



# User Centered API Versioning

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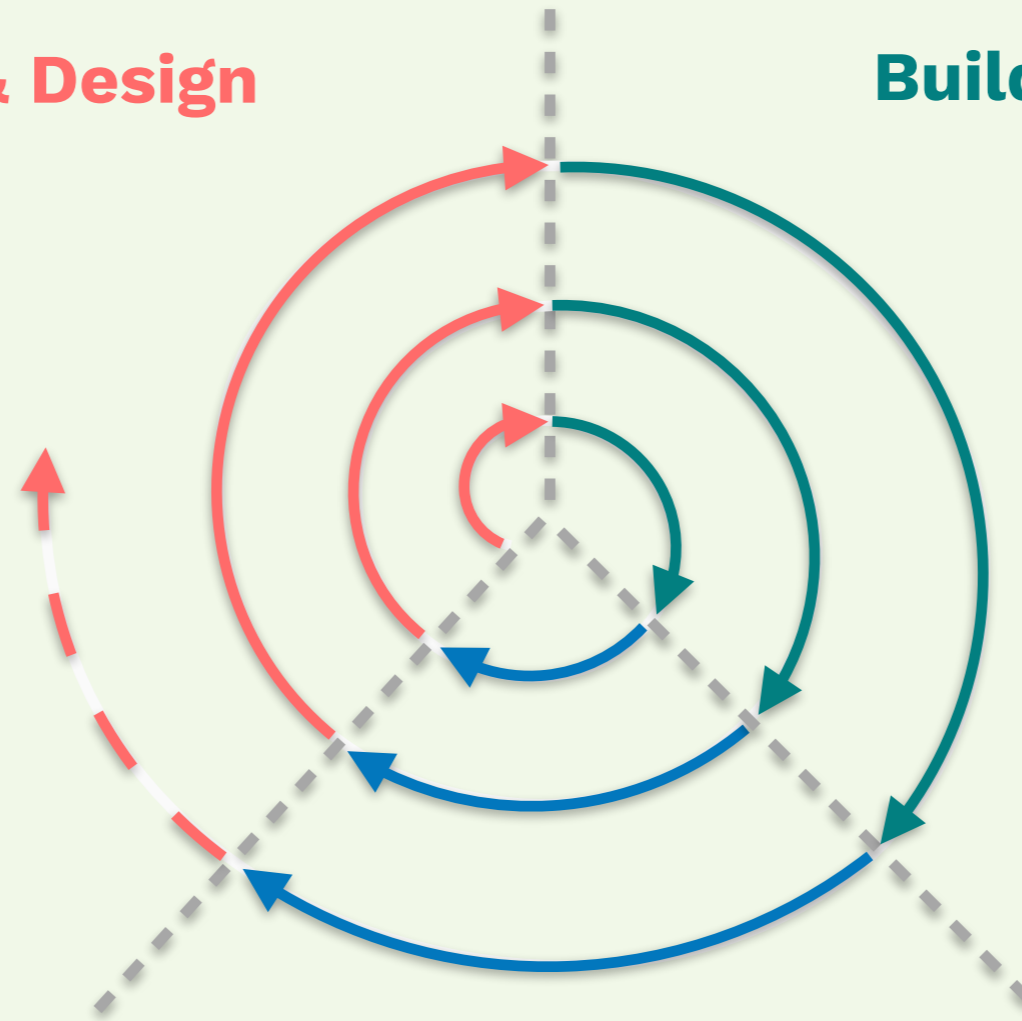


**Meltwater API**

# Iterative Development

**Plan & Design**

**Build & Release**



**Test & Gather**

**But...**

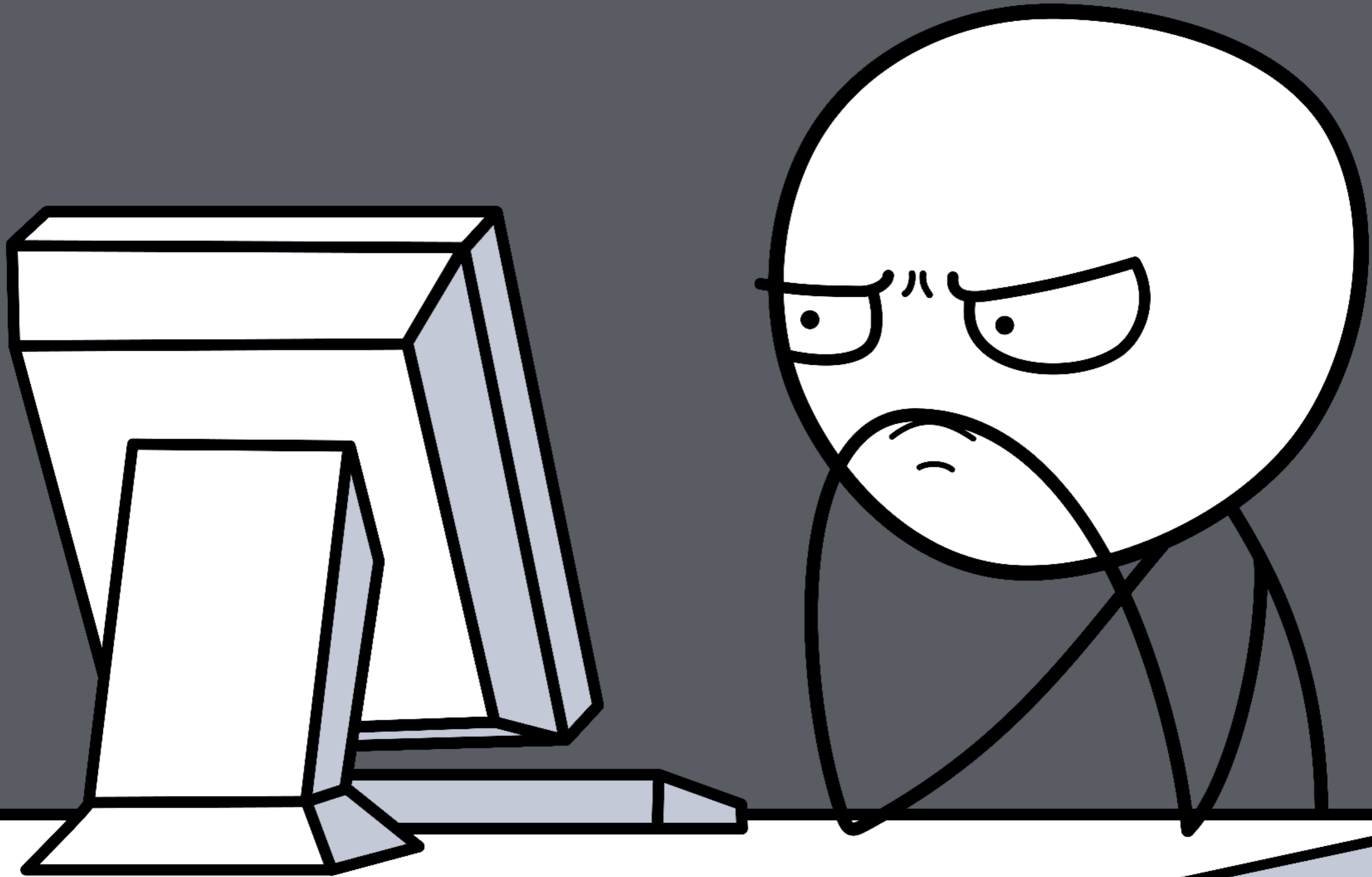
**we're building  
an API?**



**An API is a contract**

**Changing  
our  
API...**







# Versioning

`/api/v1/documents`

`/api/v2/documents`

`/api/v3/documents`

# Migrations

The image shows a screenshot of the Twitter API documentation website. The page has a purple header with navigation links: Developer, Use cases, Products, Docs, and More. A search bar is located in the top right corner. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a search bar and a list of categories: Basics, Accounts and users, Tweets, Direct Messages, Media, Trends, Geo, and Ads. Under the Ads category, there are sub-links for General, Analytics, Audiences, Campaign Management, and Creatives. The main content area is titled 'General' and has two sub-sections: 'Overview' and 'Guides'. The 'Guides' section is currently selected and highlighted with a purple bar. Below this, the main heading is 'Migration Guide; v0 => v1'. The text below the heading states: 'We recommend you start moving away from analytics v0 endpoints to the newly introduced analytics v1 endpoints as soon as possible. As per our [Version 1 Announcement](#), v0 will be deprecated on *June 30, 2016*.' Below this, there is another heading: 'Consolidation of analytics endpoints'. The text below this heading explains: 'In version 0 of the Ads API, a separate analytics endpoint existed for each entity type, from funding instruments to promoted tweets to organic tweets. With version 1 of the API, we've consolidated these into just two endpoints - one for synchronous stats queries, and another for asynchronous stats queries. These two endpoints can be used to fetch stats for all entity types, specified using the `entity` and `entity_ids` parameters. The synchronous endpoint will return smaller batches of data ideal for real-time campaign optimizations. The asynchronous endpoint is intended for larger queries of complex data, ideal for generating reporting or historical backfills.'



**An alternative?**

What the user wants...

**Stable API**

What the user wants...

**Documentation**

**What the user wants...**

**Easy to Upgrade**



What the user wants...

**Don't make me do it**

**Best for us?**

**What we want...**

**Easy to Change**

**What we want...**

**Easy to Maintain**

**What we want...**

**Incentive to Upgrade**

**Support ALL the  
versions!**



What!?



# APIs as infrastructure: future-proofing Stripe with versioning

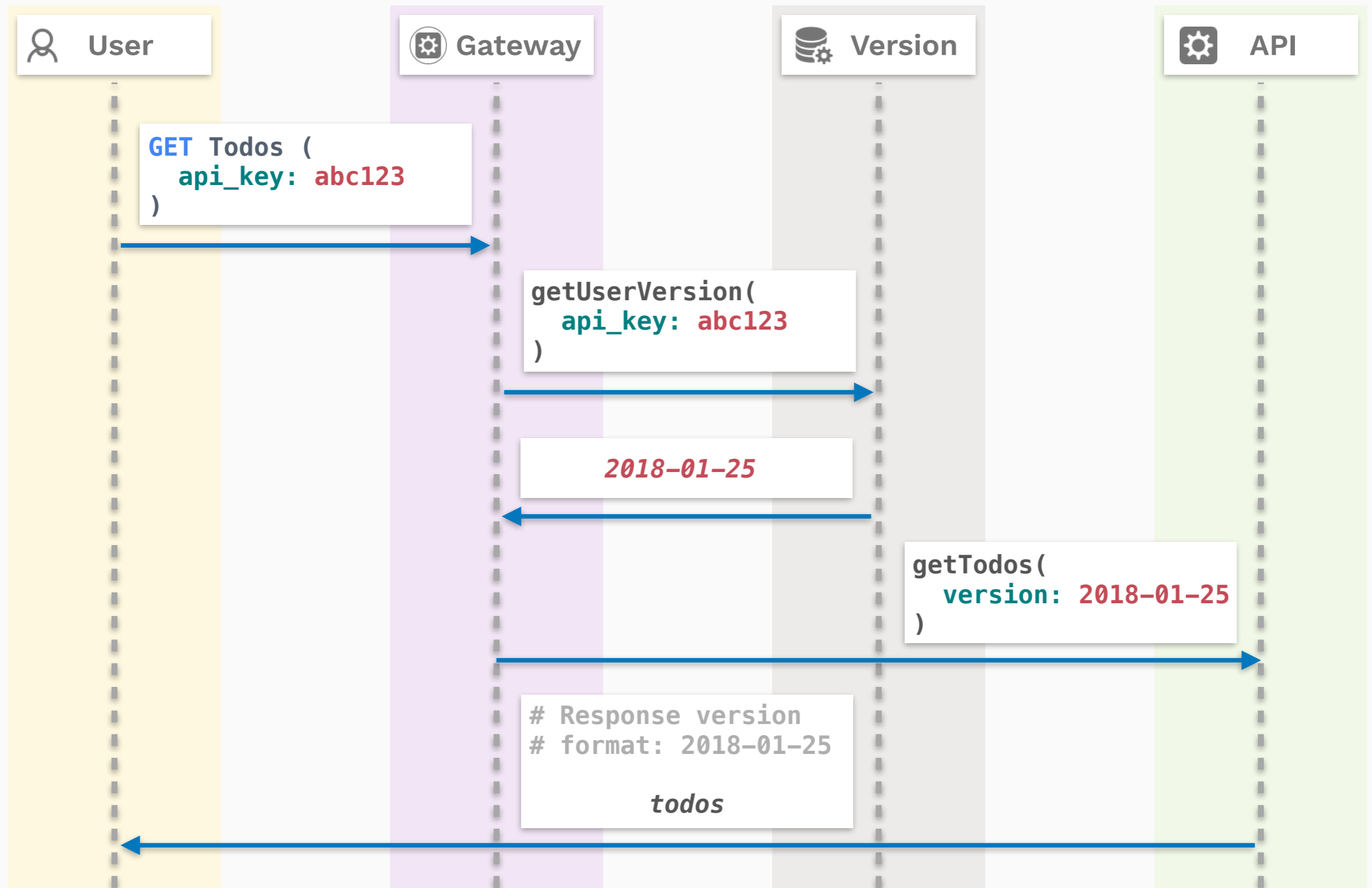
[Brandur Leach](#) on August 15, 2017 in [Engineering](#)

When it comes to APIs, change isn't popular. While software developers are used to iterating quickly and often, API developers lose that flexibility as soon as even one user starts consuming their interface. Many of us are familiar with how the Unix operating system evolved. In 1994, [The Unix-Haters Handbook](#) was published containing a long list of missives about the software—everything from overly-cryptic command names that were optimized for Teletype machines, to irreversible file deletion, to unintuitive programs with far too many options. Over twenty years later, an overwhelming majority of these complaints are still valid even across the dozens of modern derivatives. Unix had become so widely used that changing its behavior would have challenging implications. For better or worse, it established a contract with its users that defined how Unix interfaces behave.

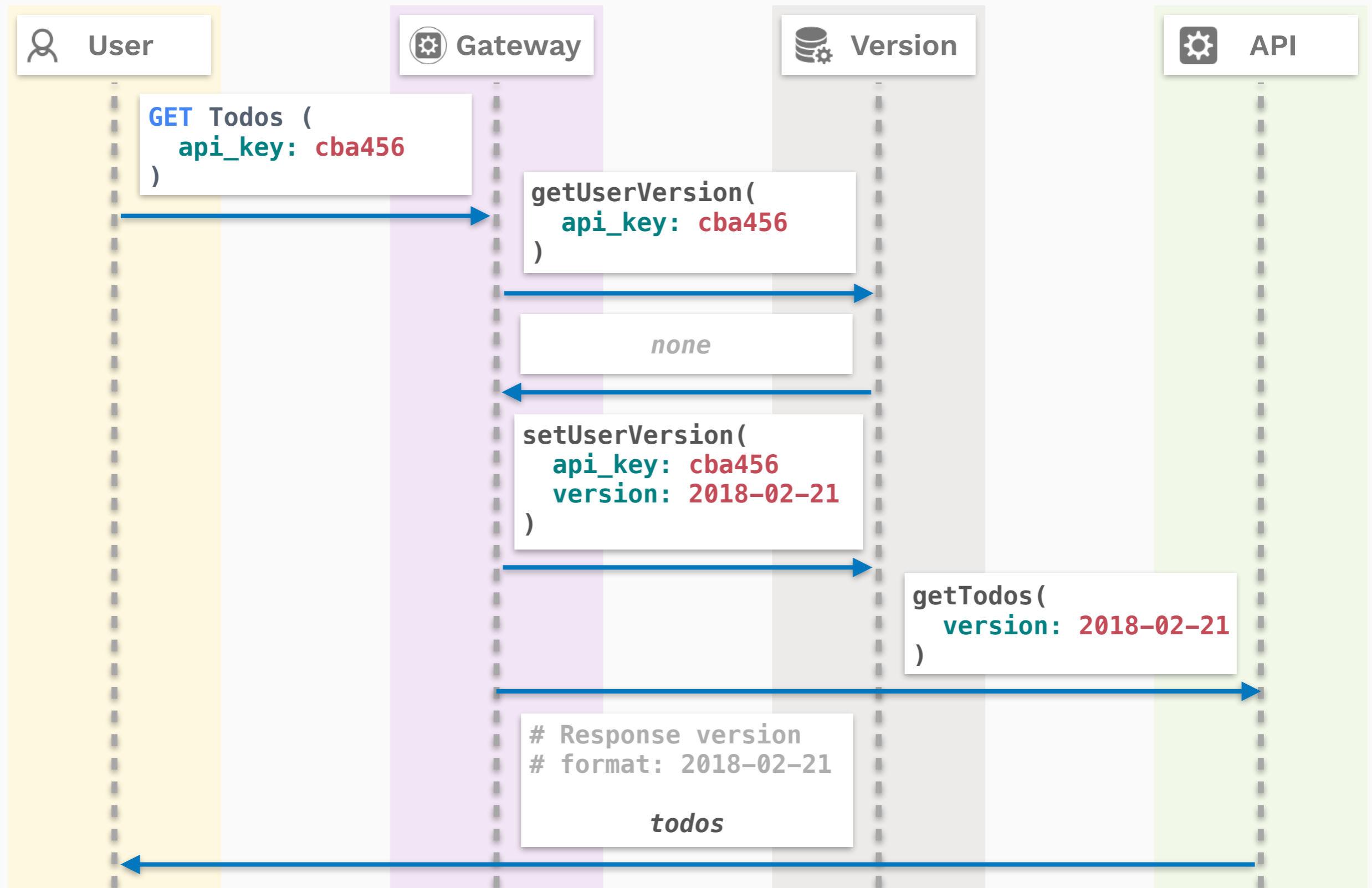


**How does this work  
for the user?**

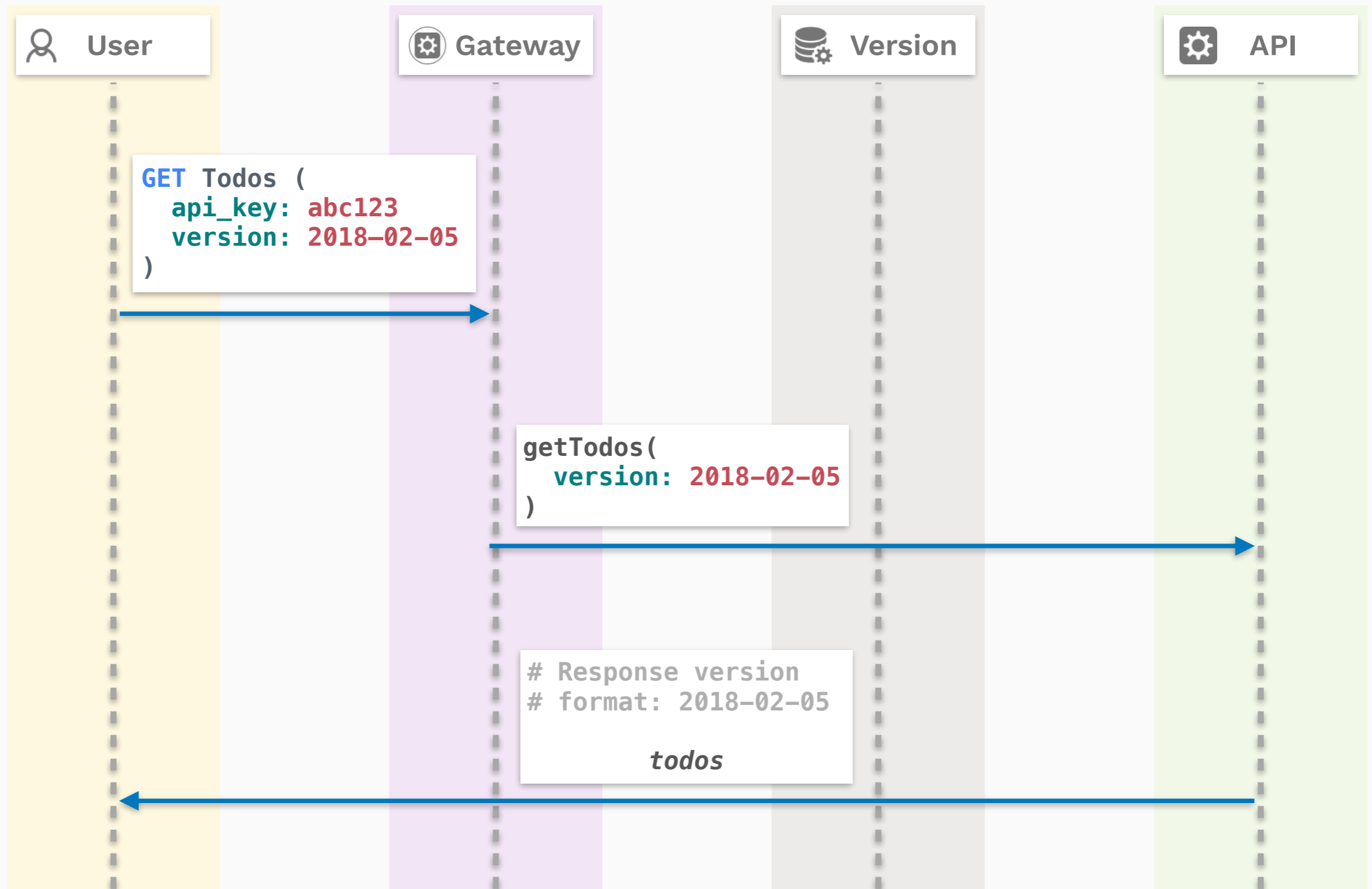
# Existing User's API Call



# User's first API Call



# Specifying a different API version



# Managing Versions

Status  Live

User Key

56fa7d45487a4af43e93317af7e8737d

[Regenerate](#)

Add this as a `user-key` header parameter to your API calls to authenticate.

Search API Version

2017-10-07

# Managing Versions

Status  Live

User Key

56fa7d45487a4af43e93317af7e8737d

[Regenerate](#)

Add this as a `user-key` header parameter to your API calls to authenticate.

Search API Version

2017-10-07

*\*Upgrade Available. Check out the [Changelog](#) for details*

# Managing Versions

**DESCRIPTION**

2017-06-28 (current)

2017-08-05

2017-11-15

2017-12-25

**SEARCH API VERSION**

✓ 2018-02-21 (latest)

*Update Application*

A dark, cylindrical object, possibly a rocket or missile, lies diagonally across a wooden surface. The object has a textured, metallic appearance and several small holes near its base. Scattered around it are various tools and debris, including a long metal rod, a curved metal piece, a small blue object, and a red-handled tool. The background is a wooden surface with a visible grain.

**How to build it?**



**Our  
implementation...**

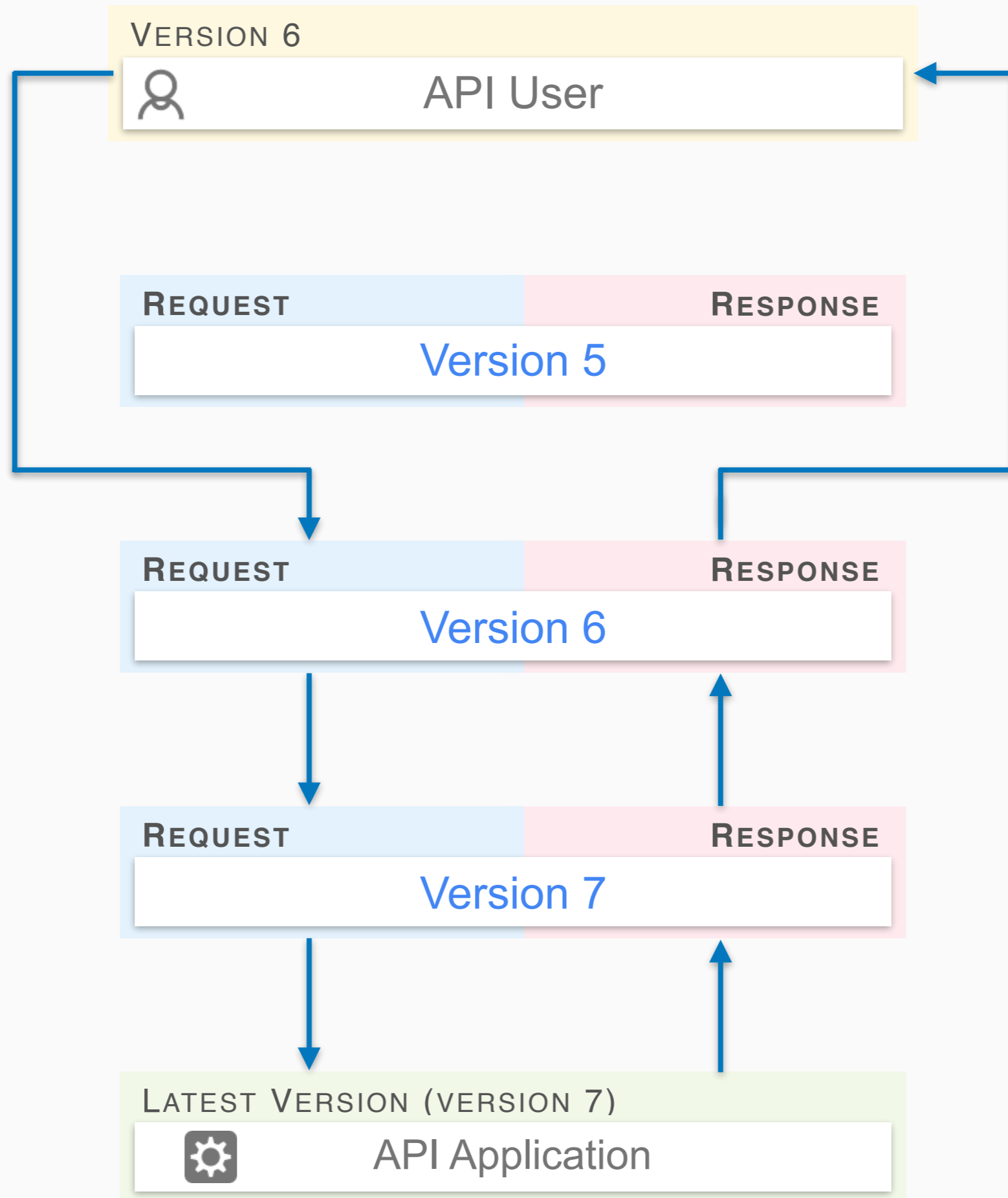
**Keep it current**

**Our  
implementation...**

**Release  
rolling versions**

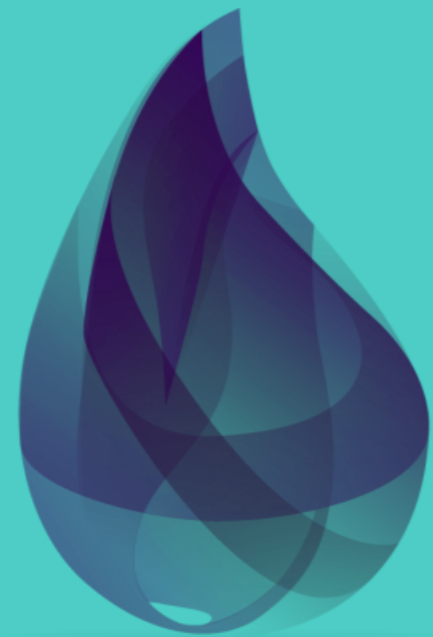
**Our  
implementation...**

# **Versions as transformations**





# Implementation



connection

|> endpoint

|> router

|> pipeline

|> controller

connection

| > endpoint

| > plug

| > router

| > plug

| > pipeline

| > controller



connection

| > endpoint

| > **authentication**

| > router

| > **apply\_version**

| > pipeline

| > controller

# Sample application



```
$> curl -X GET -G /api/todos --data 'size=2'
```

```
$> curl -X GET -G /api/todos --data 'size=2'
```

```
{  
  "data": [  
    {  
      "title": "Build Sample App",  
      "id": 1,  
      "description": "Put together a sample app for versioning"  
    },  
    {  
      "title": "Add documentation",  
      "id": 2,  
      "description": "Write up some documentation"  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

```
curl -X GET -G /api/todos --data 'size=2'
```

```
curl -X GET -G /api/todos --data 'page_size=2'
```

OLD VERSION VERSION



API User

OLD REQUEST FORMAT

```
%Plug.Conn{params: %{"size" => size}}
```

CURRENT REQUEST

```
%Plug.Conn{params: %{"page_size" => size}}
```

LATEST VERSION



API Application

Transform  
Request



```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.ModifyRequest do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(%Plug.Conn{params: %{"size"=> size} = params} = conn, _) do
    updated_params =
      params
      |> Map.put("page_size", size)
      |> Map.delete("size")

    %{conn | params: updated_params }
  end

  def call(conn, _), do: conn
end
```



```
$> curl -X GET /api/todos
```

```
{  
  "data": [  
    {  
      "title": "Build Sample App",  
      "id": 1,  
      "description": "Put together a sample app for versioning"  
    },  
    {  
      "title": "Add documentation",  
      "id": 2,  
      "description": "Write up some documentation"  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

```
...  
{  
  {  
    "title": "Add documentation",  
    "id": 2,  
    "description": "Write up documentation"  
  }  
}  
...  
}
```

```
...  
{  
  {  
    "title": "Add documentation",  
    "id": 2,  
    "details": "Write up documentation"  
  }  
}  
...
```

LATEST VERSION



API Application

CURRENT RESPONSE

```
{  
  "title": "Add documentation",  
  "id": 2,  
  "details": "Write up documentation"  
}
```

OLD RESPONSE FORMAT

```
{  
  "title": "Add documentation",  
  "id": 2,  
  "description": "Write up documentation"  
}
```

OLD VERSION VERSION



API User

Transform  
Response



```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.TransformResponse do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn, _opts) do
    Plug.Conn.register_before_send(conn, fn conn ->
      transform_description(conn)
    end)
  end

  def call(conn, _), do: conn

  defp transform_description(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn) do
    end
end
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.TransformResponse do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn, _opts) do
    Plug.Conn.register_before_send(conn, fn conn ->
      transform_description(conn)
    end)
  end

  def call(conn, _), do: conn

  defp transform_description(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn) do
  end
end
```

```
defp transform_description(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn) do
  json_body = Poison.decode!(body)

  transformed_data =
    json_body["data"]
    |> Enum.map(fn(item) ->
    |> Map.put("details", item["description"]))
    |> Map.delete("description")
  end)

  %{conn | resp_body: Poison.encode!(%{json_body | "data" => transformed_data})}
end
```

```
defp transform_description(%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body} = conn) do
  transformed_body =
    body
    |> to_string
    |> String.replace("\"description\":", "\"details\":")

  %{conn | resp_body: transformed_body }
end
```



OLD VERSION VERSION



API User

OLD REQUEST FORMAT

```
%Plug.Conn{params: %{"size" => size}}
```

OLD RESPONSE FORMAT

```
%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body}
```

CURRENT REQUEST

```
%Plug.Conn{params: %{"page_size" => size}}
```

CURRENT RESPONSE

```
%Plug.Conn{resp_body: body}
```

LATEST VERSION



API Application



```
defmodule TodosWeb.Change do
```

```
  @doc """
```

```
  Transforms the request on the way into the application.
```

```
  """
```

```
  @callback transform_request(Plug.Conn.t) :: Plug.Conn.t
```

```
  @doc """
```

```
  Registers callback to transform response on the way out  
  of the application
```

```
  """
```

```
  @callback transform_response(Plug.Conn.t) :: Plug.Conn.t
```

```
end
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Changes.Versions do
```

```
...
```

```
@all_versions %{  
  "2017-10-02" => [  
    TodosWeb.Changes.RevertMultipleAuthors  
  ],  
  "2017-10-03" => [  
    TodosWeb.Changes.RemoveDocumentLocation,  
    TodosWeb.Changes.RenameSourceId  
  ],  
  "2017-10-04" => [  
    TodosWeb.Changes.ResetSourceReachDefault  
  ]  
}
```

```
...
```

```
end
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Changes.Versions do

  ...

  def changes_for(requested_version) do
    @all_versions
    |> versions_since(requested_version)
    |> Keyword.values
    |> List.flatten
  end

  defp versions_since(versions, requested_version) do
    Enum.filter(versions, fn({version_date, _changes}) ->
      requested_version <= version_date
    end)
  end

  ...

end
```

connection

|> endpoint

|> authentication

|> router

|> **apply\_version**

|> pipeline

|> controller

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.ApplyVersion do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(conn, _) do
    # 1. get request version
    # 2. get changes for version
    # 3. apply request changes
    # 4. apply response changes

    end
  end
end
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.ApplyVersion do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(conn, _) do
    changes =
      get_req_header(conn, "x-api-version")
      |> List.first()
      |> TodosWeb.Versions.changes_for()

    # apply request changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn ->
      change.transform_request(conn)
    end)

    # apply response changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn ->
      Plug.Conn.register_before_send(conn, fn conn ->
        change.transform_response(conn)
      end)
    end)
  end
end
```

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.ApplyVersion do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def call(conn, _) do
    changes =
      get_req_header(conn, "x-api-version")
      |> List.first()
      |> TodosWeb.Versions.changes_for()

    # apply request changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn ->
      change.transform_request(conn)
    end)

    # apply response changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn ->
      Plug.Conn.register_before_send(conn, fn conn ->
        change.transform_response(conn)
      end)
    end)
  end
end
```



```
defmodule TodosWeb.Plugs.ApplyVersion do
  @behaviour Plug

  def init(opts), do: opts




  def call(conn, _) do
    changes =
      get_req_header(conn, "x-api-version")
      |> List.first()
      |> TodosWeb.Versions.changes_for()

    # apply request changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn ->
      change.transform_request(conn)
    end)

    # apply response changes
    Enum.reduce(changes, conn, fn change, conn ->
      Plug.Conn.register_before_send(conn, fn conn ->
        change.transform_response(conn)
      end)
    end)

  end
end
```

# Multiverse

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Code Issues 0 Pull requests 0 Insights

Elixir package that allows to add compatibility layers via API gateways. <https://hex.pm/packages/multiverse>

api plug elixir hex versioning gateways elixir-lang

51 commits 1 branch 7 releases 2 contributors MIT

Branch: master New pull request Create new file Upload files Find file Clone or download

 AndrewDryga Format the code with Elixir 1.6 formatter Latest commit 83b89dc 13 days ago

README.md

## Multiverse

deps downloads 45/week hex v1.0.0 license MIT build passing coverage 100% ebert 12 issues

This plug helps to manage multiple API versions based on request and response gateways. This is an awesome practice to hide your backward compatibility. It allows to have your code in a latest possible version, without duplicating controllers or models.



**Okay...**

**what about other  
kinds of changes?**

# Route Change Between Versions

```
$> curl -X GET /api/todos
```

# Route Change Between Versions

```
$> curl -X GET /api/todo_items
```

# Route Change Between Versions

```
TodosWeb.Change.TodosRoute do
  @behaviour TodosWeb.Change
```

```
  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{request_path: "/api/todos"} = conn) do
    %{conn | path_info: ["api", "todos_items"] }
  end
```

```
  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{} = conn), do: conn
```

```
  def handle_response(%Plug.Conn{} = conn), do: conn
```

```
end
```

# New Route for Latest Version

NEW VERSION:

```
curl -X POST /api/todos/share
```

=> HTTP 200

OLD VERSION:

```
curl -X POST /api/todos/share
```

=> HTTP 404

# New Route for Latest Version

```
TodosWeb.Change.NewShareRoute do
  @behaviour TodosWeb.Change

  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{request_path: "/api/todos/share"} = conn) do
    # this will internally redirect to a path that doesn't exist
    # The user will get a 404, but since we haven't changed the
    # `request_path` the 404 message will still show /api/todos/share
    %{conn | path_info: ["api", "todos", "NOT_FOUND"]}
  end

  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{} = conn), do: conn

  def handle_response(%Plug.Conn{} = conn), do: conn
end
```



# Route is Removed

```
$> curl -X POST /api/todos/follow
```

# Route is Removed

```
$> curl -X POST /api/todos/follow
```

# Remove Field from Response Payload

```
{  
  "title": "Build Sample App",  
  "id": 1,  
  "description": "Put together a sample app",  
  "tags": ["conference", "code"]  
}
```

# Remove Field from Response Payload

```
{  
  "title": "Build Sample App",  
  "id": 1,  
  "description": "Put together a sample app",  
  "tags": ["conference", "code"]  
}
```

# Remove Field from Response Payload

```
TodosWeb.Change.RemoveTags do
  @behaviour TodosWeb.Change

  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{} = conn), do: conn

  def handle_response(%Plug.Conn{request_path: "/api/todos", resp_body: body} = conn) do
    json_body = Poison.decode!(body)

    transformed_data =
      json_body["data"]
      |> Enum.map(fn(todo_item) -> Map.put(todo_item, "tags", [])) end

    %{conn | resp_body: Poison.encode!(%{json_body | "data" => transformed_data})}
  end
end
```

# Validation Rule Changes

```
{  
  "title": "Build Sample App",   Max Length: 50  
  "id": 1,  
  "description": "Put together a sample app",  
  "tags": ["conference", "code"]  
}
```

# Validation Rule Changes

```
{  
  "title": "Build Sample App",    Max Length: 30  
  "id": 1,  
  "description": "Put together a sample app",  
  "tags": ["conference", "code"]  
}
```

# Validation Rule Changes

```
TodosWeb.Change.TitleValidaton do
  @behaviour TodosWeb.Change

  def init(opts), do: opts

  def handle_request(%Plug.Conn{params: %{"todo"=> %{}} = params} = conn, _) do
    updated_params =
      params
      |> put_in(params, ["todo", "version"], current_version())

    %{conn | params: updated_params }
  end
end

def handle_request(conn, _), do: conn

def handle_response(conn, _), do: conn

end
```



# Validation Rule Changes

```
defmodule TodosWeb.Changes.Versions do
```

```
  ...
```

```
  def max_title_length(version) when version >= "2017-10-03", do: 30
```

```
  def max_title_length(_version), do: 50
```

```
  ...
```

```
end
```

# Validation Rule Changes

```
defmodule Todos.TodoList.Todo do
  import Ecto.Changeset

  def changeset(%Todo{ } = todo, %{version: version} = attrs) do
    todo
    |> cast(attrs, [:title, :description])
    |> validate_required([:title, :description])
    |> validate_length(:title, max: max_title_length(version))
  end

  defp max_title_length(version) do
    TodoWeb.Versions.max_title_size(version)
  end
end
```

**Enough already...**

**What have we achieved?**



**Stable API**

# Documentation



**Don't make  
me do it**





**Easy to  
upgrade**



**Easy to Change**





**Incentive to Upgrade**

# Manageable



**Why doesn't everyone  
do this?**

# Final Thoughts

[@niallburkley](#) | [github.com/nburkley](https://github.com/nburkley) | [niallburkley.com](https://niallburkley.com)

**Thank you!**



[underthehood.meltwater.com](https://underthehood.meltwater.com)