

About the REST API

OpenAthens customers can use our REST API to interact with the system programmatically. REST in this case is an acronym for **RE**presentational **St**ate **Tr**ansfer rather than any comment on how much tea our developers get through. API stands for **A**pplication **P**rogramming **I**nterface.

What kind of things can you do with the API?

The API allows you to programmatically create, manage and delete accounts. This means you can do things such as:

- Build a self service portal for your users to create and maintain their own accounts
- Run your own bespoke self registration pages
- Start a session for an OpenAthens account that already exists on the system (ideal if you want to [put a login box on your own site](#))

There is also the capability to use the API with an existing application that holds user credentials to log a user in using those instead of OpenAthens accounts. See - [API connector](#)

Rather than embedding a username and password in your application you can [generate an API Key](#) that can be used instead. This will mean that you can change your administrator password without worrying about breaking your application. You can generate as many keys as you need.

Documentation:

For details see [OpenAthens REST API documentation](#)