

What is an API!?

# What is an API!?

- Acronym for 'Applications Programming Interface'
- Which means... a pre-defined set of methods that a piece of software makes available to other pieces of software so they can talk to it directly
  - To send instructions that will be acted on
  - To retrieve data to use elsewhere
- Another way for websites to share data with each other is via **feeds**
  - A feed contains the information (data) without the presentation (design) and is made available in formats known as XML, RSS and Atom
  - You don't need to know about the formats. They just mean that the data can be shown in another context, on another website, or in another way, e.g. via email
- A **mashup** is a website (or piece of software) that combines data from two or more sources. The external sources are typically other websites and the data can be obtained in various ways, including APIs and feeds
- N.b. internal APIs and public APIs. Most interest around a **public API**

## Google Maps API

[Home](#) [Docs](#) [FAQ](#) [Articles](#) [Blog](#) [Group](#) [Terms](#)

### What is the Google Maps API?

The Google Maps API lets you embed Google Maps in your own web pages with JavaScript. The API provides a number of utilities for manipulating maps (just like on the <http://maps.google.com> web page) and adding content to the map through a variety of services, allowing you to create robust maps applications on your website.

**New!** [Google Mapplets](#) - Build mini-applications to embed on the Google Maps site itself.



The Maps API is a free beta service, available for any web site that is free to consumers. Please see the [terms of use](#) for more information.

To use the Maps API on an intranet or in a non-publicly accessible application, please check out [Google Maps for Enterprise](#).

### How do I start?

1. [Sign up for a Google Maps API key.](#)
2. Read the [Maps API Concepts](#).
3. Check out some [Maps examples](#).
4. Read the [Maps API Reference](#).



**Google I/O: May 28-29**

Join us for Google's  
[largest developer event.](#)

### Featured Video

Developer Day 2007 - Google Maps API Introduction

## Flickr Services

[API Documentation](#) | [Feeds](#) | [Your API Keys](#)

The Flickr API is available for non-commercial use by outside developers. Commercial use is possible by prior arrangement.

### Read these first:

- ◆ [Overview](#)
- ◆ [Encoding](#)
- ◆ [User Authentication](#)
- ◆ [Dates](#)
- ◆ [Tags](#)
- ◆ [URLs](#)
- ◆ [Buddyicons](#)
- ◆ [Flickr APIs Terms of Use](#)

- ◆ [API Keys](#)
- ◆ [Developers' mailing list](#)

## Photo Upload API

- ◆ [Uploading Photos](#)
- ◆ [Replacing Photos](#)
- ◆ [Example Request](#)
- ◆ [Asynchronous Uploading](#)

## Request Formats

- ◆ [REST](#)

## API Methods

### activity

- ◆ [flickr.activity.userComments](#)
- ◆ [flickr.activity.userPhotos](#)

### auth

- ◆ [flickr.auth.checkToken](#)
- ◆ [flickr.auth.getFrob](#)
- ◆ [flickr.auth.getFullToken](#)
- ◆ [flickr.auth.getToken](#)

### blogs

- ◆ [flickr.blogs.getList](#)
- ◆ [flickr.blogs.postPhoto](#)

### contacts

- ◆ [flickr.contacts.getList](#)
- ◆ [flickr.contacts.getPublicList](#)

### favorites

- ◆ [flickr.favorites.add](#)
- ◆ [flickr.favorites.getList](#)
- ◆ [flickr.favorites.getPublicList](#)

Thursday May 08, 2008

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## SE10 9HA, United Kingdom

 [3 day forecast feed](#)  
 [Latest observations feed](#)

## Current Nearest Observations:

Sunny 24°C

E (15 mph)

Relative Humidity (%): 41,

Pressure (mB): 1011, Falling,

Visibility: Good

[View this forecast in Fahrenheit](#)

5 day forecast

24 hour forecast

Summary

Max day

Min night

Wind  
(Celsius)Wind  
(mph)

Visibility

Pressure  
(mb)Relative  
humidity

UV index

Pollution

## Symbol key

(Help!)



Please move your mouse over a symbol to view its description.

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BBC SPORT



## Thursday

Sunrise 05:20 (BST)

Sunset 20:33 (BST)



24°C

13°C



moderate

1015

36



## Friday

Sunrise 05:18 (BST)

Sunset 20:35 (BST)



23°C

13°C



moderate

1014

41



## Saturday

Sunrise 05:16 (BST)

Sunset 20:36 (BST)



25°C

12°C



very good

1019

45



## Sunday

Sunrise 05:15 (BST)

Sunset 20:38 (BST)



24°C

10°C



very good

1022

55



## Monday

Sunrise 05:13 (BST)

Sunset 20:39 (BST)



23°C

12°C



very good

1020

42







Sea, ships, time and the stars

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  - By bus
  - By river
  - Public coach services
  - By air

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## Collections Online

Search  

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BROWSE THE COLLECTIONS

MY COLLECTION

ABOUT COLLECTIONS ONLINE

You are here: [Collections Online home](#)

## Objects

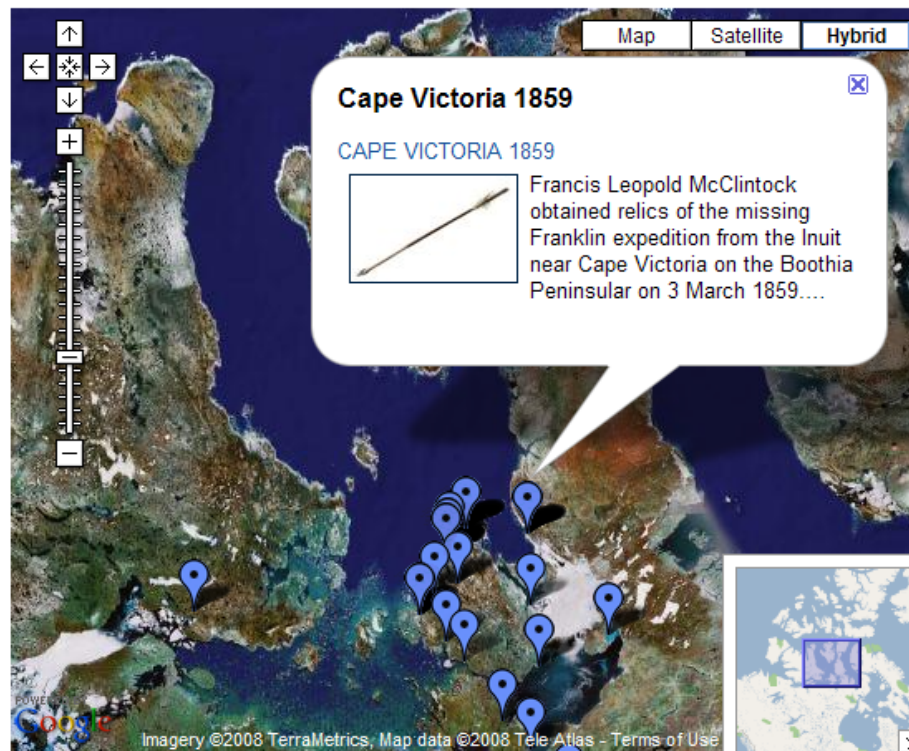
- ▣ Astronomical and navigational instruments
  - Charts and maps
- ▣ Coins and medals
- ▣ Decorative art
- ▣ Fine art
  - Flags
- ▣ Ship models
- ▣ Timekeeping
  - Uniforms
- ▣ Weapons

## Exhibitions

- Art for the Nation
- Atlantic Worlds
- Freeze Frame
- Nelson

## Topics

- Atlantic Neptune charts
- Bedford Lemere photographs
- [Franklin relics](#)
- Green Blackwall



# SAILOR CHIC

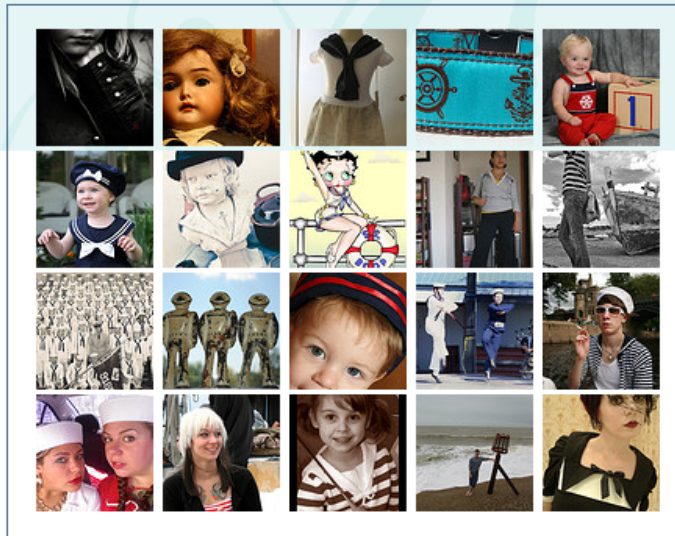
25 JULY - 2 DECEMBER 2007  
FASHION'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE SEA

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## YOUR PHOTOS

The latest 20 photos in a collection created by members of the public. Submit your own photographs of fashion and craft influenced by sailors' uniforms by joining the [Sailor Chic group on Flickr](#) the photo-sharing website.

Source: [Sailor Chic Photo Pool](#)





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 [Royal Observatory, Gr... \(1\)](#)

 [The Caird Library Blog \(3\)](#)


▫ [Flickr](#)

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 [Uploads from Royal Ob...](#)

 [All events at the Roy...](#)

 [All exhibitions and g...](#)

 [Events at the Royal O...](#)


 [Events at the Royal O... \(1\)](#)

 [Events for researcher...](#)

 [Events this weekend \(1\)](#)

 [Events today \(6\)](#)

 [Events today at the R... \(1\)](#)

 [Events tomorrow \(7\)](#)

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Home


A look at what's new

[National Maritime Museum Photo Blog \(1\)](#)

 [Meridian Chapter Harley Group on the Line](#) 70 riders met up at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich on 27 April 2008 to embark on their annual run following the Meridian Line down to Peacehaven, Sussex. Kenny Hickey of the Museum's Photographic Studio and Kerry Richards joined in...

See more from [FeedBurner \(9\)](#) »


[Royal Observatory, Greenwich \(1\)](#)

 [The Sky Tonight - May 2008](#) Highlights of the Night Sky for May


[Events this weekend \(1\)](#)

 [Gallery Favourites \(talks and tours\)](#) [image: Gallery Favourites (talks and tours)]A unique opportunity to find out about Museum objects, collections and topics from our team of Gallery Assistants.


[Events today at the Royal Observatory \(1\)](#)


 [Volunteer guided tour \(May\)](#) [image: Volunteer guided tour (May)]Join a volunteer guide and see the fascinating history of the Royal Observatory come alive.

[The Caird Library Blog \(3\)](#)

 [The Diary of Dr John Dee](#) May's item of the month is dedicated to the diary of Dr John Dee which is housed in our rare book collection. Dee was a prominent mathematician, astrologer and antiquary in the 16th century and this version of his diary,...



 [Del.icio.us links for 2008-05-02](#) Arctic Convoys This link lists, in alphabetical order, the vessels involved in the Arctic convoys and their fates. It also gives details of where you can find their records. (tags: vessels war WW2 merchantnavy)...

 [90th anniversary of the Zeebrugge Raid](#) This year marks the 90th anniversary of the assault and blockade of Zeebrugge and Ostend. During the First World War they were two of the most heavily fortified enemy bases in the North Sea. Commanded by Vice Admiral Sir Roger...

The latest messages from the Google Reader team

[Share anything. Anytime. Anywhere.](#)

via [Official Google Reader Blog](#) by Jenna Bilotta on 5/5/08

Have you ever wanted to share something that you were reading, but you didn't want to go through the hassle of subscribing to a whole feed for a single interesting article? And what about sharing content from sites with no feeds?

# Example in detail: Flickr

- Flickr's API has pre-defined methods that are used to:
  - Make something happen *on Flickr*, e.g.  
**flickr.photos.geo.setLocation** to set the latitude and longitude (known as 'geo data') for a picture or set of pictures
    - e.g. we could set a longitude of 0° for photos taken on the Prime Meridian
  - Retrieve data *from Flickr* to use elsewhere, e.g.  
**flickr.groups.pools.getPhotos** returns a list of photos for a given group
    - e.g. photos from the Sailor Chic group

# Example in detail: Flickr

- Flickr also makes **feeds** available, so people can
  - Follow activity around their friends and photos
    - <http://api.flickr.com/services/feeds/activity.gne> returns a list of recent comments on your photos
    - [http://www.flickr.com/services/feeds/docs/photos\\_friends/](http://www.flickr.com/services/feeds/docs/photos_friends/) returns a list of pictures posted by your friends
  - Follow tags
    - [http://api.flickr.com/services/feeds/photos\\_public.gne?tags=astrophotography&lang=en-us&format=rss\\_200](http://api.flickr.com/services/feeds/photos_public.gne?tags=astrophotography&lang=en-us&format=rss_200) returns a list of recent photos tagged with 'astrophotography'

# To build an API, you need:

- A data source – *we have **collections***
- Standard ways of representing data – *we have **structured metadata***
- Identifiers & URLs – *we have **predictable URLs** and a **repro ID***
- Mechanisms for distributing data – *we have **feeds***
- (ideally) Ways to interact with/ enhance data, e.g. tagging, geo-tagging...

# Benefits

- Every new service can build on top of every other existing service – the web becomes a **shared platform** with massive creative potential
- Accelerates innovation by making it easier to **prototype** new services
- Makes your service more attractive and useful with **less central development**
- Allows you (or others) to create increasingly **specialised services**
- Syndicates your content to **increase reach**



# Challenge

- Licensing
  - Just metadata or full text records?
  - Pictures included?
  - What usage is allowed?

## Flickr APIs Terms of Use

Thank you for using the Flickr application programming interfaces (the "Flickr APIs"). By using the Flickr APIs, you agree to the terms below. If you disagree with any of these terms, Flickr does not grant you a license to use the Flickr APIs. We reserve the right to update and change these terms from time to time without notice. You can always find the most recent version of these terms here <http://www.flickr.com/services/api/tos/>.

Your license to the Flickr APIs under these terms continues until it is terminated by either party. You may terminate the license by discontinuing use of all or any of the Flickr APIs. Flickr may terminate the license at any time for any reason. Your rights to use the Flickr APIs terminate automatically if (i) you violate any of these terms, (ii) Flickr publicly posts a written notice of termination on Flickr.com, (iii) Flickr sends a written notice of termination to you, or (iv) Flickr disables access to the Flickr APIs to you.

### 1. Licensed Uses and Restrictions.

The Flickr APIs are owned by Flickr and its parent company Yahoo! Inc. (hereinafter "Flickr") and are licensed to you on a worldwide (except as limited below), non-exclusive, non-sublicenseable basis on the terms and conditions set forth herein. These terms define legal use of the Flickr APIs, all updates, revisions, substitutions, and any copies of the Flickr APIs made by or for you. Flickr user photos are owned by the users (the photographers) and not by Flickr. All rights not expressly granted to you are reserved by Flickr.

#### a. You shall:

- i. Comply with the Flickr Community Guidelines at [www.flickr.com/guidelines.gne](http://www.flickr.com/guidelines.gne), the Flickr Terms of Use at <http://www.flickr.com/terms.gne>, and the Yahoo! Terms of Service at <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>.
- ii. Comply with any requirements or restrictions imposed on usage of the photos by their respective owners. Remember, Flickr doesn't own the images - Flickr users do. Although the Flickr APIs can be used to provide you with access to Flickr user photos, neither Flickr's provision of the Flickr APIs to you nor your use of the Flickr APIs override the photo owners' requirements and restrictions, which may include "all rights reserved" notices (attached to each photo by default when uploaded to Flickr), Creative Commons licenses or other terms and conditions that may be agreed upon between you and the owners. In ALL cases, you are solely responsible for making use of Flickr photos in compliance with the photo owners' requirements or restrictions. If you use Flickr photos for a commercial purpose, the photos must be marked with a Creative Commons license that allows for such use, unless otherwise agreed upon between you and the owner. You can read more about this here: [www.creativecommons.org](http://www.creativecommons.org) or [www.flickr.com/creativecommons](http://www.flickr.com/creativecommons).
- iii. Comply with any other terms and conditions a user has attached to his or her photo. For example, if a user marks a photo as "private" after using your service, your application must reflect those changes as soon as reasonably possible. If your application has any cached copies of photos that have become "private," you must remove as soon as reasonably possible.
- iv. Remove from your application within 24 hours any Flickr user's photos or other information that the owner of the photo asks you to remove.
- v. If you use the Authentication APIs, insert a standard header that we will provide into pages you build that access the Flickr API. It's important

# NMM status

- **Feeds**

- Blogs
  - Royal Observatory, Greenwich
  - The Caird Library
- Collections (*OpenSearch*)
  - recent acquisitions
  - by any search term, e.g. 'telescopes' or 'Herschels'
  - by authority, e.g. vessel, maker...
- Museum events
  - by today/ tomorrow/ this weekend/ all
  - by venue
- Astronomy events
  - this week
- Timely website content
  - Jobs
  - News/ press releases

- **APIs (not yet public)**

- Collections
  - gallery by subject, type, vessel, person or site
  - individual records by repro ID
- Maritime memorials
  - by phrase, e.g. 'Australia' or 'beloved'
  - by location
- Astronomy events
  - by day, week, month or year
  - By search term, e.g. 'eclipse' or 'meteor shower'

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**From:** bounce-9797151@emailenfuego.net [mailto:bounce-9797151@emailenfuego.net] **On Behalf Of** The Caird Library Blog  
**Sent:** 05 May 2008 15:28  
**To:** Fiona Romeo  
**Subject:** The Caird Library blog

## The Caird Library blog



### **The Diary of Dr John Dee**

Posted: 02 May 2008 06:25 AM CDT

May's item of the month is dedicated to [the diary of Dr John Dee](#) which is housed in our rare book collection.

Dee was a prominent mathematician, astrologer and antiquary in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and this version of his diary, published by the Camden society in 1841, gives a fascinating insight into his life. Everyday events and life changing circumstances live side by side on the pages. Subject matters include exploration and the philosopher's stone.

It also lists his library catalogue, compiled by himself, before his house was plundered by the populace.

This is a must read for all Dee enthusiasts and any reader who likes to delve into a diary.

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# ATLANTIC WORLDS

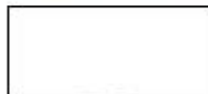
GALLERY THEMES OTHER VIEWS

## ★ Gallery

This gallery is about the movement of people, goods and ideas across and around the Atlantic Ocean from the 17th century to the 19th century. The connections created by these movements changed the lives of people on three continents, profoundly affecting their cultures and societies and shaping the world we live in today.

[Gallery details and visitor information](#)

Click on a thumbnail to see a larger photograph.









## ★ Explore online

- Astronomy & time
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- Maps & navigation
- All collections
- All games
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- Prime Sky 
- New acquisitions 
- Blogs 
- Podcasts 

### Latest acquisitions

#### Nelson's undershirt



[View Nelson's undershirt](#)

#### Command flag



[View Command flag](#)

#### Toby jug



[View Toby jug](#)

### Blogs / New

#### Blogs

- [Donec bibendum est eu risus](#)
- [Aliquam eget neque id lorem venenatis](#)

#### Podcasts

- [Quisque et diam non ipsum hendrerit](#)
- [Aenean neque justo, vestibulum vitae](#)

### Prime Sky

#### Gallery favourites

- [Quisque et diam non ipsum hendrerit](#)
- [Donec bibendum est eu risus](#)

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#### Esther Shalev-Gerz: Echoes in Memory



### Games

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#### Tudor Exploration

