



# A Guide to Data.Gov APIs

## What Does It Mean to API-Enable Data.Gov?

Building applications using government data is now easier. So is automating data publishing



## The Data.Gov Consumer API

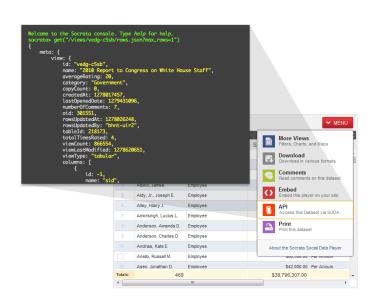
#### Lowering the bar for the developer community

The next-generation Data.Gov platform is API-enabled with an open, standards-based API, so that every dataset is readily and uniformly accessible for developers. This is a new capability with far reaching implications.

- Data.Gov offers a common API for all datasets and Agency datasites (data catalogs). This ensures uniform programmatic access to data and metadata in any dataset or datasite regardless of originating agency. It also dramatically reduces the cost of application development using government data.
- Data.Gov offers an open, standards-based, non-proprietary API implementation built on web-based RESTful architecture. As a result, there is no lock-in effect of other proprietary systems and the likelihood developers will invest in developing applications greatly increases.
- Data.Gov API provides consistent high-performance throughput of up to 500,000 requests per hour. This
  ensures site availability under the heaviest of loads and peak periods of interest.
- The API provides support for advanced operations such as filtering and sorting. These capabilities reduce program complexity and improve performance.



The new Data.Gov API is developed by Socrata. The same API, SODA, is widely used by several other government organizations and the Open Data community.



### The Publisher API

### The power of automation for agency data publishers

All of the interactive capabilities available to data publishers through the web interface are also available programmatically through a robust, REST API. Using the API, Agencies can:

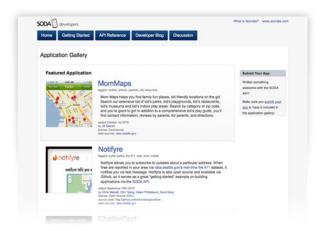
- Import and create datasets.
- Update dataset metadata.
- Append to and replace dataset rows.
- Boost efficiency and provide a robust a mechanism for automating recurring data maintenance tasks, or publishing data in realtime.

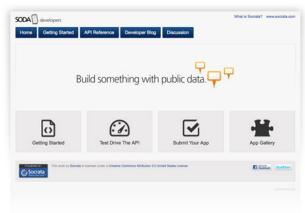
## **Developer Support and Enablement**

#### Dev.socrata.com is part of our commitment to Data.Gov developers

Socrata offers a comprehensive, open and supported developer resource site and community.

- Better developer support results in more time for developers to focus on applications and less time worrying about data access, storage, and maintenance.
- Developer site contains community forums, jumpstart guides, videos, API documentation with runnable code samples, and a developer blog.
- Socrata's engineering team provides active community support, which ensures civic developers receive
  timely answers to their questions and expert advice. Engaging with the vendor's engineering team
  stimulates more active participation on the part of the developer community.
- Socrata's developer evangelist focuses on stimulating an active, vibrant developer community, which
  promotes a sense of community among civic developers, leading to more civic applications.





The Next-generation Data.Gov is here. Embrace the possibilities.

