

Have a complete OpenAPI compliant documentation for the Open Food Facts API

Link to manifest your interest: <https://forms.gle/qnNbhb8JafEKL4Y88>

Open Food Facts SoD page: <https://wiki.openfoodfacts.org/SeasonOfDocs>

About your organization

Open Food Facts is the "wikipedia of food".

Make better food choices for your health and for the planet

It's a database of food and cosmetic products with all the data you can find on product labels.

Food additives, allergens, packaging codes: Open Food Facts helps you make sense of the fine print on products labels. Also, you can easily compare products in 3-clicks, so that you can make more informed choices.

Made by everyone

Open Food Facts is a non-profit association of volunteers. Since 2012, 25000+ contributors have added 2 Million+ products from 180 countries using the Android or iPhone apps to scan barcodes and upload pictures of products and their labels. We helped foster the Nutri-Score across Europe which is now present on physical projects, and we're doing the same for the planet with Eco-Score.

For everyone

Data about food and cosmetics is of public interest and has to be open. In addition to the official app, Open Food Facts is a platform for developers, and there are more than 150 re-uses of the data in many different ways: many nutrition apps to eat better, food inventory apps to prevent waste, research by health and nutrition scientists, investigations by journalists, educational games etc.

With a good documentation

As a result, many users (developers, scientists, innovators...) use and rely heavily on the Open Food Facts API. The better documentation we have, the more reuses we'll get, and the more apps we'll get to contribute back data to this common good.

About your project

Your project's problem

Many people rely on the Open Food Facts API to help transform the food system. Ensuring that the API documentation is OpenAPI compliant - but also clear and readable - will promote the development of new applications based on the Open Food Facts database, scientific reuses, and improve the quality and quantity of data. This, in turn, will increase the

number of conscious customers checking via apps the nutrition values of the food products they purchase and support Open Food Facts' vision of making nutritional information available to everyone.

As a result, we made lowering the API barrier to entry and developing API data contributions two of our 2022 priorities. This project will thus help us reach those goals.

Your project's scope

Expected outcomes:

Refresh the Open Food Facts API and make it OpenAPI compliant

- Audit the existing documentation and create a friction log, especially around the API itself, and the tools used to maintain it.
- Refresh the Open Food Facts API based on feedback/exchanges with the community
- Extend the documentation with all the new routes and APIs listed in <https://github.com/openfoodfacts/api-documentation>
- Ensure all existing routes are compliant with best practices for OpenAPI that allow for SDK generation, testing...
- Participate in leveling up our API game and best practices, along with the core Open Food Facts team
- (stretch goal) Set up a GitHub Actions CI pipeline with mentors to convert the doc to Open API (and then to OpenAPI generated SDKs)

Estimated time on the project: 200 hours (25 days on 5 month).

We have identified mentors from the core as well as volunteers from the community. We have not yet identified candidates for the projects. We hope to get some applications from GSOC but we also have the ability to broadcast the project proposal to our wider community of users.

Measuring your project's success

Open Food Facts is reused by more than 160 mobile apps thanks to our current API. The more it is clear and efficient, the more we gain new reusers, and the less support we have to provide (which is time consuming). We're also facing the need to gather more apps to reuse the write API to send back products or data to the Open Food Facts database.

We would consider the project successful if, after publication of the new documentation:

- The number of API users increases by 10% in the following year.
- Within a year, at least 5 additional users of the API are now sending back products to the Open Food Facts database.

- At least 3 SDK are generated thanks to OpenAPI (we will focus on widely adopted languages: Python, Javascript, ...)
- The API questions are mostly bug or corner cases related and not linked to miscomprehensions of the API

Timeline

The project itself will take approximately five months to complete. Once the tech writer is hired, we'll spend two weeks on tech writer orientation, then move onto the audit and friction log, and spend the last few months focusing on fixing the documentation and moving it into the OpenAPI standard. We will closely follow the proposed GSOC timeline

<https://developers.google.com/season-of-docs/docs/timeline>

Dates	Action Items
May	Orientation
June	Audit existing documentation and create friction log
July - August	Fixing current documentation and work on open issues
September - October	Moving to OpenAPI and Devops

Project budget

Budget for the "Have a complete OpenAPI compliant documentation for the Open Food Facts API"

- Technical writing: 25 days @\$350/day — \$8750
- Management/technical coaching: 2 days @\$400/day — \$800
- Dev ops (pipeline, deployment, tests...): 3 days @\$400/day — \$1200

Total: 10750

Additional information

- **Previous experience with technical writers or documentation**

From 2012 to 2019, the Open Food Facts core contributors have documented the project themselves, but this is far from satisfying, given the volume of people who rely on Open Food Facts APIs and tools, for both personal, professional and scientific work. Some milestones include an advanced editor guide, and some other effective guides on smaller tasks.

We deeply care about our final users and the developer community that we have fostered and helped using live interactions on our chat room.

We have had the chance to work with 1 technical writer so far, as part of the first edition of Google's Season of Docs in 2019. This has had a profound impact on the documentation of the API (which was essentially non documented) and on our documentation processes.

We have made further progress with the Google.org Fellowship Program thanks to Googler Olivier Cervello.

We have largely automated, whenever possible documentation generation and deployment from code comments, the main API being the last part of the project where documentation is still largely manual (although publication is automated).

We have made a headstart with OpenAPI with 2 smaller projects (Folksonomy Engine and Open Food Facts Events) and we're keen on bringing its power to the main API.

The main API being mission critical for food transparency, we have made leveling up the main API documentation a top 2022 priority as the project scales to Wikipedia-size

- **Previous participation in Season of Docs, Google Summer of Code or others**

Open Food Facts was an awardee of the Google.org Impact Challenge and the Google.org Fellowship, for its transformative impact on the environmental impacts of food with Eco-Score. At this occasion we had to guide a team of 10 googlers, it was really demanding but also rewarding to the project.

We have successfully mentored several projects as part of Google's Summer of Code: 2 in 2018. We also took part in Google's Season of Doc with one technical writer (Marina) in 2019. We also took part in other programs like Outreachy, and had several interns in various fields.

Previous experiences help us understand the importance of the bonding period to not only evaluate candidates, but also give them the feeling of open-source culture and working methodology. It also helps us understand how to be realistic on the deadlines and to help the applicant work on an iterative basis, while helping her/him on a weekly basis (or monthly depending on the level of engagement) and being reactive on questions and eventual blockers.

We also mentor volunteers (development, design, non technical...) on a continuous basis, onboarding them into Open Food Facts, pointing them to interesting and motivating projects based on their interests and also the needs of Open Food Facts.