

[25/01/2015 15:31:14] Weekend Testing Europe: Welcome to Weekend Testing Europe! It's great to see so many of you with us today.

[25/01/2015 15:31:25] Weekend Testing Europe: Let's start with a quick round of introductions.

As I mentioned, I'm Amy Phillips and I'll be facilitating today's session. I'm test lead for a small London based company and spend my time mobile and web testing. You can find me <https://testingthemind.wordpress.com/> or over on Twitter <https://twitter.com/itjustbroke>

[25/01/2015 15:31:32] John Beckett: WOW! 28 peeps, biggest one so far

[25/01/2015 15:31:42] Teri Charles: Teri Charles joined the conversation

[25/01/2015 15:31:53] dani.bonafe: dani.bonafe joined the conversation

[25/01/2015 15:32:08] Simina Rendler: Simina Rendler added Oana Casapu to this conversation

[25/01/2015 15:32:13] skg kamar: great day to you all.

[25/01/2015 15:32:13] Neil Studd: I'm one of your other hosts, Neil Studd. I've been a UK tester for >10yrs, though (by sheer coincidence) I've recently joined a new company where most of my testing is at the API level. I'm hoping to share some of my learnings, but also to see what else I can learn!

[25/01/2015 15:32:27] John Beckett: Yup Amy, I've been following you and Neil Studd for over a uyear now.

[25/01/2015 15:32:58] skg kamar: nice to know you mr neil.

[25/01/2015 15:33:11] Carol Brands: My name is Carol and I'm in Oregon, US. I've been testing for three+ years, in support role for a few and now in a tester role.

[25/01/2015 15:33:28] Daniel Billing: Hi, I am Dan Billing - the new member of the WTEU team. I've been testing about 14 years now and I work at New Voice Media in the UK. I do mostly security, but lots of other stuff too :)

[25/01/2015 15:33:42] Aleksandar Simic: I'm Aleksandar, software tester from Croatia, currently living and testing in Freiburg, Germany

[25/01/2015 15:33:50] Teri Charles: Hi everyone! I'm Teri Charles. I'm a Software Tester living in Boulder, Colorado, US. @booksrcg8

[25/01/2015 15:33:58] John Beckett: look at all those pens go!!

[25/01/2015 15:34:07] Oana Casapu : Hi Aleksandar!

[25/01/2015 15:34:09] Weekend Testing Europe: Aleks, you should also mention, that you're a regular WTEUer!

[25/01/2015 15:34:13] dani.bonafe: My name is Daniela. I have been testing for over 10 years and I am based in Brighton

[25/01/2015 15:34:18] skg kamar: My name is shravan and Im tester .Iam currently living in Hyderabad,India.

[25/01/2015 15:34:23] Weekend Testing Europe: This is great! I'm just taking a breather hehe

[25/01/2015 15:34:25] Philip Hoeben: I am Philip Hoeben from the Netherlands. Tester for about 8 years. I mainly worked in the medical industry. @PhilipHoeben

[25/01/2015 15:34:26] Christian Kram: Hi, I am Christian, a software tester from Wolfsburg, Germany and I have only been doing GUI testing so far. And this my first time here as well :)

[25/01/2015 15:34:27] Hannah Massey: Hi my name is Hannah and I'm new to testing. I'm currently working on OpenMRS which is an open source project. Living in Manchester, UK.

[25/01/2015 15:34:33] Ash Winter: Ash Winter, Consultant and Tester for the past 10 years. Tested API's on and off for a few years with various tools and techniques. In the sunny North of England, can be found on twitter @northern_tester

[25/01/2015 15:34:34] Daniel Billing: whoop! Brighton is awesome!

[25/01/2015 15:34:42] Aleksandar Simic: @oana complete Altom team today? Nice to see you

[25/01/2015 15:34:46] Jignesh Nayi: Jignesh Nayi joined the conversation

[25/01/2015 15:34:47] Amit: I'm Amit Verma. I work for a US based company as automation test lead. I have been testing for 6+ years now. I spend most of time doing automation and sometimes manual testing.

[25/01/2015 15:35:03] Oana Casapu : @Aleksandar: yep!

[25/01/2015 15:35:04] Mark Winteringham: Hi I'm Mark been testing roughly 8 years and 4 as a freelance technical tester

[25/01/2015 15:35:07] Neil Studd: Nice to meet you Shraavan! And with Teri & Carol too, I reckon we must be spanning about 12 timezones today.

[25/01/2015 15:35:21] Daniel Billing: great effort from those far flung :)

[25/01/2015 15:35:57] Natts: Hi there, I'm Natalie and I'm a software tester for around 2 years now and working in Berlin

[25/01/2015 15:35:59] yule lobo: Hi I am Yule with 9 years of experience in software testing. This is my first weekend testing session and looking forward to get the basics of API testing

[25/01/2015 15:36:02] Alan Richardson: I'm Alan - I'm a test consultant. @www.eviltester.com

[25/01/2015 15:36:04] Kadri-Annagret: HI! I'm Kadri-Annagret Petersen, a tester from Estonia, currently living and working in Stockholm (started my new job 3 weeks ago). I've been a software tester for over 9 years.

[25/01/2015 15:36:11] Daniel Billing: Hi Alan, good to see you

[25/01/2015 15:36:21] Neil Studd: I don't want to pre-empt any of our discussion, but I am delighted to see so many people here today, it really makes our preparation worthwhile and I hope everyone gets a chance to learn from so many different perspectives.

[25/01/2015 15:36:23] skg kamar: Hi Alan.Nice to See You here.

[25/01/2015 15:36:33] kalyan yelisetty: This is kalyan from India, working in the mobile apps testing field from 6 years

[25/01/2015 15:36:42] Oana Casapu : Hi, I'm Oana from Romania, I'm together with some of my colleagues now, all in this session :)

[25/01/2015 15:36:43] Roman Baranov: HI I am Roman, software tester from Ukraine with more than 4 years experience, currently work in Poland

[25/01/2015 15:36:53] Maja: Hello everyone, I don't hear any tone. Am I missing something? ;) Thanks.

[25/01/2015 15:36:54] Jignesh Nayi: Hi I'm Jignesh Nayi, Working as Tester for 8 years working in London.

[25/01/2015 15:36:56] John Beckett: @Alan Richardson - I thought I recognised the name!!

[25/01/2015 15:37:04] Weekend Testing Europe: I'm also pleased that I planned some group testing for today. Should be some lively conversation!

[25/01/2015 15:37:15] Christopher Chant: Hi all, I'm Christopher (@choibot on twitter), I currently test mobile apps for Barclay Card. I've been testing for around 4 years (i think!)

[25/01/2015 15:37:32] Vladislava Surdolova: Hi, I'm Vladislava Surdolova from Sofia,

Bulgaria. I've been a tester for the past 4 years

[25/01/2015 15:37:49] Vladislava Surdolova: First time here as well :)

[25/01/2015 15:37:50] Raghu: Hello everyone, I am Raghu a software tester from India currently on deputation at Edinburgh, Scotland. I am an exploratory tester by choice but working mostly for Insurance clients in environments where heavily scripted testing is the norm. Doing API testing for the first time.

[25/01/2015 15:38:10] John Beckett: I've been a tester for 3 yrs and I now do automation testing for a financial company in London

[25/01/2015 15:38:14] Weekend Testing Europe: Welcome to all of those that are enjoying your first Weekend Testing session! I hope you have a great time with us

[25/01/2015 15:38:20] Aleksandar Simic: @christopher.chant3 still in Movember mood?

[25/01/2015 15:38:22] Adina Moldovan: I'm Adina, @adinnaplus on twitter and... and I love testing :)

[25/01/2015 15:38:27] ra: (y)

[25/01/2015 15:38:27] skg kamar: So lively conversation/

[25/01/2015 15:38:28] Weekend Testing Europe: This is a bit like speed dating ;)

[25/01/2015 15:38:31] Srinivas Kadiyala: Hi Everyone, I'm Srinivas Kadiyala. Software Tester for a small - Ecommerce web development company based at Mysore, India - Working as Functional Tester having 2+ yrs exp on majorly Web and seasonal Mobile Apps. (But does some other stuff).

Eager to learn about API Testing.

. Blog: www.testinguindia.blogspot.in

Twitter/Anywhere you can find me: @srinivasskc

[25/01/2015 15:38:46] Daniel Billing: :) Great stuff Srinivas

[25/01/2015 15:38:56] Weekend Testing Europe: So now that we all know each other let's get started!

[25/01/2015 15:39:01] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe set topic to "WTEU-53: DISCUSSION TIME - HOW TO USE AN API"

[25/01/2015 15:39:05] John Beckett: who are you? lol

[25/01/2015 15:39:07] Kristaps Mežavilks: Hello! I am Kristaps Mežavilks, software tester from Latvia. In the industry for ~4 years. Mostly API testing.

[25/01/2015 15:39:17] skg kamar: Using Import

[25/01/2015 15:39:23] Maja: I am Maja Schreiner, working as a Test Engineer for a telecom company in Zurich, Switzerland. @majaschreiner on twitter ... Looking forward to learn more about API testing.

[25/01/2015 15:39:24] skg kamar: statement.

[25/01/2015 15:39:31] Weekend Testing Europe: Today's session is going to be a Introduction to API testing. This is something that I certainly learnt on the job, and I know it's something that many testers struggle to get to grips with. Hopefully today's session will give you enough of a grounding to be able to get stuck in to using and testing your own APIs.

[25/01/2015 15:39:46] Weekend Testing Europe: I know some of you have experience of testing APIs, we'll be doing some hands on testing a little later so you can dive in at a level you're comfortable with.

[25/01/2015 15:39:58] Weekend Testing Europe: But first, let's make sure we're all on the same page. Does everyone know what an API is?

[25/01/2015 15:40:13] Neil Studd: I would describe it as, a mechanism for requesting/receiving data in a structured format

[25/01/2015 15:40:14] John Beckett: Yup, I do

[25/01/2015 15:40:31] skg kamar: Api is usefull for a app.

[25/01/2015 15:40:37] ra: you could do a little intro

[25/01/2015 15:40:45] Daniel Billing: likewise, a method of consuming and managing data using various formats

[25/01/2015 15:40:45] ra: won't hurt anyone

[25/01/2015 15:41:08] skg kamar: It have diverse roles-api

[25/01/2015 15:41:22] John Beckett: API's are useful in using services

[25/01/2015 15:41:35] Weekend Testing Europe: Neil's definition is nice. Think of an API as a way to request data from a system. There is no graphical user interface but the data is returned in a structured way

[25/01/2015 15:41:37] skg kamar: It can range from development,architecture,design.

[25/01/2015 15:41:39] Ash Winter: I sometimes think of it as a contract to communicate in a known way between two points

[25/01/2015 15:41:39] Jignesh Nayi: I see API as just functions with bells and whistles

[25/01/2015 15:42:05] Neil Studd: An example I would give would be, if you imagine a search results page on Amazon which contains 20 results, the raw HTML would be quite difficult to parse/understand. On the other hand, if you looked at the search results through an API, you can represent the data in a treeview, e.g. 20 nodes, each containing a single product, with structured data (e.g. title, link, price...)

[25/01/2015 15:42:22] Weekend Testing Europe: Jignesh, not so much bells and whistles as rules perhaps? You have a list of functions but must interact with them in the way the system expects

[25/01/2015 15:42:26] Neil Studd: (I don't know if Amazon has a search API, actually. I'll check!)

[25/01/2015 15:42:33] Weekend Testing Europe: It does :)

[25/01/2015 15:42:47] Weekend Testing Europe: Most websites have APIs but you'll need to request a key to use them

[25/01/2015 15:43:07] skg kamar: key attribute value could be important construct in a api.

[25/01/2015 15:43:09] John Beckett: Yes it does Neil - You use them for their cloud services

[25/01/2015 15:43:23] kalyan yelisetty: Amazon should be having search API or else how will we search desired products ?

[25/01/2015 15:43:42] skg kamar: As per MR Neil idea about api.

[25/01/2015 15:43:59] Weekend Testing Europe: OK, so Amazon is one place that has an API. Where else are you likely to encounter them?

[25/01/2015 15:44:07] skg kamar: twitter api

[25/01/2015 15:44:10] skg kamar: Skype api

[25/01/2015 15:44:11] Amit: Twitter also has an api

[25/01/2015 15:44:17] yule lobo: Facebook

[25/01/2015 15:44:22] kalyan yelisetty: twitter, Facebook

[25/01/2015 15:44:25] Ash Winter: paypal

[25/01/2015 15:44:25] John Beckett: You are more likely to them in Microsoft services

[25/01/2015 15:44:25] yule lobo: Jira

[25/01/2015 15:44:27] skg kamar: android has whole set of api.

[25/01/2015 15:44:28] Daniel Billing: any number of mobile applications
[25/01/2015 15:44:33] skg kamar: It is big bunch.
[25/01/2015 15:44:35] Neil Studd: Shravan mentioned apps - mobile apps are a big place where you find APIs
[25/01/2015 15:44:38] Alan Richardson: The amazon search API is really their Product Advertising API
[25/01/2015 15:44:41] Weekend Testing Europe: Jira, is a good one. Very useful if you want custom reporting
[25/01/2015 15:44:41] kalyan yelisetty: google :)
[25/01/2015 15:44:45] Christopher Chant: Most web based apps will have an api.
[25/01/2015 15:45:02] Weekend Testing Europe: Apps are mostly where I've come across APIs (from a testing point of view)
[25/01/2015 15:45:08] Christopher Chant: Especially If there's a mobile app too
[25/01/2015 15:45:13] Neil Studd: One useful thing about APIs is that the data it transfers can be platform-agnostic, e.g. you might use the same API for your desktop, mobile web, and app. It's just the front-end site which is skinned differently.
[25/01/2015 15:45:18] Daniel Billing: they also have an inherent set of issues and vulnerabilities that are different from web based apps
[25/01/2015 15:45:30] skg kamar: Iphone and android app can be used exclusively with api.
[25/01/2015 15:45:36] Weekend Testing Europe: Chris, yep. Very common. And also very handy for the tester :)
[25/01/2015 15:45:38] Christian Kram: could you say that you find api wherever a software is supposed to run on different devices/os?
[25/01/2015 15:45:50] Weekend Testing Europe: Dan, that's true too.
[25/01/2015 15:46:02] kalyan yelisetty: mobile apps like target & best buy do interact with search API to fetch the data
[25/01/2015 15:46:09] Daniel Billing: its important to be specific here, hence mentioning it :)
[25/01/2015 15:46:11] Weekend Testing Europe: Christian, it's likely but maybe not guaranteed
[25/01/2015 15:46:27] Weekend Testing Europe: You can find loads of APIs in search engines. Try searching for your favourite website + API. You might be surprised at what you can find. Once you have an API you can request data from this web service and use it for all sorts of wonderful things.
[25/01/2015 15:46:37] Kristaps Mežavilks: I think that the API approach in software development is trend for software development now as more and more microservice-based architectures become popular.
[25/01/2015 15:47:00] Weekend Testing Europe: Kristaps, yeah I think you're right. They're really popular with devs
[25/01/2015 15:47:02] Ash Winter: Service Oriented Architecture is a common term
[25/01/2015 15:47:03] Christopher Chant: I found them very useful. Our Test team dont have access to DBs or logs. Having access to the API allows me to carry out simple checks on what information is available via the API and what our apps are actually displaying
[25/01/2015 15:47:15] Ash Winter: and lots of companies are moving that way
[25/01/2015 15:47:17] Weekend Testing Europe: Ash, it is! Would you like to define?
[25/01/2015 15:47:28] Ash Winter: OK here goes
[25/01/2015 15:48:14] Ash Winter: SOA refers to reducing function to smaller 'services' which provide discrete operations

[25/01/2015 15:48:27] Ash Winter: and can therefore be referenced by each other
[25/01/2015 15:48:40] Ash Winter: rather than having monolithic applications
[25/01/2015 15:48:55] Ash Winter: which repeat function usage
[25/01/2015 15:49:38] skg kamar: simple example of api would be stock quote on websites.
[25/01/2015 15:49:49] Weekend Testing Europe: Cool. So separation of responsibilities throughout the system
[25/01/2015 15:50:02] Ash Winter: Indeed, RESTful principles
[25/01/2015 15:50:03] Weekend Testing Europe: Skg, yes that is a good one
[25/01/2015 15:50:03] Srinivas Kadiyala: Do as a practice, do you test API before application functionality or After development of functionalities. ?
[25/01/2015 15:50:09] skg kamar: another would be weather quote on app or site.
[25/01/2015 15:50:10] Ash Winter: Something about being stateless
[25/01/2015 15:50:18] ra: after dev of functs i would like
[25/01/2015 15:50:20] John Beckett: @thekaiser1978 how do you mean 'repeat function usage'
[25/01/2015 15:50:22] John Beckett: ?
[25/01/2015 15:50:29] Ash Winter: So
[25/01/2015 15:50:30] Weekend Testing Europe: Srinivas, I go with whichever comes first. Usually that's the API
[25/01/2015 15:50:46] Ash Winter: lots of systems will have their own bespoke search functions
[25/01/2015 15:50:55] Ash Winter: in various organisations
[25/01/2015 15:51:09] Weekend Testing Europe: So, onto testing talk. Why do you think we need to test APIs?
[25/01/2015 15:51:20] skg kamar: TESTABLITY
[25/01/2015 15:51:32] Ash Winter: They still have users right?
[25/01/2015 15:51:36] Daniel Billing: They can update/create/delete a LOT of data across an application
[25/01/2015 15:51:38] ra: cause the API's are used by someone(consumed) and we need to make sure that they have the API in the right form
[25/01/2015 15:51:45] Ash Winter: They are still to solve problems/create benefits?
[25/01/2015 15:51:55] Ash Winter: Like any other type of testing
[25/01/2015 15:51:58] John Beckett: Because it is the 'interface between the back end and the front end that can be seen as important
[25/01/2015 15:52:09] Philip Hoeben: I tend to start with API testing especially when the end user interface is not in place yet.
[25/01/2015 15:52:27] John Beckett: and deals with how data is used
[25/01/2015 15:52:28] Neil Studd: API security can be a big issue. Many APIs are only intended for internal/dev consumption, but are actually publically accessible and can be exploited to make applications behave in an unexpected way.
[25/01/2015 15:52:30] skg kamar: For automation .
[25/01/2015 15:52:34] Kristaps Mežavilks: I would say we need to test it just because it is the primary entry point for data to our system.
[25/01/2015 15:52:40] Philip Hoeben: You can distinguish between front-end problems and data transfer problems
[25/01/2015 15:52:42] Ash Winter: Cheaper to test and find bugs in API layer
[25/01/2015 15:52:58] Ash Winter: UI testing is expensive!
[25/01/2015 15:53:09] Weekend Testing Europe: Philip, yes, that's one of my favourites

[25/01/2015 15:53:11] John Beckett: oh testing the API can be seen as faster and more crucial and less fragile.

[25/01/2015 15:53:12] Carol Brands: Is the SOA we're talking about related to SOAP? I see SOAP a lot when people talk about API testing

[25/01/2015 15:53:18] Daniel Billing: Agreed Neil! API breaches will become more and more common if folks just rely on authentication to protect them

[25/01/2015 15:53:36] kalyan yelisetty: My view is API testing helps in identifying whether expected end user data is delivered

[25/01/2015 15:53:43] ra: On 25/01/2015, at 15:52, skg kamar wrote:
> For automation .
..huh?

[25/01/2015 15:53:44] Ash Winter: SOAP is Simple Object Access Protocol, subtly different

[25/01/2015 15:53:47] Christopher Chant: API's are often provide public access to your application. You want to make sure it that you're not open to abuse!

[25/01/2015 15:53:48] Daniel Billing: SOAP is a form of web service, a slightly different concept

[25/01/2015 15:53:51] Ash Winter: but very subtle

[25/01/2015 15:54:09] Alan Richardson: I test an API when it is being used by something and we want information about how the interaction works.

[25/01/2015 15:54:35] Ash Winter: So how it integrates with the target application?

[25/01/2015 15:54:36] ra: (y)

[25/01/2015 15:54:40] Ash Winter: that will consume it

[25/01/2015 15:54:49] Daniel Billing: could two different interfaces interact differently with the API @Alan?

[25/01/2015 15:54:56] Alan Richardson: Yes

[25/01/2015 15:55:01] Daniel Billing: can you elaborate?

[25/01/2015 15:55:06] Srinivas Kadiyala: There are different APIs - SOAP / REST etc

[25/01/2015 15:55:16] Alan Richardson: Some APIs expose data as XML & JSON

[25/01/2015 15:55:21] skg kamar: It depends of end user programmes.Api is a code.

[25/01/2015 15:55:22] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe added Christian Legget to this conversation

[25/01/2015 15:55:29] Carol Brands: We've mentioned RESTful twice now, and that's another thing I see reference all the time when people talk about APIs and dont' know what it means

[25/01/2015 15:55:30] Alan Richardson: some apps will use the JSON, some will use the XML

[25/01/2015 15:55:44] Ash Winter: RESTful is a set of principles

[25/01/2015 15:55:53] Ash Winter: such as stateless transfer

[25/01/2015 15:56:00] skg kamar: JSON is easy to use folks.

[25/01/2015 15:56:00] Daniel Billing: thanks Alan...thats great :)

[25/01/2015 15:56:10] Weekend Testing Europe: I once worked on a mobile app project that had a bug in the underlying API. Cleverly the devs wrote the app code to expect the bug and still do the right thing. It was a fun day when someone noticed the bug in the API and fixed it!

[25/01/2015 15:56:17] Ash Winter: There are REST based API's as a type though

[25/01/2015 15:56:48] Weekend Testing Europe: Once you start using APIs you're likely to come across the term 'RESTful' this isn't unique to APIs but does seem to be closely linked. I have some more detailed resources that I'll share in the session notes.

[25/01/2015 15:56:59] Daniel Billing: so, the code in the app continued to throw errors once the bug in the API was fixed?

[25/01/2015 15:57:25] Weekend Testing Europe: Dan, well fixing the API broke the app :)

[25/01/2015 15:57:31] Weekend Testing Europe: That was what made it so great

[25/01/2015 15:57:35] Daniel Billing: :)

[25/01/2015 15:57:41] Weekend Testing Europe: We made the developer put the bug back

[25/01/2015 15:57:49] ra: Dan, well fixing the API broke the app :) -> that is interesting

[25/01/2015 15:57:50] Neil Studd: :D

[25/01/2015 15:57:50] skg kamar: Api always keep surprise messages.They might be related to deadlock,crash,hang,delays,wrong response etc....

[25/01/2015 15:58:15] Ash Winter: Yep, once the API is consumed by external parties

[25/01/2015 15:58:31] Ash Winter: change can be tough and needs clear communication

[25/01/2015 15:58:36] Daniel Billing: I guess one wasn't speaking the other's language ;) it wasn't interacting nicely

[25/01/2015 15:58:43] skg kamar: They might be very useful for security testing due law obligations. such as sabley oxley act.

[25/01/2015 15:58:44] Neil Studd: Yes, bugs very quickly become "documented weird features" once other people are using your API!

[25/01/2015 15:58:52] Weekend Testing Europe: Ash, in some cases it can be impossible. App versioning is common

[25/01/2015 15:58:55] skg kamar: oops spell mistake.w.r.t sabley

[25/01/2015 15:59:03] Ash Winter: Arghhh SARBOX

[25/01/2015 15:59:06] Weekend Testing Europe: :D

[25/01/2015 15:59:08] Christopher Chant: Release schedules can cause you a real headache if fixing a defect in the API will require updates to mobile applications

[25/01/2015 15:59:10] Ash Winter: It burns!

[25/01/2015 15:59:26] Neil Studd: That's one of the challenges in an API, it can be difficult to deprecate functions/behaviour if you've got hundreds/thousands of people who may be relying on it

[25/01/2015 15:59:26] ra: weird thing that you can break the App by fixing the API content ...still thinking how

[25/01/2015 15:59:35] Daniel Billing: yeah, PCI hurts as well :(

[25/01/2015 15:59:36] kalyan yelisetty: if the App crashes due to issue in APIs from the App perspective bug should be raised as third party issue which is mandatory to be fixed

[25/01/2015 15:59:52] Weekend Testing Europe: Ra, the app depending on particular data coming back from the API. That changed when the bug was fixed

[25/01/2015 16:00:01] kalyan yelisetty: but Mobile app should be able to handle these inconsistencies :)

[25/01/2015 16:00:22] ra: aham, got it! cheers for that

[25/01/2015 16:00:23] skg kamar: Accesability tesing at desighn stage and architecture stage can mitigate api headache.

[25/01/2015 16:00:26] Daniel Billing: should they?

[25/01/2015 16:00:27] Srinivas Kadiyala: When a new project started and developers start to develop functionality, and API is developed by client - What should tester

do ?

[25/01/2015 16:00:32] Daniel Billing: big assumption?

[25/01/2015 16:00:42] Christopher Chant: massive assumption

[25/01/2015 16:00:53] Weekend Testing Europe: Srinivas, test as much and as early as you can.

[25/01/2015 16:00:55] Ash Winter: Testable assumption?

[25/01/2015 16:01:02] Weekend Testing Europe: Yup!

[25/01/2015 16:01:16] skg kamar: @srinivas tester should check for compatibility.

[25/01/2015 16:01:17] Christopher Chant: Highlights why testing the api is so important

[25/01/2015 16:01:24] Daniel Billing: it relates back to what Alan was saying...different endpoints will use and consume the API differently

[25/01/2015 16:01:34] Kristaps Mežavilks: Just as the API specification is there, start to plan testing.?

[25/01/2015 16:01:36] Ash Winter: You still have consumers

[25/01/2015 16:01:39] Ash Winter: start with them

[25/01/2015 16:01:40] skg kamar: for functional and non functional quality criteria.

[25/01/2015 16:01:52] Ash Winter: They may be servers and humans

[25/01/2015 16:01:57] Weekend Testing Europe: APIs will always come with documentation. Docs are your guide to how to use the API but also a great place to start your testing. Many a bug has been found by simply working through all the documentation and spotting gaps and inconsistencies.

[25/01/2015 16:01:58] Ash Winter: interesting persona challenge

[25/01/2015 16:02:01] Daniel Billing: a mobile app, a voice interaction on the telephone, a web page,

[25/01/2015 16:02:28] Weekend Testing Europe: OK, here is a little hands on exercise if you want to try it:

[25/01/2015 16:02:37] skg kamar: what if documentation has not been tested properly? (sun)

[25/01/2015 16:02:39] Daniel Billing: lets do it Amy

[25/01/2015 16:02:44] Christopher Chant: They won't always come with documentation but public APIs certainly should!

[25/01/2015 16:02:51] Weekend Testing Europe: Skg, you should be testing it

[25/01/2015 16:03:01] Weekend Testing Europe: Chris, there should be some internal docs (in my experience)

[25/01/2015 16:03:10] Ash Winter: But you need a model to test those docs

[25/01/2015 16:03:17] Ash Winter: Consistency is critical

[25/01/2015 16:03:30] Ash Winter: as one of the reasons for building a service

[25/01/2015 16:03:45] dani.bonafe: @thekaiser1978 what do you mean by a model?

[25/01/2015 16:03:53] Christopher Chant: Agreed, there usually some documentation but I've found it's not always kept up to date

[25/01/2015 16:04:06] Ash Winter: So Time would be part of that model

[25/01/2015 16:04:14] Ash Winter: A set of criteria

[25/01/2015 16:04:21] Ash Winter: as a mnemonic would be

[25/01/2015 16:04:24] Ash Winter: a good start

[25/01/2015 16:05:00] Christian Kram: uptodate and complete documentation is hardly ever seen

[25/01/2015 16:05:07] Weekend Testing Europe: ok, before we dive too deep into the what to test (but we will get to that) let's just make sure e can all use an API

[25/01/2015 16:05:09] Weekend Testing Europe: Today we're going to use the

Songkick API. Songkick is a service that matches users to live music events taking place near them (it also happens to be where I work..). The API should be returning the same data as the Songkick.com website.

You can use your web browser to make the API request - just stick use API requests like you would a website URL.

[25/01/2015 16:05:09] Ash Winter: Testing without a map

[25/01/2015 16:05:15] skg kamar: model:behaviour specification

[25/01/2015 16:05:23] Weekend Testing Europe: So an example API request is:

<http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/94437/calendar.xml?apikey=<apikey>>

Here we're requesting events for the artist Patti Smith (using her artist id). Hopefully the request looks pretty familiar to you. The ? is added to allow us to specify a value for the 'apikey' parameter.

[25/01/2015 16:05:25] Srinivas Kadiyala: personal challenge: we get API doc or details at end of functional testing :(

[25/01/2015 16:05:31] Christian Legget: Hello everyone, I've just been reading through everything. I've observed 2 challenges with API's -those that allow creation of data, (not just read as mentioned) and if/what/any of the validation is in place

[25/01/2015 16:05:48] Alan Richardson: Amy, you want us to test on the production API?

[25/01/2015 16:05:52] Weekend Testing Europe: Hi Christian, yes both very good points!

[25/01/2015 16:06:10] Weekend Testing Europe: Alan, yes. Please don't do any performance or security testing

[25/01/2015 16:06:18] Weekend Testing Europe: Some useful URLs:

<http://www.songkick.com>

You can find out about requests you can make to the API at <http://www.songkick.com/developer>

The www.songkick.com URL will give you useful data such as artist ids, location ids, event ids, and venue ids.

[25/01/2015 16:06:24] Daniel Billing: Patti Smith eh? :) is the artist defined by some sort of id?

[25/01/2015 16:06:29] Ash Winter: Standing down LoadUI. :)

[25/01/2015 16:06:44] Daniel Billing: LOL, no Zed Attack proxy people

[25/01/2015 16:06:47] Weekend Testing Europe: Ash, haha I'll look at you when I see the server errors going up!

[25/01/2015 16:06:48] Daniel Billing: or burpsuite

[25/01/2015 16:07:01] Weekend Testing Europe: Dan, yes all artists have an id

[25/01/2015 16:07:09] Weekend Testing Europe: The www.songkick.com URL will give you useful data such as artist ids, location ids, event ids, and venue ids.

[25/01/2015 16:07:34] Alan Richardson: Proxies can help use test APIs because we can replay messages and see response headers etc. Are we not allowed to use them during this exercise?

[25/01/2015 16:07:45] Weekend Testing Europe: Alan, you can use a proxy

[25/01/2015 16:07:55] Weekend Testing Europe: Please don't try to take the site down in any way

[25/01/2015 16:08:13] Weekend Testing Europe: First challenge:

See if you can verify if the correct events are being returned for the artist: The Prodigy
Bonus points if you listen to a Prodigy song whilst verifying ;)

Your API key for today is: <apikey>

[25/01/2015 16:08:49] Teri Charles: Sorry, not sure what we're supposed to be doing

[25/01/2015 16:09:05] Teri Charles: i've opened all of the URLs

[25/01/2015 16:09:17] Weekend Testing Europe: Teri, did you see the data returned by the example API request is: <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/94437/calendar.xml?apikey=<apikey>> ?

[25/01/2015 16:09:26] Teri Charles: yes

[25/01/2015 16:09:36] Weekend Testing Europe: That is the event calendar for Patti Smith (the artist)

[25/01/2015 16:09:44] Teri Charles: got it

[25/01/2015 16:09:48] Weekend Testing Europe: Now we're trying to find the event calendar for The Prodigy

[25/01/2015 16:10:11] Weekend Testing Europe: You can find out about requests you can make to the API at <http://www.songkick.com/developer>

[25/01/2015 16:10:21] Daniel Billing: I think i found the artist id for the prodigy

[25/01/2015 16:10:30] Alan Richardson: 88480

[25/01/2015 16:10:33] Weekend Testing Europe: Dan, great how did you go about it?

[25/01/2015 16:10:57] Daniel Billing: well...searched for them on the website, and extracted something that looked reasonable from the URL

[25/01/2015 16:10:58] Weekend Testing Europe: Alan, yep that's it

[25/01/2015 16:10:59] ra: 88480 it is

[25/01/2015 16:11:18] Ash Winter: Got it

[25/01/2015 16:11:27] Ash Winter: Exposed in the URL for Prodigy page

[25/01/2015 16:11:28] Weekend Testing Europe: and you can do the same thing to find the id for a venue, a location, or even a particular event

[25/01/2015 16:11:43] Teri Charles: Yes, for those of us that would like to learn more about API testing, it would be nice to know how people doing this

[25/01/2015 16:11:49] Daniel Billing: then crafted this URL to query the API <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/88480/calendar.xml?apikey=<apikey>>

[25/01/2015 16:12:04] Neil Studd: Ah, yes, for this exercise we could've just found The Prodigy's page on the website to get the ID.

[25/01/2015 16:12:14] Alan Richardson: I performed a manual search on the site for The Prodigy and took the ID from the url

[25/01/2015 16:12:18] Neil Studd: I got all programmatic and used a second API lookup, using the Artist Search: <http://www.songkick.com/developer/artist-search>

[25/01/2015 16:12:25] Ash Winter: I'm all about the direct route

[25/01/2015 16:12:26] ra: question: what is the API KEY doing more exactly ? (devil)

[25/01/2015 16:12:28] Neil Studd: But in this case, simpler would've been better ;)

[25/01/2015 16:12:31] Weekend Testing Europe: Neil, ah clever!

[25/01/2015 16:12:35] ra: let s hear some answers on that

[25/01/2015 16:12:43] Alan Richardson: If you remove the API key from the request then you will see what happens

[25/01/2015 16:13:02] Neil Studd: Ra: An API key is an identifier to say who's making the request. Most public APIs will require a key for ID purposes

[25/01/2015 16:13:05] ra: lol :)) alan

[25/01/2015 16:13:18] Neil Studd: The main benefit is that if somebody starts e.g.

doing a DDOS attack against your API, you can block their key.

[25/01/2015 16:13:20] Ash Winter: Or change it to an invalid one

[25/01/2015 16:13:26] Neil Studd: (Something which our key might be in danger of today ;))

[25/01/2015 16:13:34] Ash Winter: Yes it handles the exception

[25/01/2015 16:13:37] Daniel Billing: Based on your advice Amy, i found the API call for my local venue....The Cheese and Grain in Frome. I also discovered the API call is Case sensitive

[25/01/2015 16:13:39] Weekend Testing Europe: We use it to see what people are doing and it allows us to block access if needed

[25/01/2015 16:13:41] Daniel Billing: <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/venues/17456/calendar.xml?apikey=<apikey>>

[25/01/2015 16:13:48] John Beckett: Aha... a bit slow, buit found the ID!!

[25/01/2015 16:13:58] Daniel Billing: it threw an error when i had VENUES instead of venues

[25/01/2015 16:13:58] Weekend Testing Europe: Well done John

[25/01/2015 16:14:09] Srinivas Kadiyala: <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/106457/calendar.xml?apikey=<apikey>>

[25/01/2015 16:14:13] Alan Richardson: I really want a decent tool for viewing XML or JSON, is anyone using one?

[25/01/2015 16:14:30] Daniel Billing: I use The Postman Alan

[25/01/2015 16:14:31] ra: postman

[25/01/2015 16:14:32] kalyan yelisetty: little slow but here it is : [a href="/artists/88480-prodigy">The Prodigy](#)

[25/01/2015 16:14:42] Mark Winteringham: @alan_richardson <http://jsonlint.com/>

[25/01/2015 16:14:58] Ash Winter: Using Postman/Soap UI here

[25/01/2015 16:14:59] Mark Winteringham: Works well for small JSON snippets

[25/01/2015 16:15:03] Ash Winter: Generalists

[25/01/2015 16:15:07] dani.bonafe: I am using Advanced Rest Client at the moment but I usually use SoapUI at work

[25/01/2015 16:15:16] Christopher Chant: JSON Lint is pretty good but i tend to just use POSTMAN

[25/01/2015 16:15:24] Neil Studd: Alan: I would normally use Fiddler, mostly because of the ability to review/replay past queries, though not today obviously.

[25/01/2015 16:15:27] ra: fiddler is nice too

[25/01/2015 16:15:31] John Beckett: I just entered Prodigy and the key in the the request URL, and it returned me the XML with the ID. Is that correct?

[25/01/2015 16:15:32] Daniel Billing: a lot of the dev i work with use Lint

[25/01/2015 16:15:37] Neil Studd: Postman is good, as is the Advanced REST Client extension for Chrome: <https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/advanced-rest-client/hgmloofddfdnphfgcellkdfbfjeloo>

[25/01/2015 16:15:43] kalyan yelisetty: sublime is my favorite to view the data

[25/01/2015 16:15:43] Weekend Testing Europe: Just so we're on the same page.

The steps to take to find the artist calendar are:

1. Find the Prodigy artist on songkick website
2. Use the API docs to find the call we need
3. Request artist calendar from API using key
4. Compare data - manually or with tool

[25/01/2015 16:15:46] Srinivas Kadiyala: How to use - Postman ?

[25/01/2015 16:15:47] yule lobo: I used Artist Search API to get The Prodigy

[25/01/2015 16:15:48] yule lobo: http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/search/artists.xml?query={search_query}&apikey={your_api_key}

[25/01/2015 16:15:52] Daniel Billing: Yeah, Fiddler is a great way of investigating APIs

[25/01/2015 16:15:59] yule lobo: There is a url to get data in son too

[25/01/2015 16:16:10] Neil Studd: One particularly useful webtool is this one (Convert JSON to CSV): <http://konklone.io/json/?id=29d074442c81c458ea23>

[25/01/2015 16:16:11] yule lobo: <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/search/artists.xml?query=The%20Prodigy&apikey=<apikey>>

[25/01/2015 16:16:14] Weekend Testing Europe: Yule, John, did you manage to use the artist id to find an event calendar?

[25/01/2015 16:16:14] Daniel Billing: its a Chrome add on Sринi

[25/01/2015 16:16:23] Raghu: @neil : why not fiddler today? can you explain?

[25/01/2015 16:16:32] Neil Studd: I use Convert JSON to CSV everyday to turn API responses into tabular data, really easy to review results side-by-side

[25/01/2015 16:16:54] John Beckett: Lol! No I didn't. Is that the next step?

[25/01/2015 16:16:55] Christopher Chant: Thanks for sharing that Neil!

[25/01/2015 16:16:58] Alan Richardson: Switched over to Postman - the XML view is quite useful.

[25/01/2015 16:17:12] Neil Studd: Oh sorry Raghu, I saw Amy say "you can use a proxy" but I thought she said "you can't use a proxy" :)

[25/01/2015 16:17:14] Daniel Billing: yeah, sweet isn't it

[25/01/2015 16:17:15] Weekend Testing Europe: your request should look like: <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/88480/calendar.xml?apikey=<apikey>>

[25/01/2015 16:17:20] Neil Studd: So Fiddler is OK as long as you are not performance-testing it

[25/01/2015 16:17:21] Alan Richardson: It doesn't support xpath for searching so checking results might be a bit painful

[25/01/2015 16:17:28] Raghu: On 25/01/2015, at 16:15, Weekend Testing Europe wrote:

> 4. Compare data - manually or with tool

What needs to be compared with the xml output.. pls explain?

[25/01/2015 16:17:36] Ash Winter: I like two stages of tooling for API's

[25/01/2015 16:17:38] yule lobo: yes

[25/01/2015 16:17:39] Weekend Testing Europe: You can use any tools as long as they don't result in a developer shouting at me :)

[25/01/2015 16:17:43] Ash Winter: one to explore POSTMAN

[25/01/2015 16:17:50] ra: ::)))

[25/01/2015 16:17:52] Ash Winter: and one to build repeatable stuff

[25/01/2015 16:17:59] Ash Winter: like SOAPUI etc

[25/01/2015 16:18:12] Teri Charles: okay...i've got the page <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/88480/calendar.xml?apikey=<apikey>>

[25/01/2015 16:18:13] dani.bonafe: another vote for SoapUI here

[25/01/2015 16:18:17] Teri Charles: now what should we be doing?

[25/01/2015 16:19:06] Weekend Testing Europe: It's probably just worth me mentioning that the Songkick API docs (<http://www.songkick.com/developer>) give you the option to make an XML version of the call or a JSON version. This just determines the format your result will come back in. Unless you have a plugin installed on your browser I would recommend using the XML today just for ease of readability.

[25/01/2015 16:19:23] Weekend Testing Europe: OK, so is everyone comfortable with using an API?

[25/01/2015 16:19:23] Daniel Billing: This is some lovely XML ...

[25/01/2015 16:19:25] Daniel Billing: <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<resultsPage status="ok" perPage="50" page="1" totalEntries="8">

<results>

<event type="Concert" status="ok" ageRestriction="" uri="http://
www.songkick.com/concerts/22549148-think-floyd-at-cheese-and-grain?
utm_source=32113&utm_medium=partner" id="22549148" displayName="Think
Floyd at Cheese & Grain (January 30, 2015)" popularity="0.000283">

<start time="" datetime="" date="2015-01-30"/>

<performance id="44672668" billingIndex="1" billing="headline"
displayName="Think Floyd">

<artist uri="http://www.songkick.com/artists/271615-think-floyd?
utm_source=32113&utm_medium=partner" id="271615" displayName="Think
Floyd"/>

</performance>

<venue lat="51.2314591" lng="-2.320956" uri="http://www.songkick.com/
venues/17456-cheese-and-grain?utm_source=32113&utm_medium=partner"
id="17456" displayName="Cheese & Grain">

<metroArea uri="http://www.songkick.com/metro_areas/24597-uk-bath?
utm_source=32113&utm_medium=partner" id="24597" displayName="Bath">

<country displayName="UK"/>

</metroArea>

</venue>

<location city="Frome, UK" lat="51.2314591" lng="-2.320956"/>

</event>

<event t

[25/01/2015 16:19:47] Jignesh Nayi: I prefer json - http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/
artists/88480/calendar.json?apikey=<apikey>

[25/01/2015 16:19:53] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe has
ejected Teri Charles from this conversation

[25/01/2015 16:19:53] Jignesh Nayi: easier on my eyes

[25/01/2015 16:19:55] ra: me too

[25/01/2015 16:19:57] Daniel Billing: so, I've found out i can go and see Pink Floyd
cover band Think Floyd next week

[25/01/2015 16:20:02] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe added
Teri Charles to this conversation

[25/01/2015 16:20:03] Carol Brands: Reinvite Teri please!

[25/01/2015 16:20:04] Daniel Billing: I too prefer JSON

[25/01/2015 16:20:05] Ash Winter: So I guess the next question is do we understand
the message structure?

[25/01/2015 16:20:08] Philip Hoeben: I am figuring out what the advantage is of the
Postman packaged app over the Chrome browser add-on. Any ideas on this?

[25/01/2015 16:20:24] Weekend Testing Europe: Ash, you've got it!

[25/01/2015 16:20:32] Jignesh Nayi: you don't need chrome running

[25/01/2015 16:20:33] Daniel Billing: it has more features...

[25/01/2015 16:20:36] Neil Studd: Raghu: For comparisons, you might want to check
whether the website (which utilises the API) is returning the same results as the API.
For instance:

API results: <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/88480/calendar.xml?apikey=<apikey>>

Webpage: <http://www.songkick.com/artists/88480-prodigy/calendar>

[25/01/2015 16:20:45] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe has ejected Teri Charles from this conversation

[25/01/2015 16:20:57] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe added Teri Charles to this conversation

[25/01/2015 16:21:01] Weekend Testing Europe: Ping, Teri

[25/01/2015 16:21:04] Raghu: ok thanks Neil

[25/01/2015 16:21:10] Ash Winter: Its one thing to generate a response

[25/01/2015 16:21:17] Ash Winter: but another to validate it

[25/01/2015 16:21:31] Daniel Billing: if I were tasked with hacking this, I would look at ways data could be corrupted on the page, or maybe trapped and fiddled with...lots of things..but I won't i promise

[25/01/2015 16:22:03] Weekend Testing Europe: ok, so what data can we see in the artist calendar?

[25/01/2015 16:22:29] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe has ejected Teri Charles from this conversation

[25/01/2015 16:22:43] Ash Winter: Dates

[25/01/2015 16:22:44] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe added Teri Charles to this conversation

[25/01/2015 16:22:46] Daniel Billing: upcoming concerts

[25/01/2015 16:22:47] Daniel Billing: dates

[25/01/2015 16:22:49] Ash Winter: Location with Lat Long

[25/01/2015 16:22:50] Daniel Billing: venues

[25/01/2015 16:22:51] John Beckett: I see supporting artists

[25/01/2015 16:23:10] Srinivas Kadiyala: On 25/01/2015, at 16:16, Neil Studd wrote:
> I use Convert JSON to CSV everyday to turn API responses into tabular data, really easy to review results side-by-side

Thanks Neil.

[25/01/2015 16:23:32] John Beckett: or is that additional acts - Groove Armada, Gorrillaz

[25/01/2015 16:23:32] Ash Winter: billing status, headlining etc

[25/01/2015 16:23:45] Jignesh Nayi: status

[25/01/2015 16:23:51] dani.bonafe: URIs

[25/01/2015 16:24:04] Neil Studd: John: It seems to mix normal concerts with festivals (there is a type=Festival/Concert flag)

[25/01/2015 16:24:08] Neil Studd: Which is why some events seem to have many artists

[25/01/2015 16:24:17] Daniel Billing: set lists...you can then interrogate the XML files which link from the calendar

[25/01/2015 16:24:45] Neil Studd: Set lists, Dan? Aren't these future events - what set lists are you finding?

[25/01/2015 16:24:58] Teri Charles: hi. i got bumped out of this window and missed everything. so could we start over so i can know how to test APIs?

[25/01/2015 16:25:00] Teri Charles: kidding

[25/01/2015 16:25:02] Teri Charles: :-)

[25/01/2015 16:25:03] Daniel Billing: I found from copying a link from one of the calendar dates, and then adding the api key to the end

[25/01/2015 16:25:17] Daniel Billing: <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/mbid:2608faf7-43ee-421a-a89e-da28db1772d9.xml?apikey=<apikey>>

[25/01/2015 16:25:18] John Beckett: I was looking at wrong XML neil!!

[25/01/2015 16:25:36] Weekend Testing Europe: Set lists are fun. We removed them from the website many years ago but we can't change the API data structure because it's public

[25/01/2015 16:25:48] Neil Studd: Ah yes, as I suggested earlier :)

[25/01/2015 16:25:52] Ash Winter: Everything has an ID right?

[25/01/2015 16:25:54] Daniel Billing: so, i can access info you aren't making public

[25/01/2015 16:26:00] Ash Winter: To denote its uniqueness

[25/01/2015 16:26:03] John Beckett: I would look at the age restrictions for each band

[25/01/2015 16:26:04] Daniel Billing: via the web

[25/01/2015 16:26:08] Ash Winter: within the Songkick context

[25/01/2015 16:26:28] Weekend Testing Europe: Ash, yep that's right

[25/01/2015 16:26:32] ra: don't think that is info not public, it s info that they don't care about it. obsolete

[25/01/2015 16:26:37] Weekend Testing Europe: Dan, well it is public because it is in the api.

[25/01/2015 16:26:45] Weekend Testing Europe: this is a public api...

[25/01/2015 16:27:00] Ash Winter: Yes this is normal http right

[25/01/2015 16:27:01] ra: cause yes it is a public api

[25/01/2015 16:27:01] Daniel Billing: yes, but not obvious the the lay person, who is just using the web site

[25/01/2015 16:27:05] Ash Winter: Not https

[25/01/2015 16:27:10] Neil Studd: It looks to me like the ageRestriction value is always null, even on events that actually have an age restriction (I checked a few on Ticketmaster). Is that just because the age restrictions aren't being ingested when the data is imported?

[25/01/2015 16:27:21] Ash Winter: You just need a token to auth with

[25/01/2015 16:27:29] Weekend Testing Europe: Neil, it isn't but it is optional

[25/01/2015 16:27:38] Daniel Billing: yay, Torah Wilcox is coming to Frome ;)

[25/01/2015 16:27:45] Neil Studd: <http://www.o2academybirmingham.co.uk/event/73820/the-prodigy-tickets>

"Minimum age is 8" - gosh I'm getting old

[25/01/2015 16:27:47] Daniel Billing: Toyah rather

[25/01/2015 16:27:57] ra: lol

[25/01/2015 16:28:18] John Beckett: Minimum age to see the prodigy, are you kidding??

[25/01/2015 16:28:25] John Beckett: is 8?

[25/01/2015 16:28:35] Weekend Testing Europe: John, start em young :)

[25/01/2015 16:28:44] Alan Richardson: Found this quite useful to check the XML output against the website <http://codebeautify.org/Xpath-Tester>

[25/01/2015 16:28:45] Neil Studd: "U14s must be accompanied" but I guess there's a lot of light/smoke which would make it unsuitable for the very young

[25/01/2015 16:28:45] Daniel Billing: I saw them at 16...that does make me feel old

[25/01/2015 16:28:54] Teri Charles: not that i expect you all to go over everything, but i missed most of this conversation because i got bumped out of this session on Skype. could you at least tell me what we should be doing after opening this page? <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/88480/calendar.xml?apikey=<apikey>>

[25/01/2015 16:28:57] Weekend Testing Europe: Alan, very nice! Thanks
[25/01/2015 16:29:12] Alan Richardson: Then I can use xpath on the xml to check the results e.g. //event/@displayName
[25/01/2015 16:29:15] Daniel Billing: just explore, see if you can find other artists
[25/01/2015 16:29:16] John Beckett: I would hate the q: 'Daddy, What's Smack my bitch up?' Um....
[25/01/2015 16:29:19] Neil Studd: Alan that's great
[25/01/2015 16:29:25] Alan Richardson: Shows me all the display names and I can read them on the web page
[25/01/2015 16:29:31] Teri Charles: where is the 'testing' portion of opening that page come in?
[25/01/2015 16:29:32] Neil Studd: That's something I'll be using immediately tomorrow.
[25/01/2015 16:29:34] Daniel Billing: how'd you do that Alan?
[25/01/2015 16:29:36] Ash Winter: That is cool
[25/01/2015 16:29:37] Weekend Testing Europe: Teri, that is the data being returned from the API. You can compare against the website or test
[25/01/2015 16:29:42] Ash Winter: I like xmltoolbox
[25/01/2015 16:29:52] Ash Winter: and extra's for Notepad++
[25/01/2015 16:29:55] Neil Studd: On 25/01/2015, at 16:20, Neil Studd wrote:
> For comparisons, you might want to check whether the website (which utilises the API) is returning the same results as the API. For instance:

API results: <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/88480/calendar.xml?apikey=<apikey>>
Webpage: <http://www.songkick.com/artists/88480-prodigy/calendar>

[25/01/2015 16:30:01] Neil Studd: ^ Teri
[25/01/2015 16:30:01] Ash Winter: are good for validation too
[25/01/2015 16:30:04] Weekend Testing Europe: Teri, ah we're just diving into that! what you see there is an API response. So as a tester how would be want to check it is correct?
[25/01/2015 16:30:05] Teri Charles: what are we 'testing'?
[25/01/2015 16:30:13] Weekend Testing Europe: Anyone?
[25/01/2015 16:30:21] Teri Charles: so check against the GUI?
[25/01/2015 16:30:24] Teri Charles: same results?
[25/01/2015 16:30:31] Ash Winter: Bingo!
[25/01/2015 16:30:40] Ash Winter: Oracles please?
[25/01/2015 16:30:41] Weekend Testing Europe: yep, we would want to test that an API returns the correct data
[25/01/2015 16:30:45] Weekend Testing Europe: any other ideas?
[25/01/2015 16:30:50] Ash Winter: Another site
[25/01/2015 16:30:58] Ash Winter: prodigy official site
[25/01/2015 16:30:58] Teri Charles: so whatever is on the API results should be in the GUI?
[25/01/2015 16:31:07] dani.bonafe: I would check it against the API specifications and the DB
[25/01/2015 16:31:14] dani.bonafe: for the data returned
[25/01/2015 16:31:16] Weekend Testing Europe: Terri, in this case yes
[25/01/2015 16:31:23] Weekend Testing Europe: Dani, yep that's good

[25/01/2015 16:31:36] Daniel Billing: you might also want to compare
[25/01/2015 16:31:40] Weekend Testing Europe: You have API docs available at <http://www.songkick.com/developer>
[25/01/2015 16:31:46] Daniel Billing: with another gui, such as mobile
[25/01/2015 16:31:56] Teri Charles: @dani: but if it's in the API results, shouldn't it be in the DB? or is that where we don't want to 'assume' it is and go and verify?
[25/01/2015 16:32:03] Neil Studd: To be honest, this isn't the level at which I'd focus most of my time. Here, we're looking at an API response, and seeing whether the webpage (which makes the same API query) displays the same data. I would think in most cases, these would match; though obviously there could be rendering issues.

I would be focusing more of my time (as I am on my current project) checking that the API response itself is correct - e.g. we are seeing 12 Prodigy events, comparing against the raw database to see whether this is the correct number

[25/01/2015 16:32:07] Daniel Billing: or proxy a mobile app/device to see how it uses the API in comparison with the web site

[25/01/2015 16:32:15] Ash Winter: It's another what are we testing question

[25/01/2015 16:32:15] Neil Studd: (Obviously we can't fire-up your underlying live database during this session!) :)

[25/01/2015 16:32:23] Ash Winter: that the data is correct

[25/01/2015 16:32:31] Weekend Testing Europe: Ash, ;)

[25/01/2015 16:32:37] Ash Winter: or that some data is returned

[25/01/2015 16:32:46] Carol Brands: @Neil, that's what I was thinking. It feels like if the website uses the API and we use the API and compare against the website, we're testing the website not the API

[25/01/2015 16:33:06] Weekend Testing Europe: Even leaving the data aside there is lots of test

[25/01/2015 16:33:14] Weekend Testing Europe: How about checking that the data structure is valid?

[25/01/2015 16:33:22] Neil Studd: @Carol @WTEU agreed - there are a number of things we are testing here

[25/01/2015 16:33:35] Daniel Billing: so, are artists only contained within <artists> tags and so on

[25/01/2015 16:33:39] yule lobo: We are testing the API, hence we need to validate the results given by the API matches with the DB

[25/01/2015 16:34:00] Teri Charles: but since we don't have access to this sites DB, what should we be testing?

[25/01/2015 16:34:05] Alan Richardson: The server has business rules to convert the API to the displayed text, for most of the items in the calendar it shows the venue displayName, unless that is unknown in which case it uses the event displayName - So we might need to know the business rules for this as well.

[25/01/2015 16:34:32] Weekend Testing Europe: Teri, well in this case you can trust me that the data on the API should match the website (but only because I know the architecture of this site and API)

[25/01/2015 16:34:44] Jignesh Nayi: Jignesh Nayi has left the conversation

[25/01/2015 16:34:50] Ash Winter: Indeed we might only see upcoming (next few months) not all

[25/01/2015 16:34:52] Weekend Testing Europe: Alan, yes that's a good one

[25/01/2015 16:35:16] Weekend Testing Europe: So maybe we would want to check the calendar for an artist who isn't on tour?

[25/01/2015 16:35:25] Daniel Billing: I tried that, for Queen
[25/01/2015 16:35:39] Philip Hoeben: I tried that for some artists not touring
[25/01/2015 16:35:51] Philip Hoeben: <resultsPage status="ok" perPage="50" page="1" totalEntries="0">
<results/>
</resultsPage>
[25/01/2015 16:36:00] Weekend Testing Europe: or someone who has a large tour. Did anyone notice the page count at the top of the API response?
[25/01/2015 16:36:14] Teri Charles: @WTEU: i may have missed this discussion, but how does one read what's in the API results to be able to then verify the same info on the browser results?
[25/01/2015 16:36:17] Weekend Testing Europe: Thanks, Philip. That's the bit I was referring to :)
[25/01/2015 16:36:17] Teri Charles: not very readable
[25/01/2015 16:36:33] Weekend Testing Europe: Teri, which browser are you using?
[25/01/2015 16:36:37] Teri Charles: firefox
[25/01/2015 16:36:48] Daniel Billing: URL for Queen's calendar
[25/01/2015 16:36:49] Daniel Billing: <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/469904/calendar.xml?apikey=<apikey>>
[25/01/2015 16:37:06] Carol Brands: YOu can copy and paste into here <http://jsonlint.com/>
[25/01/2015 16:37:07] Weekend Testing Europe: Some render JSON and XML kinder than others. The XML fields show the field label before the data
[25/01/2015 16:37:13] Daniel Billing: it shows Past results on the web, so something else must be happening to make that happen, as no data is in the api response
[25/01/2015 16:37:22] Carol Brands: that's what I just did for the Prodigy example
[25/01/2015 16:37:37] Weekend Testing Europe: Dan, good spot. We only show upcoming shows on the API
[25/01/2015 16:37:52] Weekend Testing Europe: Anyone managed to get anywhere with the pagination?
[25/01/2015 16:37:57] Neil Studd: Dan: <http://www.songkick.com/developer/past-events-for-artist>
[25/01/2015 16:38:03] Neil Studd: Allows you to see "gigography" (past events)
[25/01/2015 16:38:22] Daniel Billing: which is inaccurate because Queen are about to go on tour with another new singer
[25/01/2015 16:38:33] Daniel Billing: Ticketmaster have results for that
[25/01/2015 16:38:59] Neil Studd: Dan: <http://www.songkick.com/artists/7919599-queen-adam-lambert>
[25/01/2015 16:39:09] skg kamar: what a fun !
[25/01/2015 16:39:13] Christian Kram: why is the api result the same for non-touring band IDs and not existing IDs?
[25/01/2015 16:39:19] Neil Studd: Though that was 15th in the search results for Queen
[25/01/2015 16:39:25] Daniel Billing: separate artist record for Queen vs Queen with Adam Lambert
[25/01/2015 16:39:29] Daniel Billing: confusing
[25/01/2015 16:39:37] Carol Brands: The documentation says "Pagination

Results are paginated and can be navigated with:

api.songkick.com/api/3.0/artists/313388/calendar.json?apikey=<apikey>&page=2

[25/01/2015 16:46:35] Weekend Testing Europe: (y) that's it, Yule

[25/01/2015 16:46:47] Weekend Testing Europe: So do we have any test ideas around the pagination?

[25/01/2015 16:47:18] Daniel Billing: {"resultsPage":{"status":"ok","results":{},"perPage":50,"page":10000,"totalEntries":60}}

[25/01/2015 16:47:26] Ash Winter: So can we POST to the Songkick API and create data?

[25/01/2015 16:47:41] Ash Winter: There is a users part of the API spec

[25/01/2015 16:47:42] Daniel Billing: i tried extreming the number of pages in the request...saw how the API responded

[25/01/2015 16:47:43] Weekend Testing Europe: Ash, no I'm afraid not. What sort of thing would you post if you could?

[25/01/2015 16:47:49] Philip Hoeben: when the page number exceeds the number of pages, you get some info about the number of entries

[25/01/2015 16:47:58] Ash Winter: Well, user preferences maybe?

[25/01/2015 16:48:12] Ash Winter: Like types of music they like, venues

[25/01/2015 16:48:14] Daniel Billing: indeed...60 in this case

[25/01/2015 16:48:18] Ash Winter: Feedback on gigs?

[25/01/2015 16:48:35] Ash Winter: We've not really done http methods?

[25/01/2015 16:48:50] Ash Winter: Its a GET only thing in this example.

[25/01/2015 16:48:58] yule lobo: i gave a very large page number and the result was

[25/01/2015 16:48:58] yule lobo: {"resultsPage":{"status":"error","error":{"message":"Internal error. We are on it!"}}}

[25/01/2015 16:49:11] yule lobo: shouldn't the message have looked like this

[25/01/2015 16:49:11] yule lobo: {"resultsPage":{"status":"ok","results":{},"perPage":50,"page":1000,"totalEntries":60}}

[25/01/2015 16:49:30] Philip Hoeben: cool ok, I was a bit modest with my page number

[25/01/2015 16:49:36] Weekend Testing Europe: Ash, nope they're not really services we support. The API is mostly used by people wanting to make their own event calendars for certain venues/artists

[25/01/2015 16:49:45] Weekend Testing Europe: Yule, fantastic! Our first bug

[25/01/2015 16:49:55] Ash Winter: Cool cheers

[25/01/2015 16:49:57] Weekend Testing Europe: Which number did you use?

[25/01/2015 16:50:00] Ash Winter: Well done Yule!

[25/01/2015 16:50:12] ra: (y)

[25/01/2015 16:50:23] yule lobo: 1000000000000000000

[25/01/2015 16:50:31] Daniel Billing: more than I did...so more than 10000000

[25/01/2015 16:50:45] Daniel Billing: nice job Yule

[25/01/2015 16:50:48] Christian Kram: seems that 18digits are too much

[25/01/2015 16:50:59] yule lobo: works fine till 100000000000000000

[25/01/2015 16:51:00] Philip Hoeben: using eeeeeeeeeee as page number . Looks like all pages are displayed

[25/01/2015 16:51:07] yule lobo: that is one digit lesser than the previous

[25/01/2015 16:51:11] Weekend Testing Europe: 18 digits sounds significant. Philip hehe nice!

[25/01/2015 16:51:27] Weekend Testing Europe: Ok, so this might be a little meta but imagine you are a mobile app that is using this API. What do you expect?

[25/01/2015 16:52:15] Christian Kram: every negative page number is supposed to

display page 1?

[25/01/2015 16:52:31] Weekend Testing Europe: Christian, I have no idea! Does it?

[25/01/2015 16:52:44] Christian Kram: yes

[25/01/2015 16:52:49] Alan Richardson: 0, does, as does -ve

[25/01/2015 16:53:01] Daniel Billing: yeah, it strips any nasties out...

[25/01/2015 16:53:02] Weekend Testing Europe: ok, I'm not sure. I'll have to check

[25/01/2015 16:53:34] yule lobo: If devs have not handled the error message response, app would certainly crash

[25/01/2015 16:53:39] Weekend Testing Europe: APIs are interesting because they are so an easy place for security attacks. Always worth taking some time to test for things like this

[25/01/2015 16:53:40] Philip Hoeben: no page numbering and /:"{}!@#\$\$%^&*()) shows the same result. I guess daniel is right

[25/01/2015 16:53:56] Weekend Testing Europe: Yule, yep. And a crashing API is probably pretty severe

[25/01/2015 16:54:15] yule lobo: yes indeed

[25/01/2015 16:54:43] Christian Kram: , and . are stripped as well

[25/01/2015 16:55:07] Alan Richardson: Which artist is this? <http://www.songkick.com/artists/593801>

[25/01/2015 16:55:19] Alan Richardson: I'm not up to date on the music scene, are they real?

[25/01/2015 16:55:23] Daniel Billing: lol

[25/01/2015 16:55:28] Daniel Billing: nice one alan

[25/01/2015 16:55:28] Carol Brands: Is there a way to get a list of the error messages you can expect from the API so you can handle them gracefully?

[25/01/2015 16:55:36] Weekend Testing Europe: Alan, who knows! They might be

[25/01/2015 16:55:38] Mark Winteringham: https://www.facebook.com/wearethedash/app_2405167945

[25/01/2015 16:55:40] Srinivas Kadiyala: On 25/01/2015, at 16:37, Carol Brands wrote:

> YOu can copy and paste into here <http://jsonlint.com/>

I see this error msg:

Parse error on line 1:

<resultsPagestatus="

^

Expecting '{', '['

[25/01/2015 16:55:42] Neil Studd: Friends with this lot <http://www.songkick.com/artists/212926-tbc>

[25/01/2015 16:55:43] Weekend Testing Europe: !!! is real

[25/01/2015 16:56:08] Daniel Billing: and so i Δ

[25/01/2015 16:56:13] Daniel Billing: Alt-J

[25/01/2015 16:56:15] Weekend Testing Europe: Yep, try googling them

[25/01/2015 16:56:33] Weekend Testing Europe: and not all artists have unique names which makes things interesting

[25/01/2015 16:56:57] Weekend Testing Europe: Ok, so if I were an API app then I'm going to hope the API is consistent, as in the data is always structured in the same way

[25/01/2015 16:57:15] Neil Studd: @Srinivas, that's because you are pasting XML. The API can return results in either XML or JSON format; modify the API URL

from .xml to .json and you will get a compatible results page

[25/01/2015 16:57:30] Daniel Billing: so, you can't search for Alt-J and get what you expect using Δ

[25/01/2015 16:57:45] Alan Richardson: I find it interesting that the elements on the artist are not in the same order for each artist. I wonder why?

[25/01/2015 16:57:58] Alan Richardson: When I search that is

[25/01/2015 16:58:06] Weekend Testing Europe: That's interesting

[25/01/2015 16:58:11] Weekend Testing Europe: Do you have some examples?

[25/01/2015 16:58:16] Alan Richardson: http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/search/artists.xml?query=*&apikey=<apikey>

[25/01/2015 16:59:03] Weekend Testing Europe: That is very odd

[25/01/2015 16:59:08] Weekend Testing Europe: and probably a bug

[25/01/2015 17:00:15] Ash Winter: XML is inherently non ordered

[25/01/2015 17:00:17] Daniel Billing: Amy, does Songkick present the home page via some sort of location tracking?

[25/01/2015 17:00:25] Ash Winter: Different each time its returned

[25/01/2015 17:00:49] Ash Winter: within an element specifically

[25/01/2015 17:00:51] Philip Hoeben: @Alan is the data (tag level) the same for all artists? So they have the same fields and all are required?

[25/01/2015 17:00:56] yule lobo: i see them ordered in json

[25/01/2015 17:00:59] Weekend Testing Europe: Dan, yes there is some stuff in there

[25/01/2015 17:01:21] Neil Studd: @Dan: See "<place name> concerts" in the header, you can expand it and change it

[25/01/2015 17:01:50] Srinivas Kadiyala: On 25/01/2015, at 16:46, Weekend Testing Europe wrote:

> Srinivas, no, hopefully you can't change the XML. This API actually only allows you to request data so you can't affect the website

So, I can do only: Read functionality in CRUD

[25/01/2015 17:02:21] Weekend Testing Europe: Srinivas, yes

[25/01/2015 17:02:38] Weekend Testing Europe: Everyone know CRUD? Create, Read, Update, Delete

[25/01/2015 17:02:48] Daniel Billing: yep :)

[25/01/2015 17:02:55] Weekend Testing Europe: (y)

[25/01/2015 17:02:57] Weekend Testing Europe: You can't test this today but something to keep in mind is the possibility the API will be down (for maintenance). The API needs to return the correct error code so that clients know what to do.

[25/01/2015 17:02:58] Ash Winter: Me too

[25/01/2015 17:03:22] Weekend Testing Europe: If you're testing an API make sure you have some way to break it or switch it off

[25/01/2015 17:03:39] Weekend Testing Europe: and same as all test things, make sure you can get to the logs

[25/01/2015 17:03:58] Weekend Testing Europe: I'm going to go off after this and see what you all got up to ;)

[25/01/2015 17:04:27] Neil Studd: Amy, I'm hoping for a graph of Error Counts which shows it at its highest figure for months!

[25/01/2015 17:04:39] Weekend Testing Europe: Neil, that sounds pretty likely!

[25/01/2015 17:05:24] Weekend Testing Europe: We're into our final 30 minutes of today's session! We've talked about a whole load of API usage and testing stuff. We touched upon Security but we have lots more to share on that, watch for the links in

the session writeup.

[25/01/2015 17:06:04] Daniel Billing: Can I ask, would folks like a separate session on API Security in the future?

[25/01/2015 17:06:07] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe has ejected Teri Charles from this conversation

[25/01/2015 17:06:17] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe added Teri Charles to this conversation

[25/01/2015 17:06:17] yule lobo: yes that would be great

[25/01/2015 17:06:20] Christopher Chant: That'd be great Dan

[25/01/2015 17:06:23] dani.bonafe: yes please!

[25/01/2015 17:06:26] Ash Winter: That would be great

[25/01/2015 17:06:27] kalyan yelisetty: I'm interested

[25/01/2015 17:06:30] Philip Hoeben: yes please Daniel

[25/01/2015 17:06:35] Ash Winter: Load testing as well would be useful

[25/01/2015 17:06:37] Weekend Testing Europe: Sounds like that's a yes!

[25/01/2015 17:06:37] Christian Kram: would be interesting, yes.

[25/01/2015 17:06:38] Daniel Billing: so, thats something to happen then ;)

[25/01/2015 17:06:43] Weekend Testing Europe: Ash, yep that's a goodie

[25/01/2015 17:06:53] Weekend Testing Europe: we'll add them to our Trello

[25/01/2015 17:06:55] Christian Legget: yes please :)

[25/01/2015 17:07:01] Vladislava Surdolova: API Security - sure sounds great :)

[25/01/2015 17:07:18] Weekend Testing Europe: Who would like to attempt to summarise an approach to API testing?

[25/01/2015 17:07:38] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe set topic to "WTEU-53: DEBRIEF TIME"

[25/01/2015 17:07:52] Ash Winter: There are a bunch of testing mnemonics here for apis - http://www.qualityperspectives.ca/resources_mnemonics.html

[25/01/2015 17:08:06] Ash Winter: Including mine of course ;)

[25/01/2015 17:08:11] Weekend Testing Europe: Lovely, thanks Ash. We'll add that to our session writeup

[25/01/2015 17:08:28] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe has ejected Teri Charles from this conversation

[25/01/2015 17:08:35] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe added Teri Charles to this conversation

[25/01/2015 17:08:50] Ash Winter: An approach?

[25/01/2015 17:09:07] Ash Winter: So, you need eyes on the contract/definition/documentation

[25/01/2015 17:09:12] Ash Winter: Tools to explore

[25/01/2015 17:09:19] Ash Winter: Tools to automate

[25/01/2015 17:09:22] Ash Winter: Data

[25/01/2015 17:09:22] Daniel Billing: I always try and consider who/what needs to consume the API's output

[25/01/2015 17:09:32] Ash Winter: A testing mission no less!

[25/01/2015 17:09:45] Ash Winter: Who is for to solve what problem

[25/01/2015 17:09:53] Ash Winter: or realise what benefit

[25/01/2015 17:10:19] Ash Winter: Access to web logs I would say

[25/01/2015 17:10:43] Carol Brands: reinvoke Teri

[25/01/2015 17:10:50] Ash Winter: an enquiring mind

[25/01/2015 17:10:58] Ash Winter: always

[25/01/2015 17:11:02] Daniel Billing: I'd hope we all have those Ash ;)

[25/01/2015 17:11:07] Daniel Billing: otherwise, what are we doing here

[25/01/2015 17:11:09] Daniel Billing: lol

[25/01/2015 17:11:11] Ash Winter: :)

[25/01/2015 17:11:30] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe has ejected Teri Charles from this conversation

[25/01/2015 17:11:38] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe added Teri Charles to this conversation

[25/01/2015 17:12:06] Weekend Testing Europe: Yep, APIs aren't so different from testing websites. Just don't expect any pretty interfaces

[25/01/2015 17:12:32] Weekend Testing Europe: The best thing is to be comfortable using an API to get data.

[25/01/2015 17:12:50] Neil Studd: But there are plenty of tools that you can use to display responses in a more human-readable format

[25/01/2015 17:13:04] Neil Studd: And a standardised data structure can make it much easier to automate at this level, compared to (say) through a web browser.

[25/01/2015 17:13:23] Srinivas Kadiyala: On 25/01/2015, at 16:57, Neil Studd wrote:
> @Srinivas, that's because you are pasting XML. The API can return results in either XML or JSON format; modify the API URL from .xml to .json and you will get a compatible results page

Oh sorry.

[25/01/2015 17:13:26] Daniel Billing: Do you use any kind of automated checking on your API Amy?

[25/01/2015 17:13:30] Weekend Testing Europe: Thanks Neil, good points. An API should be readable but it won't have animated gifs...

[25/01/2015 17:13:39] Christian Legget: neil - do you have any tips on mapping the scope of the API to discover the methods available assuming documentation is either not present/incorrect?

[25/01/2015 17:13:57] Weekend Testing Europe: Dan, most of the API is tested with unit tests but I don't use anything for checking my tests

[25/01/2015 17:14:09] Daniel Billing: :)

[25/01/2015 17:14:26] Weekend Testing Europe: Dan, could you spider an API using ZAP (for example?)

[25/01/2015 17:14:44] Daniel Billing: you could precisely do that...it would explore all the endpoints for you

[25/01/2015 17:14:52] Daniel Billing: BUT Spiders can bite, so be careful

[25/01/2015 17:15:02] Daniel Billing: we could explore that another time

[25/01/2015 17:15:06] Daniel Billing: ?

[25/01/2015 17:15:09] Weekend Testing Europe: Sounds fun

[25/01/2015 17:15:11] Neil Studd: @Christian: I'm going to write a blog post about scoping API testing in the next few days, as a result of this session, and also because it's what I'm actually doing in my job right now! I just need to anonymise some of the examples that I will use.

[25/01/2015 17:15:22] Alan Richardson: A spider crawls what it can see, how would it find new end points?

[25/01/2015 17:16:15] Christian Legget: thanks neil...look forward to reading it

[25/01/2015 17:16:31] Daniel Billing: I meant through exploring with it - maybe i should use end points more accurately

[25/01/2015 17:17:01] Daniel Billing: (I've dropped a db using a spider, hence my warning)

[25/01/2015 17:17:03] Srinivas Kadiyala: Is this statement wrong?

<http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/search/artists.xml?displayName=%E3%82%B5%E3%83%B3%E3%83%9C%E3%83%9E%E3%82%B9%E3%82%BF%E3%83%BC&apikey=<apikey>>

[25/01/2015 17:17:21] Srinivas Kadiyala: <artist displayName="サンボマスター">

[25/01/2015 17:17:42] Ash Winter: Mixing charsets there I think

[25/01/2015 17:17:45] Srinivas Kadiyala: took displayName from this link

http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/search/artists.xml?query=*&apikey=<apikey>

[25/01/2015 17:17:54] Ash Winter: the browser may not understand

[25/01/2015 17:18:03] Srinivas Kadiyala: Chrome Browser

[25/01/2015 17:18:07] Ash Winter: but in terms of wrong, that a discussion

[25/01/2015 17:18:29] Ash Winter: deeper than that I think most requests in UTF-8 charset

[25/01/2015 17:18:55] Alan Richardson: I'm not sure exactly what the search matches on I see strange(ish) results that I haven't figured out why yet

[25/01/2015 17:19:20] Weekend Testing Europe: It's most likely a string match but there are some oddities in the Songkick search

[25/01/2015 17:19:26] Alan Richardson: e.g. <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/search/artists.xml?query={}&apikey=<apikey>>

[25/01/2015 17:19:35] Daniel Billing: Amy...whilst you've been testing this API at work, whats the most surprising thing you have ever uncovered?

[25/01/2015 17:19:36] Alan Richardson: is equivalent to [http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/search/artists.xml?query=\\$&apikey=<apikey>](http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/search/artists.xml?query=$&apikey=<apikey>)

[25/01/2015 17:19:39] Alan Richardson: etc.

[25/01/2015 17:20:06] Weekend Testing Europe: Dan, I think it's the parameters that get ignored. I'm not sure why

[25/01/2015 17:20:31] Weekend Testing Europe: http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/users/bumblelion/calendar.xml?reason=attendance&per_page=50&apikey=<apikey>&min_date=2011-10-04&max_date=2014-10-25

Notice that there are events beyond the max_date parameter

[25/01/2015 17:21:20] Weekend Testing Europe: Only surprising as a user of course,

the devs aren't surprised because we didn't write the code to make this work

[25/01/2015 17:21:21] Daniel Billing: yeah, one here for the 27th Jan

[25/01/2015 17:21:44] Daniel Billing: lol

[25/01/2015 17:21:51] Srinivas Kadiyala: I wanted to know - How do we get EventID ?

[25/01/2015 17:22:13] Weekend Testing Europe: Srinivas, same method as the artist. Find it on the website and then grab the id out of the URL

[25/01/2015 17:23:04] Srinivas Kadiyala: Okay, got it

[25/01/2015 17:23:36] Weekend Testing Europe: great

[25/01/2015 17:23:38] Weekend Testing Europe: Before we wrap up I need to tell you that the API key isn't going to be shared in the session writeup. You can keep using it for exploring if you want to but please don't break anything. If you need a key later then just ask me (amy@songkick.com)

[25/01/2015 17:24:16] Weekend Testing Europe: Does anyone have any final questions about how to use or test an API?

[25/01/2015 17:24:20] Srinivas Kadiyala: <http://www.songkick.com/tickets/17184313?>

[25/01/2015 17:24:35] Srinivas Kadiyala: http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/events/{event_id}.xml?apikey={your_api_key}

[25/01/2015 17:24:42] Srinivas Kadiyala: <http://api.songkick.com/api/3.0/events/17184313.xml?apikey=<apikey>>

[25/01/2015 17:24:43] Daniel Billing: Its probably worth understanding the error responses from an API, as they are slightly different from a web page

[25/01/2015 17:24:48] Srinivas Kadiyala: `<resultsPage status="error">
<error message="Resource not found"/>
</resultsPage>`

[25/01/2015 17:25:11] Weekend Testing Europe: Srinivas - <https://www.songkick.com/concerts/21314563>

[25/01/2015 17:25:17] Daniel Billing: <https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/azure/dd179357.aspx> this page is specific to a REST API...but it should be a good start point

[25/01/2015 17:25:21] Weekend Testing Europe: The one with tickets in is the URL to the ticket provider

[25/01/2015 17:25:21] Raghu: Amy, any good intro material for API testing?

[25/01/2015 17:25:35] Weekend Testing Europe: Thanks, Dan!

[25/01/2015 17:25:50] Weekend Testing Europe: Raghu, I have some links for the write up. If anyone has anything they use then please drop it in here

[25/01/2015 17:26:20] Daniel Billing: that one is for the Microsoft Azure web api

[25/01/2015 17:26:25] Weekend Testing Europe: but, Raghu, if there is a particular aspect you're looking for then let me know and I'll see what I can find

[25/01/2015 17:26:46] Srinivas Kadiyala: @Lorinda shared this valuable resource: <http://www.soapui.org/testing-doj/welcome-to-the-doj/overview.html>

[25/01/2015 17:26:48] Raghu: sure Amy..

[25/01/2015 17:27:03] Weekend Testing Europe: Thanks, Srinivas!

[25/01/2015 17:27:12] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe set topic to "WTEU-53: SUMMARY/CLOSING"

[25/01/2015 17:27:18] Ash Winter: Investigate a few key technologies before you go too deep

[25/01/2015 17:27:33] Ash Winter: w3schools website for XML, XSLT etc

[25/01/2015 17:28:05] Daniel Billing: a few of us have mentioned The Postman as a great tool to visualise your API testing...here it is <http://www.getpostman.com/>

[25/01/2015 17:28:38] yule lobo: do we need to know DB. How do i determine that API is generating correct results?

[25/01/2015 17:28:39] Alan Richardson: You can find plenty of APIs at <http://www.programmableweb.com/>

[25/01/2015 17:28:49] Amit: For automation purposes, "Requests" is a great python library

[25/01/2015 17:28:51] Alan Richardson: Also many of the apps on bitnami.com VMs have APIs for local testing

[25/01/2015 17:29:04] Alan Richardson: I use RestAssured as my main Java library

[25/01/2015 17:29:12] Ash Winter: <http://www.webservicex.net/ws/default.aspx>

[25/01/2015 17:29:14] Carol Brands: Justin Rohrman has a good article/walkthrough <http://www.stickyminds.com/article/getting-started-api-test-automation>

[25/01/2015 17:29:27] Weekend Testing Europe: Yule, generally yes, you would need somewhere to verify your data against

[25/01/2015 17:29:39] Weekend Testing Europe: Lovely, thanks for all the great links!

[25/01/2015 17:30:04] Weekend Testing Europe:

We'll get the session write-up and additional reading out to you as soon as we can. Expect some follow up API sessions.

If you write a blog/report about this session, let us know (either by email to europetesters@gmail.com, or by including @europetesters in a tweet) and we'll link to your article from the session page.

[25/01/2015 17:30:05] Philip Hoeben: You may want to google for Kin Lane. He writes a lot about APIs

[25/01/2015 17:30:07] yule lobo: ok any links that you can point me to perform validation of data for API testing?

[25/01/2015 17:30:39] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe set topic to "WTEU-53: ENDWe're out of time! Thank you all for attending, I hope you've enjoyed it as much as I have. Keep an eye on WeekendTesting.com for details of next month's session."

[25/01/2015 17:30:51] Weekend Testing Europe: Weekend Testing Europe set topic to "WTEU-53: END"

[25/01/2015 17:30:55] Weekend Testing Europe: We're out of time! Thank you all for attending, I hope you've enjoyed it as much as I have. Keep an eye on WeekendTesting.com for details of next month's session.

[25/01/2015 17:31:06] Weekend Testing Europe: Thanks everyone! This has been great

[25/01/2015 17:31:10] Christopher Chant: Thanks for organising this guys!

[25/01/2015 17:31:13] Daniel Billing: Its been great Amy :)

[25/01/2015 17:31:14] Alan Richardson: Thanks

[25/01/2015 17:31:15] Kadri-Annagret: Thank you!

[25/01/2015 17:31:15] Christopher Chant: See you all next time

[25/01/2015 17:31:17] Ash Winter: Thanks all, couple of hours of learning gone in a flash

[25/01/2015 17:31:19] yule lobo: thanks guys

[25/01/2015 17:31:20] Philip Hoeben: thanks for hosting!

[25/01/2015 17:31:20] dani.bonafe: thanks a lot guys!

[25/01/2015 17:31:24] Aleksandar Simic: Thanks

[25/01/2015 17:31:24] Amit: Thanks all !!

[25/01/2015 17:31:26] Christian Kram: thanks for the session, that was very interesting!

[25/01/2015 17:31:27] Ash Winter: Thanks for organising!

[25/01/2015 17:31:33] Vladislava Surdolova: Thanks!

[25/01/2015 17:31:34] kalyan yelisetty: thank u all, learned many things

[25/01/2015 17:31:40] Christian Legget: thanks Amy, Dan, Neil - its been great learning window

[25/01/2015 17:31:58] Adina Moldovan: thanks. Have a nice evening!

[25/01/2015 17:31:58] Weekend Testing Europe: You're all welcome. Let's keep the conversation going! Tweet or email us links, blog posts or anything else that we can share

[25/01/2015 17:32:08] Weekend Testing Europe: Hope to see you all next month :)

[25/01/2015 17:32:08] Srinivas Kadiyala: Thanks guys - Its been a great session, I will explore the session further.

[25/01/2015 17:32:19] Kadri-Annagret: Kadri-Annagret has left the conversation