How to Set Up API Access

Access to the **Spark® API** and our **RESO Web API** requires an API key. Follow these steps to request an API key for data access. If you have questions about these steps, please let us know at **api-support@fbsdata.com**.

1. Register as an API developer

Register as an API developer with us using **this form**. Doing so is free, and once your registration is activated (within 3 business days), you'll receive demo API credentials that can be used to retrieve some example data from the **Spark API** and our **RESO Web API**. Please note that this test access is only intended to give you a feel for how the APIs work, not what kind of data will be available to you with a live API key.

2. Determine what kind of API key you need

There are two parts to this: deciding whether you need a bearer token API key or an OpenID Connect API key, and determining which role your API key should have based on your intended use.

Do you need a bearer token API key or an OpenID Connect API key?

The vast majority of users need a bearer token API key, which has a non-expiring **access token** associated with a specific Flexmls user (or a generic agent). Bearer token API keys are available via the **Spark Datamart**.

An **OpenID Connect** API key allows multiple agents to authenticate using their Flexmls username and password, which grants the API key holder a temporary access token that can be used to make API requests as that agent. You'd only need an OpenID Connect API key if you:

- Are building an app (Spark Store apps included) you want agents to sign into with their Flexmls credentials, so you can access data specific to them.
- Want to use OpenID Connect for an SSO integration with Flexmls.

What role should your API key have?

The APIs use a concept of standard **roles** to manage what listings and what specific data are accessible with an API key. You will most likely need an IDX, Private, or VOW API key:

- **IDX**: Will **any** of the data pulled with the API key be displayed publicly? If so, you'll almost certainly need an IDX API key. The most common use case is a website that displays listing information.

- **Private**: If the data will be used by you only, or for agent/broker-only back-office products, you will need a Private role API key. Private role API keys can access MLS-confidential data meant to be seen only by MLS members. No data pulled with a Private API key should ever be displayed publicly.

- **VOW**: A VOW role is similar but not identical to an IDX role. VOW data can be displayed to website visitors, but *only* after the user has identified themselves by creating an account and signing into the website. IDX is the standard for listings display, so if you don't know you need a VOW role, you probably don't.

3. Check the Spark Datamart for an appropriate MLS data plan

The **Spark Datamart** allows registered developers to search for and sign up for data plans offered by MLSs. Different plans issue API keys with different roles and permissions. It is up to each MLS to decide what kinds of data plans to offer, and not all MLSs offer data plans.

To view the Spark Datamart:

1. Log in at this **link**, using your developer username and password.
2. Click on the "Datamart" link near the top left. You will have to enter a payment method if you have not done so already. The payment screen drops you off in the app store when you're finished entering your details,

so once it does, go back to the Datamart at https://sparkplatform.com/appstore/datamart.

3. Search for the MLS you want data from in the top left search bar and review the available data plans.

An Agent or Broker's Own Data

In addition to plans for different roles (IDX, VOW, Private), you may also see plans for "A Broker or Agent's Own Data". These plans issue a Private role API key, but with the restriction that it can **only** pull data from listings for which the given Flexmls user acted as the listing or selling agent. You can enroll as a member, office, or company Flexmls user. If you sign up with an office account, all listings for which an office member acted as the listing or selling agent will be available. If you sign up with a company account, all listings for which a company member acted as the listing or selling agent will be available.

Does the MLS you need access to offer a data plan for the kind of API key you need?

- **If so**, **enroll in the appropriate data plan (see step 4 below)**.

4. Enroll in a data plan

Once you've found a data plan you wish to enroll in, click its **"PLANS & PRICING"** button to bring up additional information.

1. Review the description, pricing, and terms, then check the "I accept the Terms and Conditions." box.

2. Some data plans offer an option to sign up without specifying a Flexmls username. If that's the case, you'll see the following options:

   o "I am requesting data to build a site or app for a specific broker or agent."

   o "I am requesting to build sites or apps for multiple brokers or agents in the MLS."

   If you choose the second option, your API key will be linked to a "generic agent" rather than one specific user.

Other data plans don't have this option and require you to provide a Flexmls username to enroll. Choose the appropriate option and/or enter the Flexmls username the API key should be tied to.

3. Fill in the box that says, "Briefly describe what you are creating with the data, how you are using the data, and who will have access to the data."

4. Finally, click the **"PURCHASE WITH APPROVAL"** button. This will trigger an email approval chain with the MLS administration, and once that is complete, you'll receive credentials for an API key by email.

If there are any questions, feel free to loop in **api-support@fbsdata.com**. Please also email us there if an MLS approves you for an API key but does not set up the API key themselves. We can only issue API keys with an email stating approval from an authorized MLS admin.

Once completed, emails will be sent to Agent, Broker, and Association for approvals.
1. The agent will have to approve the API feed request.
2. The Broker will then receive an email to approve the API feed request.
3. Then the Association will receive an email to approve the API feed request.