

[Storage Products](https://cloud.google.com/products/storage/) (https://cloud.google.com/products/storage/)

[Documentation](https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/) (https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/) [Reference](#)

# Cloud Storage JSON API overview

The Cloud Storage JSON API is a simple, JSON-backed interface for accessing and manipulating Cloud Storage projects in a programmatic way. It is fully compatible with the [Cloud Storage Client Libraries](https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/reference/libraries) (https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/reference/libraries).

The JSON API is intended for software developers. To use it you should be familiar with web programming and be comfortable creating applications that consume web services through HTTP requests. If this does not describe you, consider one of the following alternatives:

- If you are just starting out with Cloud Storage, you should first try either the [Cloud Console Quickstart](https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/quickstart-console) (https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/quickstart-console) or the [gsutil Quickstart](https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/quickstart-gsutil) (https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/quickstart-gsutil). These tutorials demonstrate the basics of using Cloud Storage without the need to use the API directly.
- If you are a mobile or web app developer, you can use the [Firebase SDKs](https://firebase.google.com/docs/storage/) (https://firebase.google.com/docs/storage/) for Cloud Storage.
- If you are not a software developer and want to store your personal data in the cloud and share it with others, you can use [Google Drive](https://www.google.com/drive/) (https://www.google.com/drive/).

The current release of the JSON API is v1.

## Activating the API

For new projects, the JSON API is activated by default, and it can be used immediately. Note that you must enable billing for your project before that project can create buckets. All other operations will work immediately.

To enable the JSON API in an existing project, go to the [Google Cloud Storage JSON API page](https://console.cloud.google.com/apis/library/storage-api.googleapis.com) (https://console.cloud.google.com/apis/library/storage-api.googleapis.com) in the Cloud Console API Library, and click the **Enable** button.

## What's next

- Generate an access token for authentication using the [OAuth 2.0 Playground](https://developers.google.com/oauthplayground/) (<https://developers.google.com/oauthplayground/>).
- Learn more about [authenticating to the API](https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/authentication) (<https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/authentication>).
- Learn about [request endpoints and URI path encoding](https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/request-endpoints) (<https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/request-endpoints>).
- [Browse the Cloud Storage How-To Guides](https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/how-to/) (<https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/how-to/>), which include examples of using the JSON API directly.
- [Read the JSON API reference pages](https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/json_api/v1/) ([https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/json\\_api/v1/](https://cloud.google.com/storage/docs/json_api/v1/)).

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