

Choosing an API-First Development Platform

ELEMENT	QUESTIONS TO ASK?
DESIGN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are multiple specification formats such as OpenAPI, Swagger, RAML, or GraphQL schema supported, importable, and exportable? • Is OpenAPI 3.0 supported? • Does the platform enable API development powered by schema? • Does the platform support a centralized definition of an API?
MOCKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the platform offer mocking functionality? • Can mocks be generated from the API spec? • Can multiple responses be recorded?
HOSTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Am I able to host my API on the platform itself? • What insight do I have into its metrics?
REPORTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the usage of the API in all parts of my organization roll up into an easily consumable dashboard? • Can I capture a holistic view of multiple APIs and their dependencies at once? Am I able to tell the general health and maturity of a service at a glance?
DEBUGGING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the platform have a REST client? • Are multiple and custom methods supported? • Are pre-request scripts, tests, and code snippets available? • Can the developer use variables and environments in debugging and coding? • Are multiple auth methods available?
DOCUMENTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the platform have a documentation offering? • Can documentation be auto-generated, easily distributed, and password protected? • Does documentation include tests, examples, descriptions, and code snippets? • Is the documentation machine as well as human readable?
TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can tests be created and run directly from the platform? • What kinds of tests can be written - integration, contract, performance? • Can testing be automated? • Can tests be integrated into an existing CI/CD pipeline?
CONTROL & SECURITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the platform have a monitoring offering? • Can monitoring be set to test for more than just uptime - including evaluations for behavior and performance? • Is the monitoring flexible - both from a scheduling and regional perspective? • Is static IP available for organizations that require it?
COLLABORATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is SSO and auto-provisioning available for enterprise customers? • Are there audit logs for team admins?
INTEGRATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a mechanism for working together on a single API specification, tests, documentation, etc.? • What tools exist to track and roll back changes? • Can collaborators comment as well as contribute?
MARKETPLACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the platform support the sharing of solutions and functionality? • Is there a place within the platform in which users can browse those solutions?
COMMUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does an enthusiastic community exist surrounding the platform? • Does the platform provider support and empower this community?