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Learning API from UI



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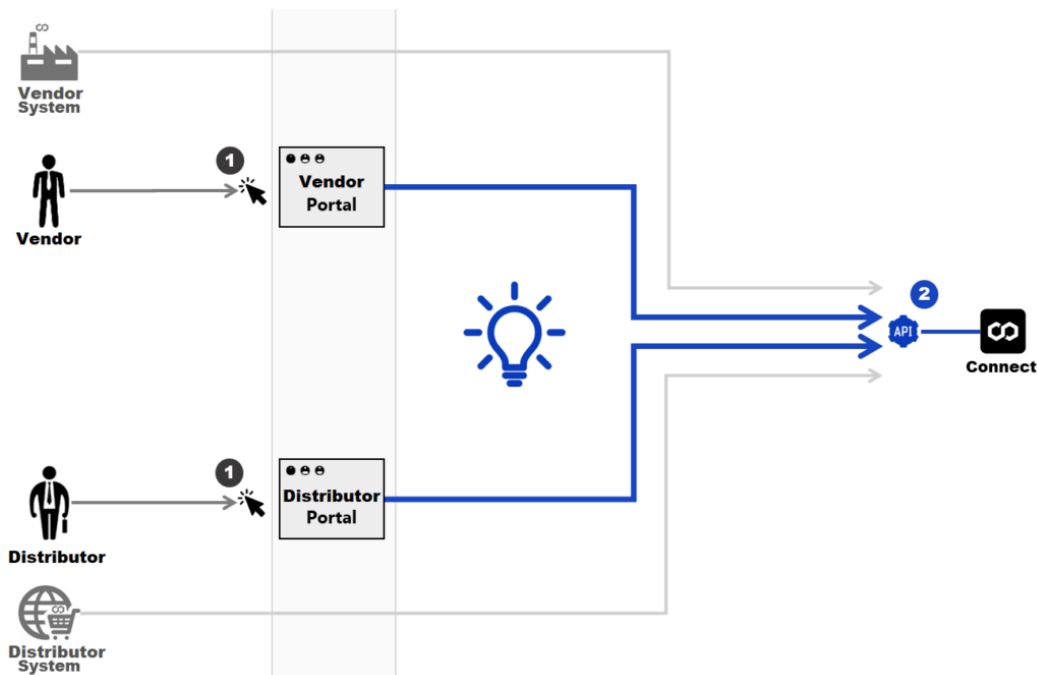
Auto-generated at July 16, 2024

Video Tutorial

Introduction

While reading through the **OpenAPI specification** and the **Resource Query Language (RQL)** gives you full information about Connect API, it might take some time to learn all of the endpoints and queries.

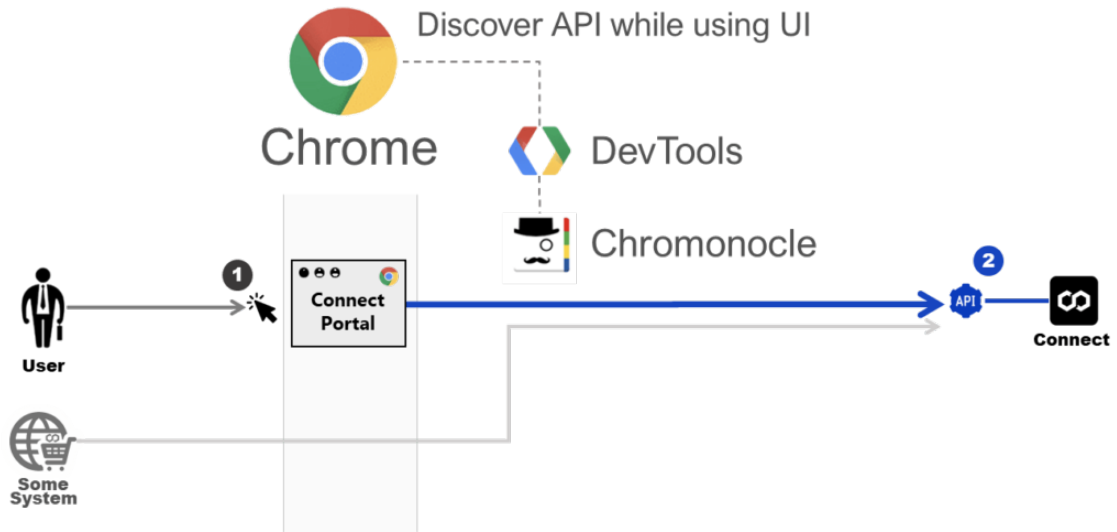
But what if you simply need to quickly learn how to automate particular action that you already know how to do in UI? In this case, you might want to simply “lookup” API calls from the browser itself as schematically illustrated below:



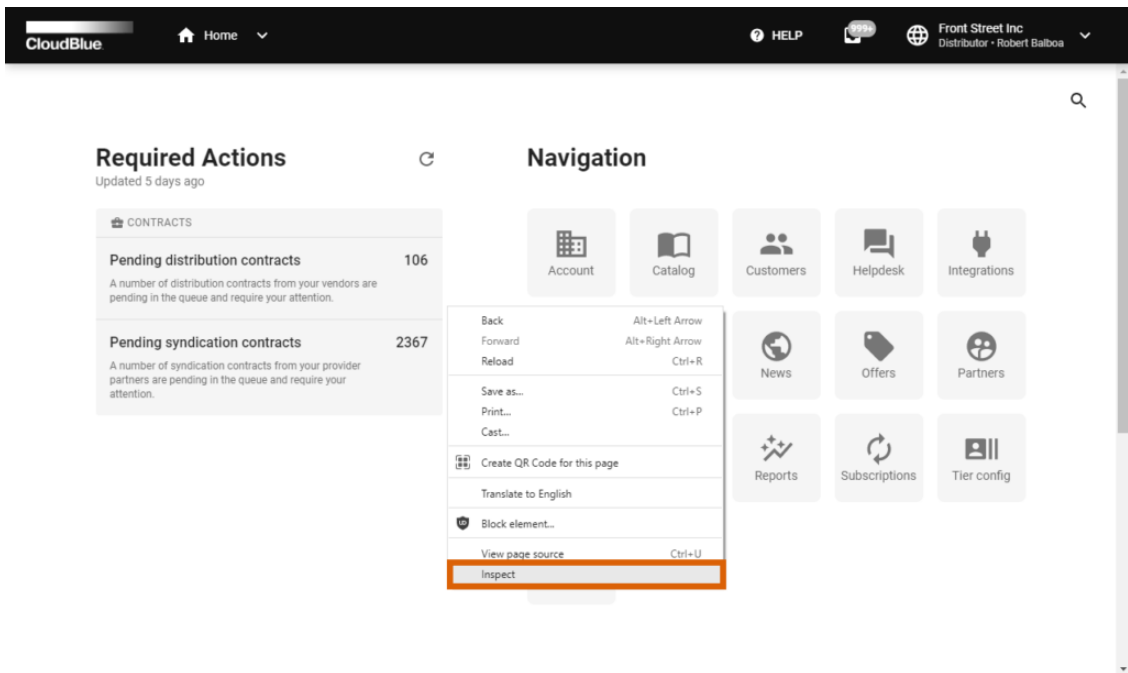
Due to the fact that Connect Portals are using the same public API, this technique might save lots of your time navigating around documentation to figure out what query to use.

Inspecting API with Google Chrome

All browsers have development tools that will allow you to inspect API calls. For simplicity of the article, we’re focusing on **Google Chrome** only:



While working with the CloudBlue Connect Portal, open Development Tools by clicking at **Inspect** in the contextual menu:



You can see API calls in the Network tab:

DevTools - vendor.connect.cloudblue.com/assets/requests?account=VA-118-328&state=gtkjYXNzZXRzLW1vZHVzZV9fYXNzZXRSZXF1ZXN0c0ZpbHRlcnc0Cpir2YWx1ZiYWmc2VhcmNookKZz...

Elements Memory Sources **Network** Application Performance Console Security Lighthouse XHR Inspector

Filter Hide data URLs All **XHR** JS CSS Img Media Font Doc WS Manifest Other Has blocked cookies Blocked Requests

Name	Path	Method	Status	Time	Content-Length	Waterfall
/rest/devportal/api/v1/company	/rest/devportal/api/v1/c...	GET	OK	196 ms		
user/	/rest/devportal/api/v1/u...	GET	200	285 ms	662	
requests?limit=10&offset=0&in(status,tiers_s...	/public/v1/requests	GET	200	316 ms		
/public/v1	/public/v1/requests	GET	OK	315 ms		
requests?limit=10&offset=0&in(status,tiers_s...	/public/v1/requests	GET	200	397 ms		
/public/v1	/public/v1/requests	GET	OK	387 ms		
assets?offset=0&limit=10	/public/v1/assets	GET	200	402 ms		
/public/v1	/public/v1/assets	GET	OK	400 ms		
assets?offset=0&limit=10&ordering(created)	/public/v1/assets	GET	200	463 ms		
/public/v1	/public/v1/assets	GET	OK	461 ms		
assets?offset=0&limit=10	/public/v1/assets	GET	200	1.33 s		
/public/v1	/public/v1/assets	GET	OK	1.33 s		
assets?offset=0&limit=10&ordering(-created)	/public/v1/assets	GET	200	1.50 s		
/public/v1	/public/v1/assets	GET	OK	1.49 s		

8 / 67 requests | 35.6 kB / 719 kB transferred | 189 kB / 6.8 MB resources | Finish: 28.3 min | DOMContentLoaded: 940 ms | Load: 1.79 s

DevTools - vendor.connect.cloudblue.com/assets/requests?account=VA-118-328&state=gtkjYXNzZXRzLW1vZHVzZV9fYXNzZXRSZXF1ZXN0c0ZpbHRlcnc0Cpir2YWx1ZiYWmc2VhcmNookKZz...

Elements Memory Sources **Network** Application Performance Console Security Lighthouse XHR Inspector

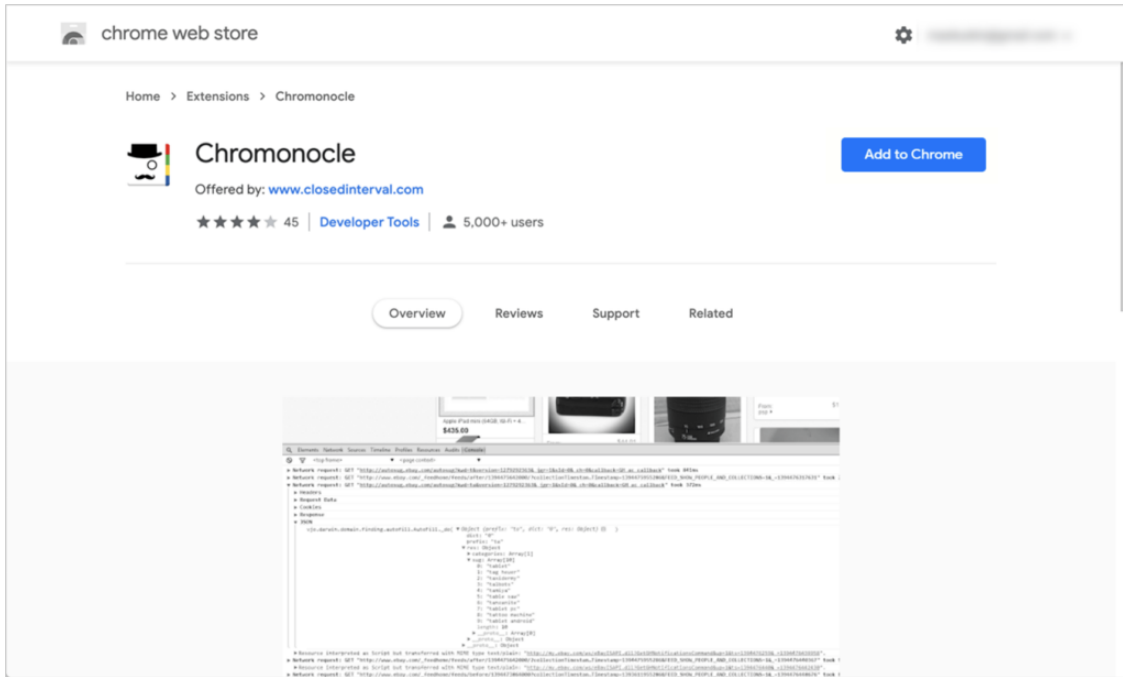
Filter Hide data URLs All **XHR** JS CSS Img Media Font Doc WS Manifest Other Has blocked cookies Blocked Requests

Name	Path	Method	Status	Time	Content-Length	Waterfall
/rest/devportal/api/v1/company	/rest/devportal/api/v1/c...	GET	OK	196 ms		
user/	/rest/devportal/api/v1/u...	GET	200	285 ms	662	
requests?limit=10&offset=0&in(status,tiers_s...	/public/v1/requests	GET	200	316 ms		
/public/v1	/public/v1/requests	GET	OK	315 ms		
requests?limit=10&offset=0&in(status,tiers_s...	/public/v1/requests	GET	200	397 ms		
/public/v1	/public/v1/requests	GET	OK	387 ms		
assets?offset=0&limit=10	/public/v1/assets	GET	200	402 ms		
/public/v1	/public/v1/assets	GET	OK	400 ms		
assets?offset=0&limit=10&ordering(created)	/public/v1/assets	GET	200	463 ms		
/public/v1	/public/v1/assets	GET	OK	461 ms		
assets?offset=0&limit=10	/public/v1/assets	GET	200	1.33 s		
/public/v1	/public/v1/assets	GET	OK	1.33 s		
assets?offset=0&limit=10&ordering(-created)	/public/v1/assets	GET	200	1.50 s		
/public/v1	/public/v1/assets	GET	OK	1.49 s		

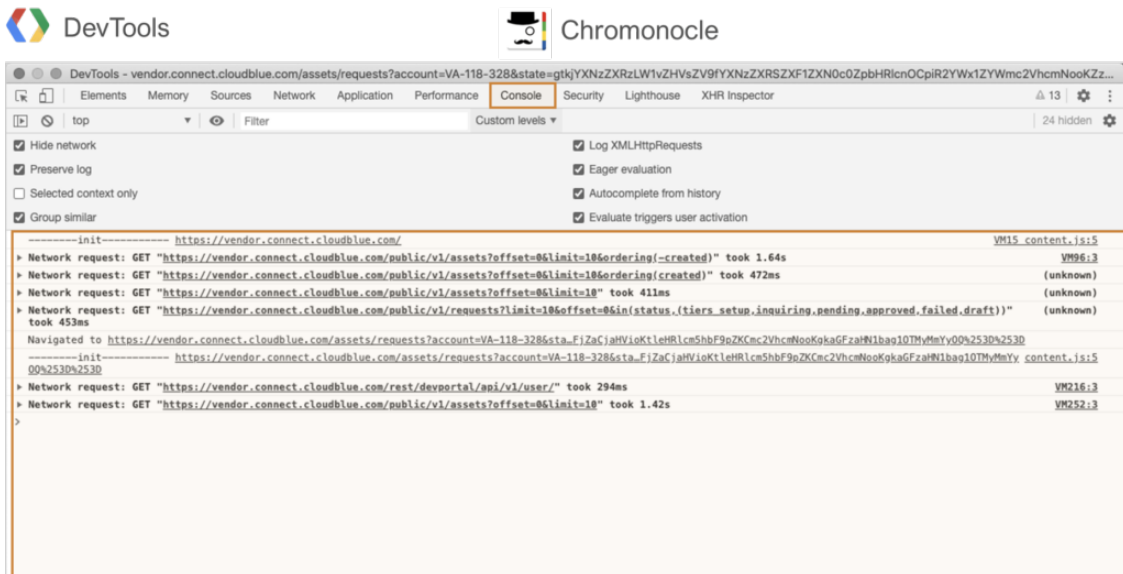
8 / 67 requests | 35.6 kB / 719 kB transferred | 189 kB / 6.8 MB resources | Finish: 28.3 min | DOMContentLoaded: 940 ms | Load: 1.79 s

Filtering it by **XHR** requests only will help to remove unrelated queries.

On top of the native Network tab, you might want to explore the **Chromonocle** plugin:



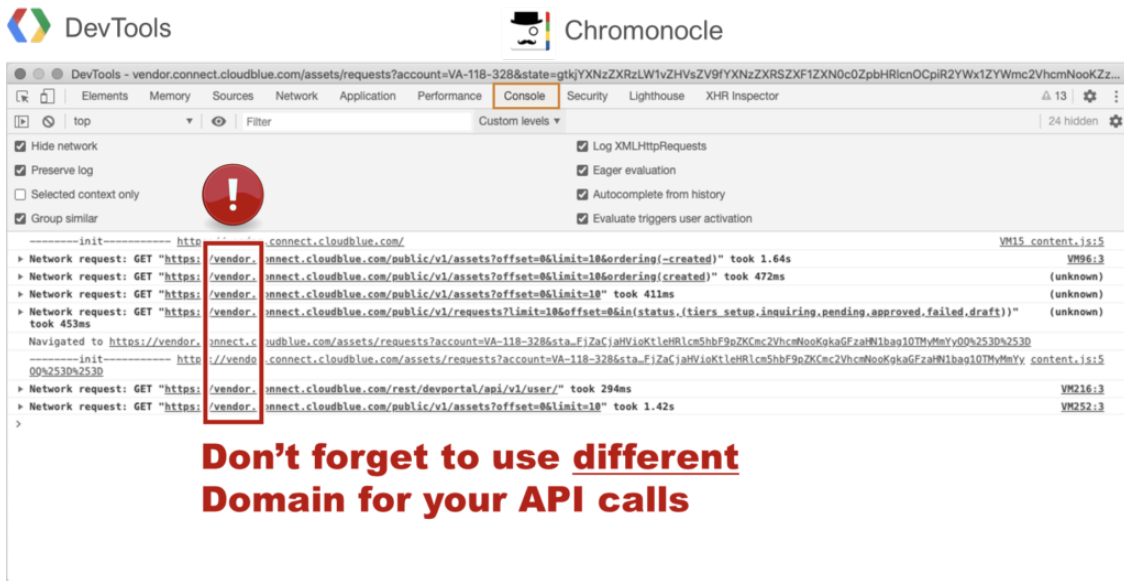
That will add the “Console” tab to the Development Tools with a bit simpler form of the queries:



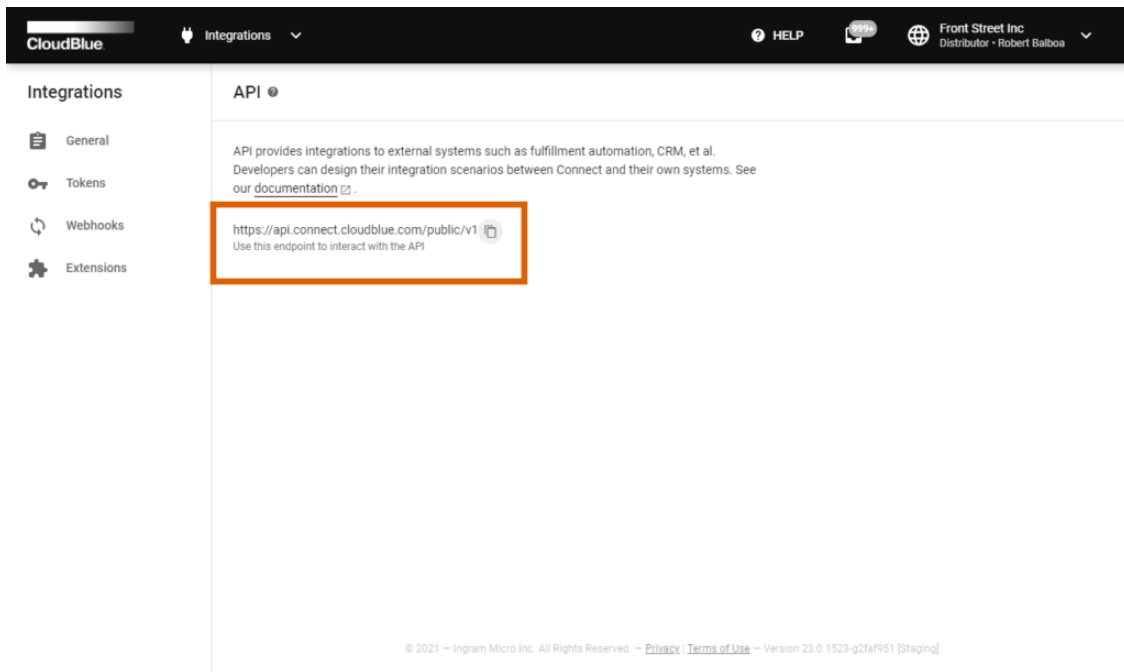
Either way, this will allow you to quickly find the required API call and replicate it in your automation logic.

API vs Portal Domains

While copying queries to your REST clients please make sure to change the domain name to point to the actual API endpoint. I.e. when copying this:



Make sure to replace domain name with the Connect endpoint:



Access required API endpoint via the **Integrations** module of the CloudBlue Connect platform.