Authentication

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Overview

HTTP Basic Authentication

Most endpoints provided by this API require authentication using **HTTP Basic Authentication**. This authentication method is a well established and widely implemented form of web authentication. Many programming languages and frameworks provide built-in facilities to handle this automatically. Following is a simple example of how HTTP Basic Authentication can be manually implemented.

Using **HTTP Basic Authentication**, your username and password are used to create an **authorization token**. The authorization token is constructed as follows using the example credentials below:

username: `criticalmix`
password: `topsecret`

1. The username and password are combined with a single colon (:)
   `criticalmix:topsecret`
2. The resulting string is encoded using Base64.
   `Y3JpdGljYWxtaXg6dG9wc2VjcmV0`

This is your **authorization token**.

Providing Your Credentials

Critical Mix will provide you with a username and password as a part of the on-boarding process for the use of this API.

> Your username will be the same for our production and sandbox environments, but passwords will be different!

Use the `Authorization` header to provide your **authorization token** for any endpoint which requires authentication. The `Authorization` header requires two values separated by a space.

The first value is the type of authentication being used. In this case, the type should be `Basic`.
The second value is your **authorization token**.

Given the **authorization token** `Y3JpdGljYWxtaXg6dG9wc2VjcmV0` from the above example, the `Authorization` header would look like this:

```
Authorization: Basic Y3JpdGljYWxtaXg6dG9wc2VjcmV0
```

Related Errors

Requests which require authentication, as specified in the Endpoints documentation, will evaluate the `Authorization` header and validate your credentials. Requests that do not require authentication will ignore the `Authorization` header.

> Authentication errors may not be generated by endpoints which do not require authentication, even if invalid credentials are provided!

HTTP Status	Error Code	Description
`401: Unauthorized`	`authorization-required`	The `Authorization` header is missing from the request for an endpoint which requires authentication.

	basic-authorization-required	The authentication type is not specified in the `Authorization` header is not `Basic`.
	invalid-authorization	The authorization token provided in the `Authorization` header cannot be successfully decoded.
`403: Forbidden`	invalid-credentials	An invalid username or password was used to create the authorization token.

Example: Proper Use of the Authorization Header

The following example illustrates the correct use of the `Authorization` header in a request for a `members` resource, which requires authentication.

JSON

```
GET /api/v2/members/M0001
Accept: application/json
Accept-Version: 1.0
Authorization: Basic Y3JpdGljYWxtaXg6dG9wc2VjcmV0

HTTP/1.1 200
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
Content-Version: 1.0
{
  "memberId": "M0001",
  "language": "EN",
  "email": "m0001@example.com",
  "firstName": "John",
  "lastName": "Snow",
  "birthDate": "1984/01/20",
  "address": {
    "country": "US",
    "streetAddress": null,
    "postalcode": "10101"
  }
}
```

Example: Missing Authorization Header

This example shows a request to the `members` resource which requires authentication. But, the `Authorization` header is missing from the request.

An appropriate error response is returned.

JSON

```
GET /api/v2/members/M0001
Accept: application/json
Accept-Version: 1.0

HTTP/1.1 401
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
{
  "errorCode": "authorization-required",
  "errorMessage": "Authorization is Required",
  "errors": []
}
```

Example: Incorrect Authentication Type

In this example, the request to `members` requires authentication. But, the authentication type is specified as `OAuth` instead of `Basic`.

An appropriate error response is returned.

JSON

```
GET /api/v2/members/M0001
Accept: application/json
Accept-Version: 1.0
Authorization: OAuth YmFkOmNyZWRlbnRpYWxz

HTTP/1.1 401
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
{
  "errorCode": "basic-authorization-required",
  "errorMessage": "Authorization must be HTTP Basic Authorization",
  "errors": []
}
```

Example: Invalid Credentials Used

This example shows a request to the `members` resource which requires authentication. But, invalid credentials were used to create the authorization token.

An appropriate error response is returned.

JSON

```
GET /api/v2/members/M0001
Accept: application/json
Accept-Version: 1.0
Authorization: Basic YmFkOmNyZWRlbnRpYWxz

HTTP/1.1 403
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
{
  "errorCode": "invalid-credentials",
  "errorMessage": "Invalid Authentication Credentials",
  "errors": []
}
```