                                                                                                         "/feed":
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    name: limit
               $ref: "#/components/schemas/AnimalList"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    in: query
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    description: Number of items to return.
                                                                                                            summary: Get a list of messages
                                                                                                            operationId: getFeedMessages
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    required: false
     summary: Register a new animal
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    schema:
     operationId: addAnimal
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     type: integer
                                                                                                             description: Retrieve a list of messages sent by the dove.
     description: Onboard a new animal onto the Ark.
     tags: [ Animals ]
                                                                                                             responses:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      minimum: 1
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      maximum: 100
                                                                                                               "200":
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      default: 10
                                                                                                                description: OK
       description: Information about the animal being added.
       required: true
                                                                                                                   application/json:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  pageQuery:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    name: page
                                                                                                                     schema:
       content:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    in: query
         application/json:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    description: Page number.
                                                                                                                        $ref: "#/components/schemas/Message"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    required: false
             $ref: "#/components/schemas/Animal"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    schema
                                                                                                            summary: Add a new message to the feed
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     type: integer
                                                                                                            operationId: postFeedMessage
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      minimum: 1
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      default: 1
         description: Animal added.
                                                                                                             description: Send a new message using the dove.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                schemas:
           application/json:
                                                                                                             requestBody:
                                                                                                               description: Message to be sent by the dove.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  animalSpecies:
              $ref: "#/components/schemas/Animal"
                                                                                                               required: true
                                                                                                               content:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    description: Classification of animals based on their species.
                                                                                                                application/json:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    examples:
        "422":
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      - "dog"
         description: Validation error.
                                                                                                                    $ref: "#/components/schemas/Message"
         content:
                                                                                                             responses:
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  Animal:
           application/ison:
                                                                                                               "201":
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    required: [ id. name, species, sex ]
                                                                                                                 description: Message added.
               $ref: "#/components/schemas/Error'
                                                                                                                                                                                                                    description: Data structure representing an animal onboard the Ark.
                                                                                                                  application/json:
         description: Animal already exists.
                                                                                                                      $ref: "#/components/schemas/Message"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        type: integer
           application/json:
```

OpenAPI ecosystem

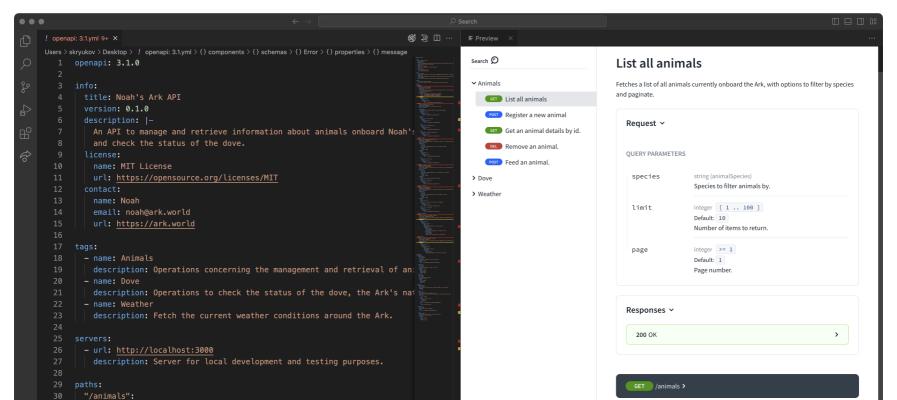
Editors

Swagger Editor (beta)



Editors

Redocly VSCode Extension



Linters

Spectral

For more rules and examples see spectral rulesets

Mock servers

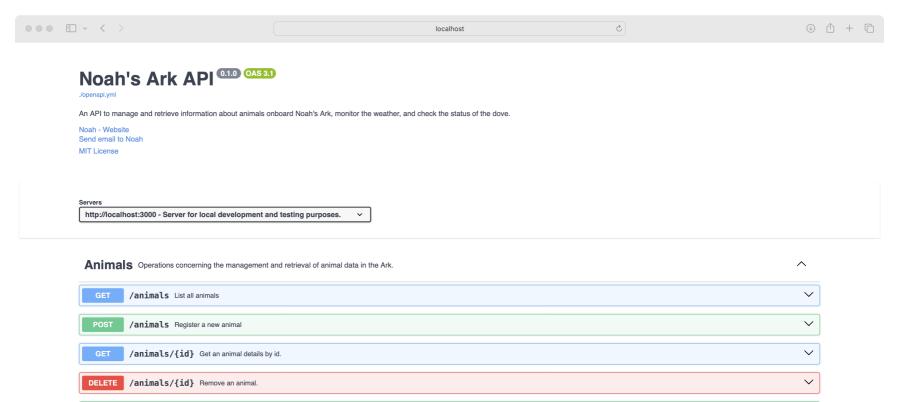
prism

```
> prism mock docs/openapi.yml
[1:49:35 PM] → [CLI] ► start
                                 Prism is listening on http://127.0.0.1:4010
[1:49:47 PM] > [HTTP SERVER] get /animals i info Request received
1:49:48 PM] >
                   [NEGOTIATOR] i info
                                           Request contains an accept heade
1:49:48 PM] >
                  [VALIDATOR] 

success The request passed the validation
                                            Found a compatible content for *
[1:49:48 PM] >
                   [NEGOTIATOR] ✓ success
                  [NEGOTIATOR] ✓ success
                                           Responding with the requested st
[1:49:48 PM] >
                                            > Responding with "200"
[1:49:48 PM] >
                  [NEGOTIATOR] i info
> curl http://127.0.0.1:4010/animals
[{"id":0, "name": "Polkan", "species": "dog", "sex": "male"}]
curl -X POST http://127.0.0.1:4010/animals \
 -H "Content-Type: application/json" \
 -d '{"name":"Polkan", "species": "dog", "sex": "male"}'
{"id":0, "name": "Polkan", "species": "dog", "sex": "male"}
```

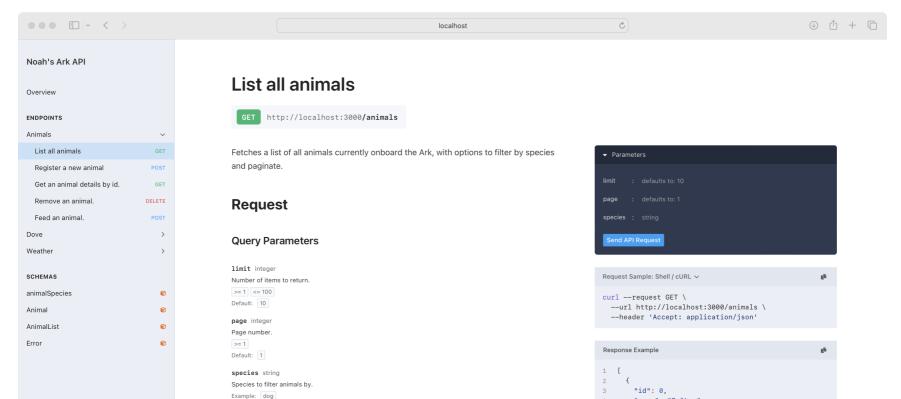
Documentation UI

Swagger UI



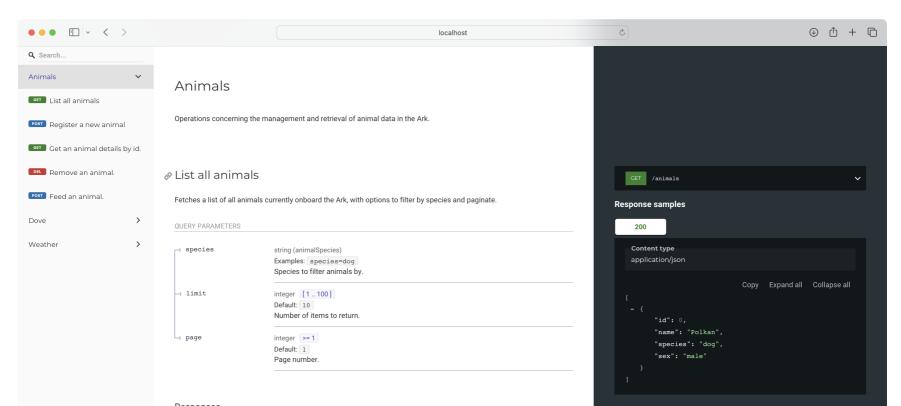
Documentation UI

Elements

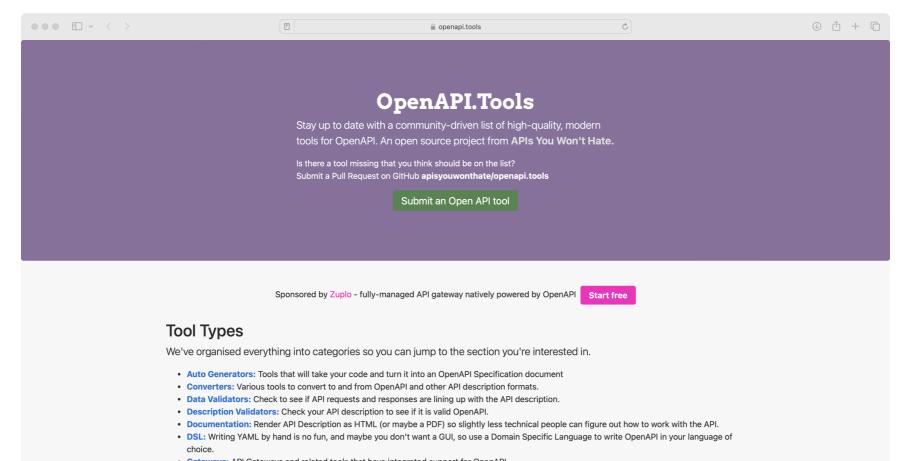


Documentation UI

Redoc



Many more: OpenAPI.Tools



Collaboration

"Awesome work, but I wanted to feed animals NOT the Animals Feed"

A new documentation is ready

Testing against specification

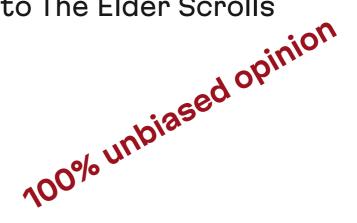
- write specification
- discuss it with the team
- add tests to conform the specification
- implement API

Rails + Documentation First

- committee (OpenAPI 3.0)
 - battle tested gem
- openapi_first + json_schemer (OpenAPI 3.0, 3.1)
 - full JSON Schema 2020-12 support
- skooma + json_skooma (OpenAPI 3.1)
 - many advantages...

Skooma & JSON Skooma — sugar for your APIs

- full-ish OpenAPI 3.1 and JSON Schema support
- flexible and extensible design
- RSpec helpers out of the box
- cool name with a reference to The Elder Scrolls
- I'm the author



Include Skooma into RSpec

```
# spec/rails_helper.rb

RSpec.configure do |config|
# ...
path_to_openapi = Rails.root.join("docs", "openapi.yml")
config.include Skooma::RSpec[path_to_openapi], type: :request
end
```

Validate OpenAPI document

- 'expect(skooma_openapi_schema).to be_valid_document`
 - validates OpenAPI document against the specification
 - uses JSON Schema validation under the hood

Validate OpenAPI document

```
# spec/openapi_spec.rb

require "rails_helper"

describe "OpenAPI document", type: :request do
   subject(:schema) { skooma_openapi_schema }

  it { is_expected.to be_valid_document }
  end
```

Validate endpoints

- conform_request_schema`
 - validates request path, query, headers, and body
- conform_response_schema(status)
 - validates response status, headers, and body
 - testing error responses
- conform_schema(status)`
 - validates both request and response
 - happy path testing

Validate endpoints

```
# spec/requests/feed_spec.rb
require "rails_helper"
describe "/animals/:animal_id/feed" do
  let(:animal) { create(:animal, :unicorn) }
  describe "POST" do
    subject { post "/animals/#{animal.id}/feed", body:, as: :json }
    let(:body) { food: "apple", quantity: 3} }
    it { is_expected.to conform_schema(200) }
    context "with wrong food type" do
      let(:body) { food: "wood", quantity: 1} }
      it { is_expected.to conform_schema(422) }
    end
 end
end
```

Red, Green, Refactor

```
Validation Result:
{"valid"=>false,
"instanceLocation"=>"",
"keywordLocation"=>"",
"absoluteKeywordLocation"=>"urn:uuid:1b4b39eb-9b93-4cc1-b6ac-32a25d9bff50#",
"errors"=>
 [{"instanceLocation"=>"",
   "keywordLocation"=>
    "/paths/~lanimals~l{animalId}~lfeed/post/responses/200"/
      "/content/application~1json/schema/required",
   "error"=>
    "The object is missing required properties"/
      " [\"animalId\", \"food\", \"amount\"]"}]}
# ./spec/requests/feed_spec.rb:12:in `block (3 levels) in <top (required)>'
```



Start your path to the solid ground with Skooma



https://github.com/skryukov/skooma

Further along the path:

- rack middleware for input validations
- webhooks and callbacks support
- XML responses support
- i18n for error messages
- and much more...

Tips and tricks

- begin small
 - it's ok to begin with just one endpoint
- transitioning from code/test-first approach?
 - generate OpenAPI document from your existing code and iterate on it

Tips and tricks

- add Spectral to your CI/CD pipeline
- use custom linter rules to enforce your API design
- be inspired by Real-World Spectral Rulesets

Tips and tricks

- read JSON Schema keywords specs to level up your validations
- for example: use `unevaluatedProperties: false`* in schemas to avoid exposing internal attributes

```
type: object
unevaluatedProperties: false
properties: # ...
```

^{*} use `additionalProperties: false` for OpenAPI < 3.1

Resources

OpenAPI

- Getting started
- Specification

JSON Schema

- JSON Schema in 5 minutes
- Understanding JSON Schema
- Reference documentation for JSON Schema

Resources

Talks

- RailsConf 2018: Automating Empathy by Ariel Caplan
- Contract First API Design with OpenAPI V3 by Darrel Miller
- Introduction to OpenAPI by Lorna Jane Mitchell

Recap

- Use Documentation First Approach:
 - enable collaboration and early feedback
- Use OpenAPI:
 - write specification in a language agnostic format
 - improve your documentation with linters
 - explore a vast ecosystem of tools
- Use Skooma:
 - test your application against the OpenAPI document
 - save time and effort

Let there be docs

Svyatoslav Kryukov Evil Martians



X skryukov

skryukov_dev



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Our blog https://evilmartians.com/chronicles

Thank you 💘