

# api-catalog: A well-known URI to help discovery of APIs

Proposal for httpapi WG adoption

Kevin Smith, Vodafone

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# Making APIs easier to find and use

- Problem: what APIs does a host offer – and how to access them?
- Simple solution: a reserved URI, 'example.com/.well-known/api-catalog'
- Only prior knowledge is hostname
- NB this I-D does not mandate paths for API endpoints

# Provides Machine-readable links to find & use APIs

- Media type: `application/linkset+json` (RFC 9264)
- Machine-readable link relations from RFC 8631
  - `service-desc` – a link to API machine-readable description
  - `service-meta` – a link to additional API metadata (optional)
  - `service-doc` – a link to human-readable docs (optional)
  - `status` – a link to API status (optional)
- One new link relation for IANA registration:
  - `api-catalog` – for other resources to refer to this catalog

# GET example.com/.well-known/api-catalog

```
{ "linkset": [  
  { "anchor": "https://developer.example.com/apis/foo_api",  
    "status": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/foo_api/status", "type": "application/json"}],  
    "service-desc": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/foo_api/spec", "type": "text/n3"}],  
    "service-doc": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/foo_api/doc", "type": "text/html"}]},  
    "service-meta": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/cantona_api/policies", "type": "text/xml"}]}  
  { "anchor": "https://developer.example.com/apis/bar_api",  
    "status": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/bar_api/status", "type": "application/json"}],  
    "service-desc": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/bar_api/spec", "type": "application/json"}],  
    "service-doc": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/bar_api/doc", "type": "text/plain"}]},  
    "service-meta": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/cantona_api/policies", "type": "text/xml"}]}  
  { "anchor": "https://developer.example.com/apis/cantona_api",  
    "status": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/cantona_api/status", "type": "application/json"}],  
    "service-desc": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/cantona_api/spec", "type": "text/n3"}],  
    "service-doc": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/cantona_api/doc", "type": "text/html"}]},  
    "service-meta": [{"href": "https://developer.example.com/apis/cantona_api/policies", "type": "text/xml"}]}  
]}
```

# To develop/agree:

- Binding to RFC 9264 HTTP Link header
- Security considerations