

API Frequently Asked Questions

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Introduction

In this document you will find answers to frequently asked questions about the Kaltura's API.

If this is your first time working with Kaltura's API, it is highly recommended that you take time to review the [Kaltura's API Documentation Set](#).

If you are unable to find the information you are looking for, please use the search bar above to search for the information you seek, or report a missing information [here](https://app.knowledgeowl.com/help/contact-feedback) (<https://app.knowledgeowl.com/help/contact-feedback>) .

How to retrieve the Partner ID, API Admin Secret and API User Secret

To retrieve account information

*Including the account partner id, user and admin API secret keys:

1. login to Kaltura Management Console,
2. Open the Settings tab
3. Select the Integration Settings sub-tab.

For more information see: [What can you configure in the Integration Settings?](#)

How to retrieve the downloadable or streaming URL using API calls?

The Kaltura Player abstracts the need to retrieve direct access to the video file, and handles the various aspects of the video playback including multi-bitrate, choosing the correct codec and streaming protocols, DRM, access control and more. Often applications need a direct URL for downloading the raw media file for purposes such as streaming outside of the Kaltura Player, processing the video data (such as video analysis or transcriptions) and more.

To access the playback stream directly, or to get a link to download the video file, user will need to consider the following:

- Target playback devices
- Any security protocols applied to your Kaltura account and video,
- Then choose the suitable API methods.

To learn more, please refer [here](https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-retrieve-the-download-or-streaming-url-using-api-calls) (<https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-retrieve-the-download-or-streaming-url-using-api-calls>).

How to retrieve metadata of a media entry using the API?

To get a specific media entry, call the `media.get` API providing the id of the Kaltura Entry. The `media.get` request will return the basic metadata and information associated a Kaltura Entry. Using the Kaltura REST API, the `media.get` request will look as follows:

```
{service_url}
```

If you are using SaaS then, the URL is `www.kaltura.com` and if not, its your own domain.

Where `{youentryId}` is the id of the media entry you'd like to retrieve information about, and `{ks}` is a valid [Kaltura Session](https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-create-a-kaltura-session) (<https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-create-a-kaltura-session>) of an entitled user who has access to that media entry. For a full list of the available Media Entry fields that will be returned by the `media.get` API, visit the [media.get API documents](https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-create-a-kaltura-session) (<https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-create-a-kaltura-session>).

Does the Kaltura platform allow fps and resolution reduction?

Yes, off the shelf. Kaltura transcodes input video files (and live streams) to web-playable and MBR renditions (flavors in Kaltura). This is done by transcoding the video. It's controlled by the flavors API, which allows defining new transcoding rules, profiles, etc.

Can Kaltura send control commands and audio stream back to the camera (bi-directional)?

This functionality requires an extension to the Kaltura [media-server](https://github.com/kaltura/media-server) (<https://github.com/kaltura/media-server>) package. Alternatively, it would be another batch in Kaltura. Or an API script.

How does the Kaltura facilitate handshake / user authentication to ensure authorized users access?

In Kaltura all API calls require a valid KS (Kaltura Session) to be sent as a payload of that call. By providing a valid KS, the Kaltura service ensures that the user is authenticated and holds sufficient permissions to perform its desired action. To learn more, please refer to: Platform API Architecture, Code sample for starting a [Kaltura session](https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-create-a-kaltura-session) (<https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-create-a-kaltura-session>).

What is the backend component that handles Live Streaming in Kaltura?

The Kaltura media-server package, is a proprietary Kaltura ingest-transcoding and packaging solution.

How to upload a video file using the Kaltura API?

Please refer to this [short guide](https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/create-a-new-kaltura-entry-and-upload-video-file-using-the-kaltura-api) (<https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/create-a-new-kaltura-entry-and-upload-video-file-using-the-kaltura-api>). It takes the user through the basic flow of uploading media using Kaltura's upload API.

How is the content uploaded through the Kaltura API?

There are three ways to upload content to Kaltura API- Single upload, Bulk upload and using Drop folders. Following is an example for a single upload.

1. [Create a session](https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-create-a-kaltura-session) (<https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-create-a-kaltura-session>)
2. Media->add – create the entry, get entry ID.
3. uploadToken->add – create uploadToken object, get token ID.
4. media->addContent (KalturaUploadedFileTokenResource) <- pass entry ID and token ID.
5. uploadToken->upload.

Above process outlines the recommended flow. The flow may change depending on the user. Also check [XML/CSV](https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/what-is-bulk-upload-and-ftp-content-ingestion) (<https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/what-is-bulk-upload-and-ftp-content-ingestion>) for more information on bulk upload or learn from the [tutorial](http://blog.kaltura.org/kalturas-bulk-upload) (<http://blog.kaltura.org/kalturas-bulk-upload>).

How to configure the KMC to provide server side notifications?

For a complete list of notifications that are supported in KMC, [click here](https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-configure-the-kmc-to-provide-server-side-notifications) (<https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/how-to-configure-the-kmc-to-provide-server-side-notifications>).

To enable the notifications

1. In the KMC, select the Settings tab and then select the Integration Settings menu.
2. Toggle Yes to receive server notifications.
3. Enter the Notification URL and Save Changes.

For more information about the various notifications and how to implement a notification handler script on your server, refer to: http://www.kaltura.com/api_v3/testmeDoc/index.php?page=notifications or

https://github.com/kaltura/server/tree/Jupiter-10.2.0/plugins/event_notification/providers/http.

What is the recommended time to keep a log of server notifications?

The recommended time to keep the log of notifications is 48 hours. After 48 hours it should be safe to assume a notification will not be re-sent unless manually requested by an admin.

How to create a video thumbnail rotator in JavaScript?

This topic describes the steps to create a Video Thumbnail Rotator in JavaScript. The Video Thumbnail Rotator is a JS widget that provides a thumbnail slideshow preview for videos hosted on the Kaltura Server. For the complete process, [click here](http://knowledge.kaltura.com/javascript-api-kaltura-media-players) (<http://knowledge.kaltura.com/javascript-api-kaltura-media-players>).

What kind of camera feeds are supported “off the shelf” in Kaltura?

Theoretically, you can ingest any protocol that is supported by FFmpeg. RTMP/S is supported or alternatively RTSP is also possible.

How does the search option work in Kaltura?

Kaltura uses the Open Source Search Server Sphinx to perform its metadata indexing and search. The Kaltura Search API and Custom Metadata Search API provide an abstraction layer on top of Sphinx's search capabilities. To learn more about the search in Kaltura [click here](#).

Does Kaltura allow batch processing of computer vision algorithms on transcoded files?

Kaltura's core transcoding is of batch architecture. Refer to Introduction guide: [Batch Processing](#) (<https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/introduction-to-kaltura-batch-processes>).

Can Kaltura allow real time triggering of specific events (stream processing e.g. apache storm, <http://hipi.cs.virginia.edu/>)?

Refer to the HTTP Event Notifications mechanism: [HTTP Event Notifications \(https://github.com/kaltura/server/tree/Jupiter-10.2.0/plugins/event_notification/providers/http\)](https://github.com/kaltura/server/tree/Jupiter-10.2.0/plugins/event_notification/providers/http).

Can Kaltura extract/grab frame images from a video?

Yes, using the thumbnail API Kaltura enables publishers to extract frames from the video in real-time. Refer to [the Thumbnail API Guide \(https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/the-kaltura-thumbnail-api\)](https://knowledge.kaltura.com/help/the-kaltura-thumbnail-api) to learn more.

Can Kaltura generate video clips or trim long videos?

Yes, users can use the the Clipping Tool in the KMC or MediaSpace to create new shorter clips of a video, or trim a long video to be shorter.

To generate video clips based on metadata or events - developers can use the clipping API combined with metadata fields to create clips from VOD files as well as Live streams.

Clipping and trimming cannot work when the entry is served from CDN

See this post for more: [Clipping and Trimming \(http://blog.kaltura.org/server-side-clipping-and-trimming/\)](http://blog.kaltura.org/server-side-clipping-and-trimming/)

Can Kaltura cross reference metadata such as events to video timestamp?

Yes, by saving these events as cue-points metadata in Kaltura.

This will allow the player (across devices) to read the cue points and create all sorts of experiences like chapters. For example, see [the Chapters Player plugin \(http://player.kaltura.com/kWidget/onPagePlugins/chapters/ChapterSamples.html\)](http://player.kaltura.com/kWidget/onPagePlugins/chapters/ChapterSamples.html).

What is the Kaltura media player JavaScript API?

The JavaScript API is a two-way communication channel that lets the player and user interact with each other. It lets the user know what the player is doing and vice versa.

What JavaScript APIs are provided with Kaltura's media players?



You can access the entire JavaScript API through following methods:

- addJsListener/removeJsListener,
- sendNotification,
- evaluate,
- setKDPAttribute.

How to find the Kaltura Video Player APIs?

The list of the Kaltura Video Player APIs is found on the web at: [Kaltura Video Player API \(http://player.kaltura.com/docs/api\)](http://player.kaltura.com/docs/api).
