

#NoAPIVersioning

Mobile Tea #11
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Easy API Changes

Add an endpoint

Add an optional element or parameter

Remove something no one uses



Breaking API Changes

Removing something people use

Change a data type

Add a required parameter or element

Change the response structure



What Shouldn't You Do?

Don't change!

Let it break!

Version your endpoint namespace

example.com/api/v2345/users

Version your API domain

v456.example.com/api/users

Version your content type

Content-type: application/vnd.example.user-v17+json

Version your content

{ version: 6543, ... }

What Should You Do?

- Code for Compatibility
 - Useful in short term
 - Increasing complexity and cost over time
- Hypermedia (HAL, JSON-LD, Collection+JSON, ...)
 - Livin' the dream
 - Conceptual complexity
 - Limited practical support
- Migration
 - Managed compatibility with an expiration

Code for Compatibility

Rename \Rightarrow Two options with sync or translation

Mandatory parameter \Rightarrow Optional parameter with
default value

Deletion \Rightarrow Ignored optional

Type change \Rightarrow Type flexibility

Hypermedia

- Hypermedia Controls tell you what to do next for each workflow option
 - You still need to program the semantics of the options if they're not strictly user injected
- Hypermedia Forms tell you the data content for each request
 - You still need to program the semantics if it's more complex than CRUD
- Hypermedia Templates tell you how to assemble the data into the request

Migrations

- Automatically generate compatibility changes and rollback
- Manage application and lifecycle of compatibility
- Integrates with deployment systems to eliminate downtime
- Also applies to database schema
- Requires ability to sunset compatibility
- Coming to an environment near you. Watch this space!

Resources

- Sebastian Lambla, [“Versions are Evil: How to Do Without In Your API”](#)
- Richardson & Amundsen, “RESTful Web APIs,” O’Reilly, 2013.

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