https://cloudblue.com

Learning API from UI

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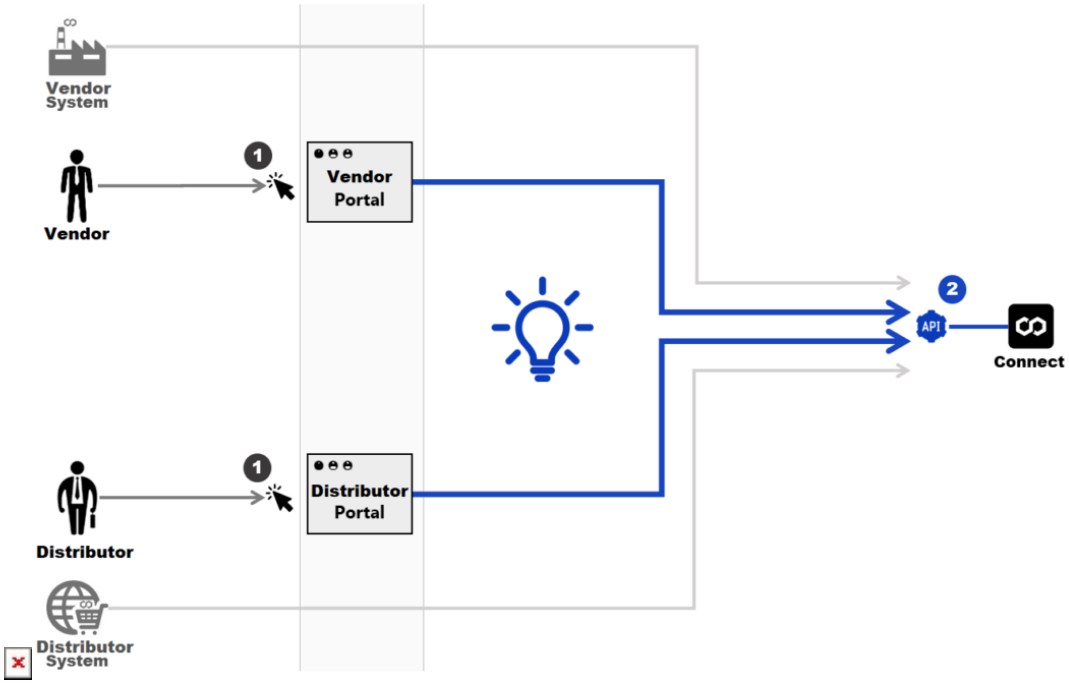
Video Tutorial

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:

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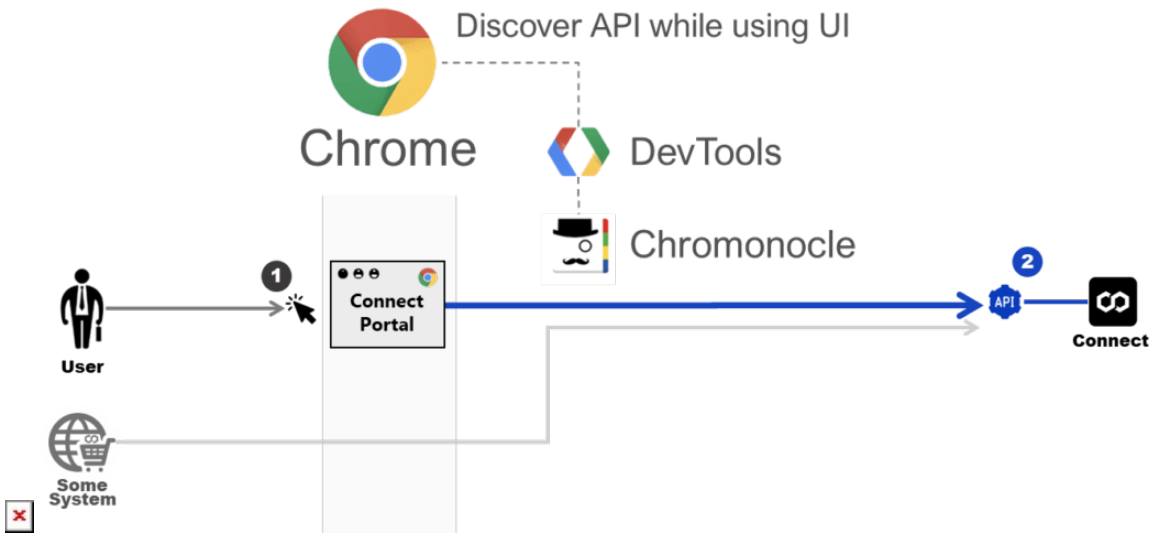
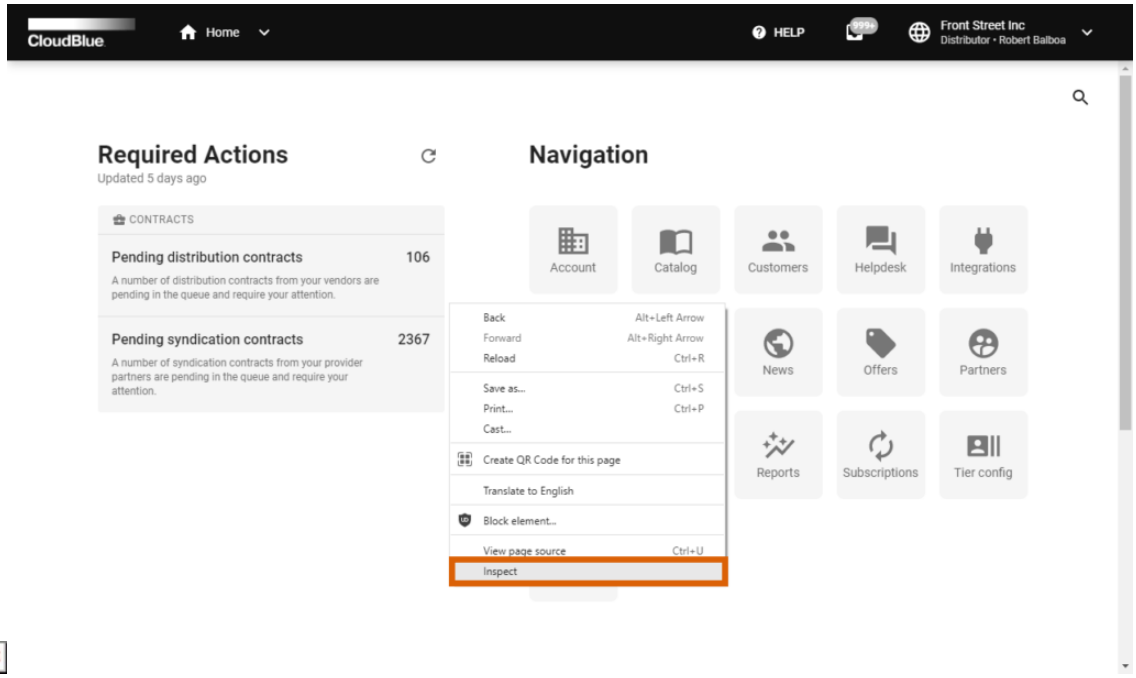


While working with the CloudBlue Connect® Portal, open Development Tools by clicking at **Inspect** in the contextual menu:



You can see API calls in the Network tab:

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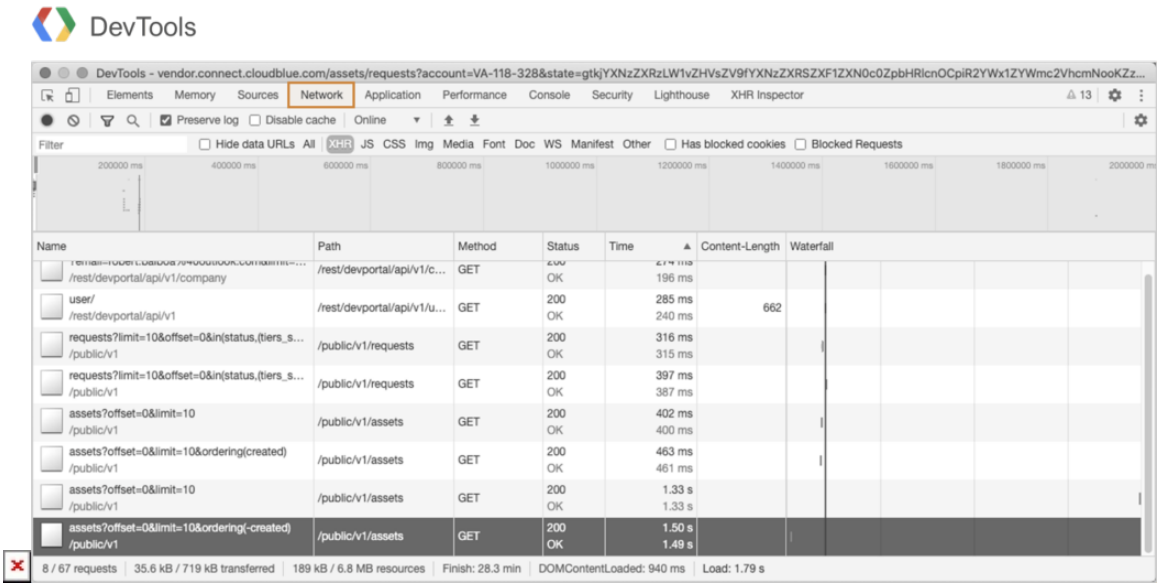

DevTools
DevTools - vendor.connect.cloudblue.com/assets/requests?account=VA-118-328&state=gtkjYXNzZXRzLW1vZHVsZV9fYXNzZXRSZXF1ZXN0c0ZpbHRlcnOCpiR2YWx1ZYWmc2VhcmNooKZz...
Elements Memory Sources Network Application Performance Console Security Lighthouse XHR Inspector
Preserve log Disable cache Online
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 /rest/devportal/api/v1/u... GET 200 OK 285 ms 240 ms 662
requests?limit=10&offset=0&in(status,(tiers_s... /public/v1 /public/v1/requests GET 200 OK 316 ms 315 ms
requests?limit=10&offset=0&in(status,(tiers_s... /public/v1 /public/v1/requests GET 200 OK 397 ms 387 ms
assets?offset=0&limit=10 /public/v1 /public/v1/assets GET 200 OK 402 ms 400 ms
assets?offset=0&limit=10&ordering(created) /public/v1 /public/v1/assets GET 200 OK 463 ms 461 ms
assets?offset=0&limit=10 /public/v1 /public/v1/assets GET 200 OK 1.33 s 1.33 s
assets?offset=0&limit=10&ordering(-created) /public/v1 /public/v1/assets GET 200 OK 1.50 s 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:

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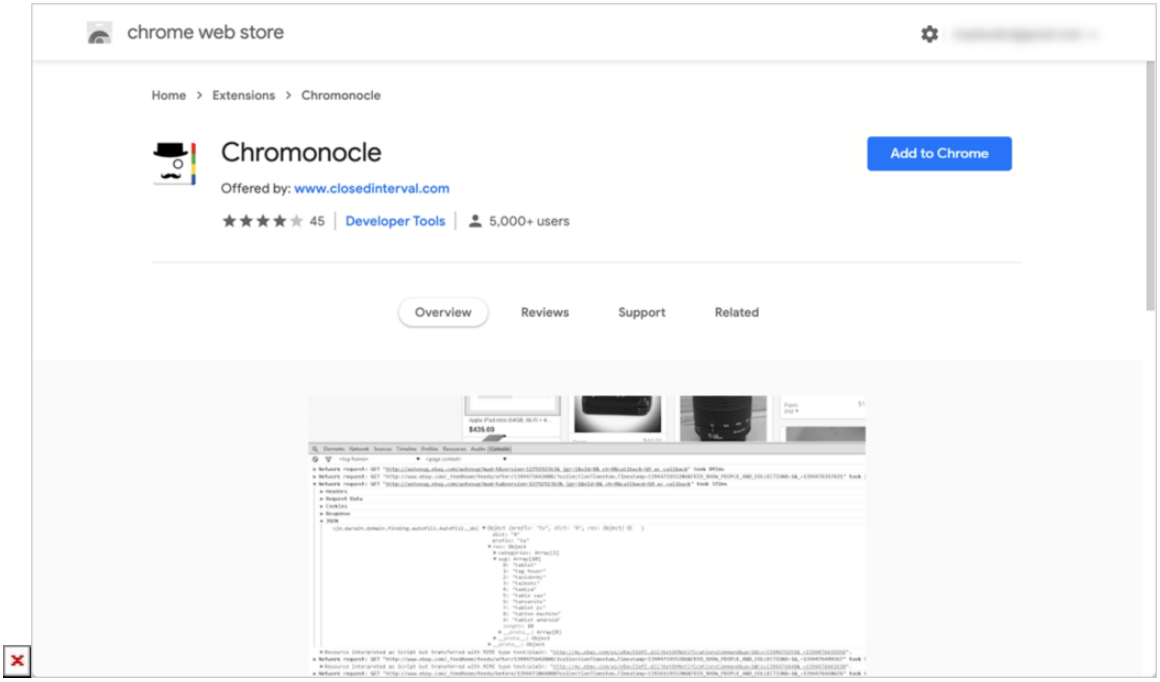
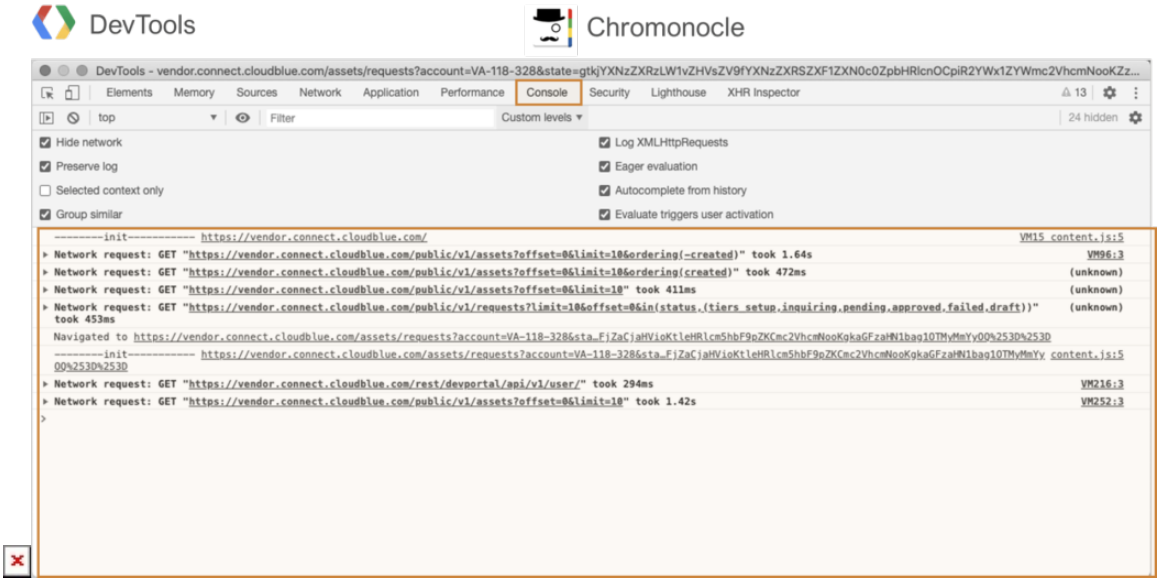


That will add the “Console” tab to the Development Tools with a bit simpler form of the queries:



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:

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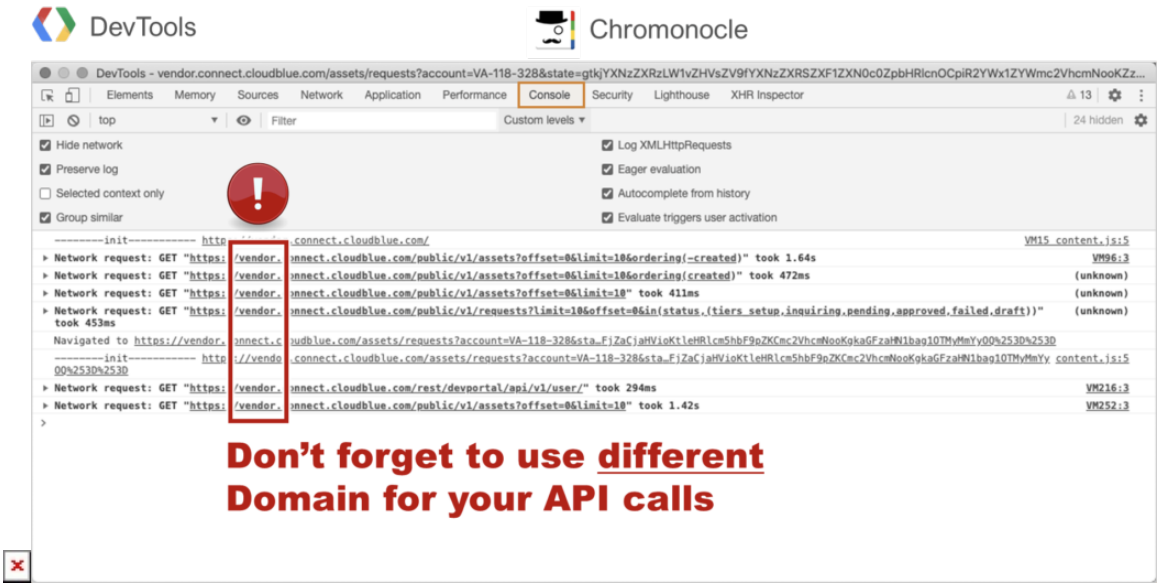
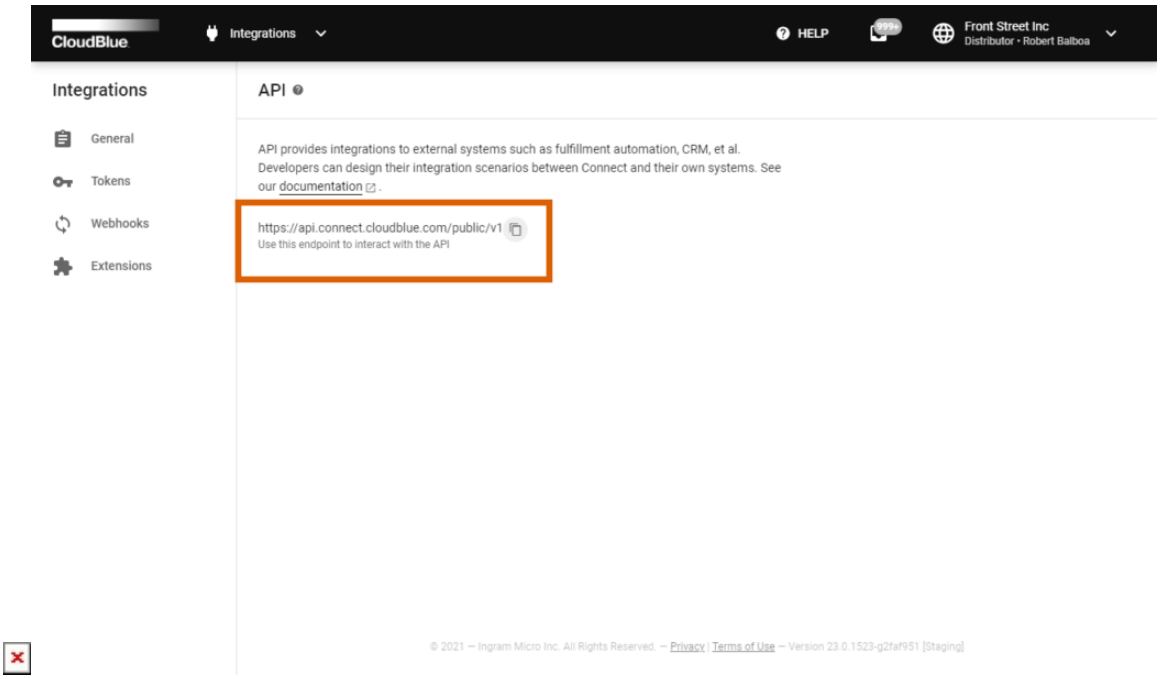


Make sure to replace domain name with the Connect endpoint:



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

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