The XNAT API

What is the XNAT API?

Back in 2005, in the strange and heady times of post-bubble dot-com development, Dan Marcus took a trip to Amazon headquarters to meet their CTO and promote a very young XNAT among up and coming “big data” research tools. He was blown away by Amazon’s commitment to developing their nascent Amazon Web Services software as a services platform, powered entirely - inside and out - by a commonly accessible API. That inspired the XNAT development team to commit to making its capabilities – creating, organizing, searching and downloading data – powered by a set of RESTful services, accessible by a common API.

With the release of XNAT 1.7, a second API standard has been added, and will become the default for all new development. This is known as the XAPI. Swagger documentation for XAPI functions, as well as a live console for performing XAPI commands, is available inside your XNAT webapp at Administer > Site Administration > Miscellaneous > Swagger Page.

The XNAT API Directory

This Directory combines all legacy XNAT REST API and new-generation XAPI commands that come installed on a default XNAT. Plugins or customizations may add new API calls that will not be documented here.

See: XNAT 1.7 REST API Directory

XNAT API Tutorials

- How To Download Files via the XNAT REST API
- XNAT REST XML Path Shortcuts
- Upload Image Session Files with REST API
- How to Create Subjects with XNAT REST API
- Tips for Uploading Files via REST

Content in development:

- How to search XNAT via REST