



Document Structure

An OpenAPI document is a JSON or YAML file containing the following root elements:

```
openapi: 3.1 # The spec version
info: {} # API and document info
servers: {} # List of available servers
paths: {} # List of endpoints
webhooks: {} # List of webhooks
security: {} # Authentication description
components: {} # Reusable components ($ref)
tags: {} # Define the grouping tags
```

General Information

```
info:
  title: Your Awesome API
  version: 1.2.14
  description: What our API does is...

servers:
- url: https://example.com/api
  description: Production
- url: https://staging.example.com/api
```

API Structure

Describe the different operations that your API exposes - such as POST /things - with the paths statement, and the events emitted by your API with the webhooks statement.

```
paths:
  /things:
    post: # Operation object (HTTP Verb)
      operationId: url-friendly-identifier
      summary: Name of Operation
      description: Longer **with CommonMark!**
      requestBody:
        description: Create a Thing
        content:
          application/json: # Content type
            schema: {} # Schema Object
      responses:
        '201':
          description: "Created"
          content:
            application/json:
              schema: {} # Schema Object

webhooks:
  newThing: # Nickname for webhook
    post: # Operation object (HTTP Verb)
    ...
```

Data Types and Schemas

The most important keyword is type, which should be one of:

null	JSON "null" value
boolean	JSON true or false value
object	JSON object
array	Ordered list of instances
integer	Integer
number	Base-10 decimal number
string	String of Unicode code points

type: object	type: array
properties:	items:
id:	type: object
type: string	required:
format: uuid	- password
readOnly: true	properties:
name:	password:
type: string	type: string
examples:	writeOnly: true
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Most tools will filter readOnly properties out of a response body, and writeOnly out of a request body.

Security

Define the APIs Security Schemes, then apply them globally or per operation using the security keyword.

Define security schemes

```
components:
  securitySchemes: # Define for use later
    ApiKey: # Arbitrary name
      type: http
      scheme: bearer
```

Apply security schemes

```
security: # Document's root: apply globally
- ApiKey: []
```

```
paths: # Apply on this operation only
  /widgets:
    post:
      security:
        - ApiKey: []
```

Allowed types

apiKey, http (basic or bearer), oauth2, mutualTLS, openIdConnect

Reuse Elements

Avoid duplicating elements by defining reusable components:

```
components:
  securitySchemes: {}
  requestBodies: {}
  responses: {}
  schemas: {}
  ...
```

Use your components with the \$ref keyword:

```
paths:
  /widgets:
    responses:
      '404':
        $ref: ../components/responses/404
```

Components can be reached:

internally: ../components/schemas/User
through a remote URL: https://example.com/user.yml
on file system: ./user.yml#/components/schemas/User

Polymorphism

Combine several schemas using polymorphism statements:

```
oneOf: Exactly one of the schemas (XOR)
anyOf: One or more of the schemas (OR)
allOf: All the schemas (AND)
```

```
schema:
  allOf: # An admin user
    - $ref: ../components/schemas/User'
    - $ref: ../components/schemas/Admin'
```

Grouping and sorting

Group operations with metadata using tags.

Define them globally then apply them per operation.

```
tags:
- name: Things
  description: >
    This is my thing **description**.

paths:
  /things:
    tags: [Things]
```

Most tools will sort your documentation endpoints according to your global tags written order.