

Documenting APIs for AIs



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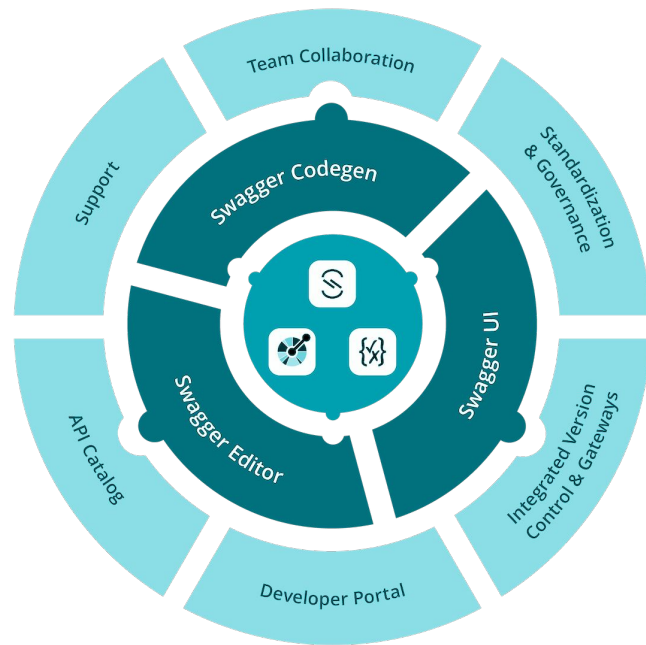
PONIA



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API Docs introduction



The contracts
are the docs



Thirty years of APIs

SOAP

1998

Strictly typed

Contract: WSDL

- Verbose XML
- Hard to read
- + Client code auto-gen

REST

2000

Barely typed

No contract

- + Simple to start
- ± Flexibility
- **Requires docs**

GraphQL

2012

Strictly typed

Contract: schema

- + One endpoint
- Caching is hard
- Steep curve

gRPC

2015

Strictly typed

Contract: .proto

- + Fast
- Binary format
- ± Mostly Internal use

API docs history

```
1 openapi: 3.1.0
2 info:
3   title: Swagger API
4   version: 1.0.0
5 servers:
6   - url: https://api.swagger.io
7 paths:
8   /resources:
9     get:
10      tags:
11        - API Resources
12      summary: Retrieve all resources based on filter criteria
13      description: Fetches a list of all available resources.
14      responses:
15        '200':
16          description: A
17          content:
18            application/json:
19              schema:
20                type: array
21                items:
22                  $ref: '#/components/schemas/resource'
23      post:
24        tags:
25          - API Resources
26        summary: Create a new resource
27        description: Create a new resource
28        requestBody:
29          required: true
30          content:
31            application/json:
32              schema:
33                $ref: '#/components/schemas/resource'
```

Servers

https://api.swagger.io ▼

API Resources

GET /resources Retrieve all resources based on filter criteria

POST /resources Create a new resource

GET /resources/{resourceId} Retrieve a resource

PUT /resources/{resourceId} Update a resource

PATCH /resources/{resourceId} Partially update a resource

DELETE /resources/{resourceId} Delete a resource

OPTIONS /resources/{resourceId} Retrieve options

HEAD /resources/{resourceId} Check resource presence



Your API is a product
Your Docs too!

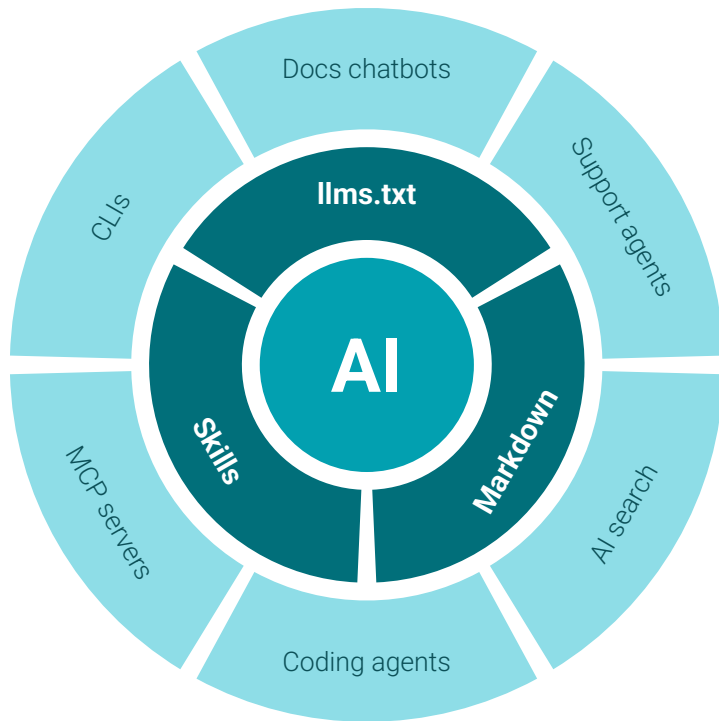


Developers value *predictability*

- ➡ Complete **OpenAPI spec**
- ➡ Testing environments matter (**Sandbox**)
- ➡ Publish a **versioning policy**
- ➡ **Communicate breaking changes**
- ➡ Publish **migration guides**
- ➡ Keep a **Changelog**

AI, the new API Docs consumer

API Docs for AIs



Who reads your docs?

The web overall Cloudflare, Sep 2026

Non-human 50%+

Human

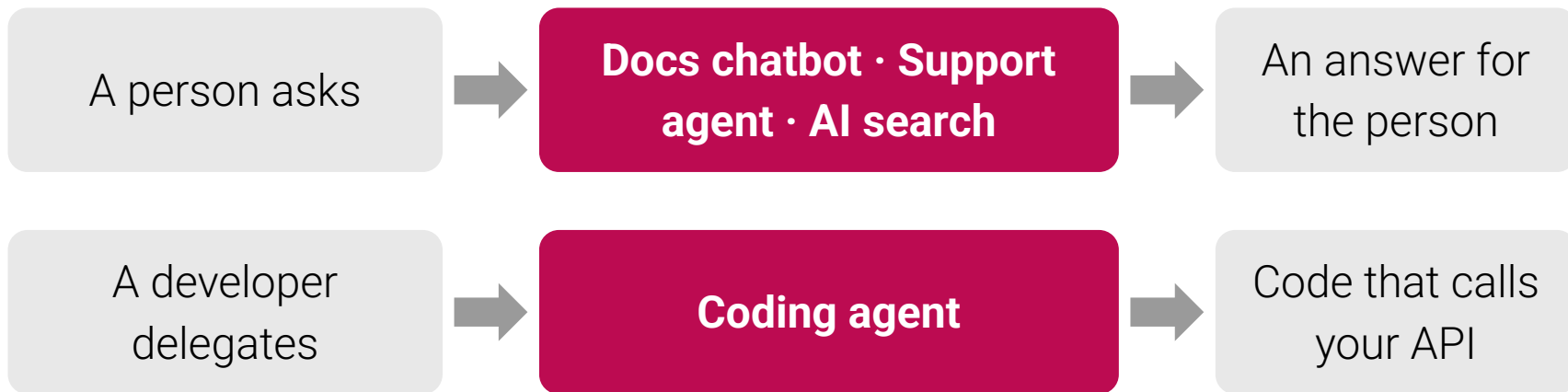
Documentation sites Mintlify, Aug 2026

AI Agents 66%

Human

Two ways AI reads your docs

AI reads your docs



The end user may be human. The API Docs consumer is AI.

Documenting *your* API conventions

- ➡ Authentication
- ➡ Error handling
- ➡ Pagination
- ➡ Rate limiting
- ➡ Versioning

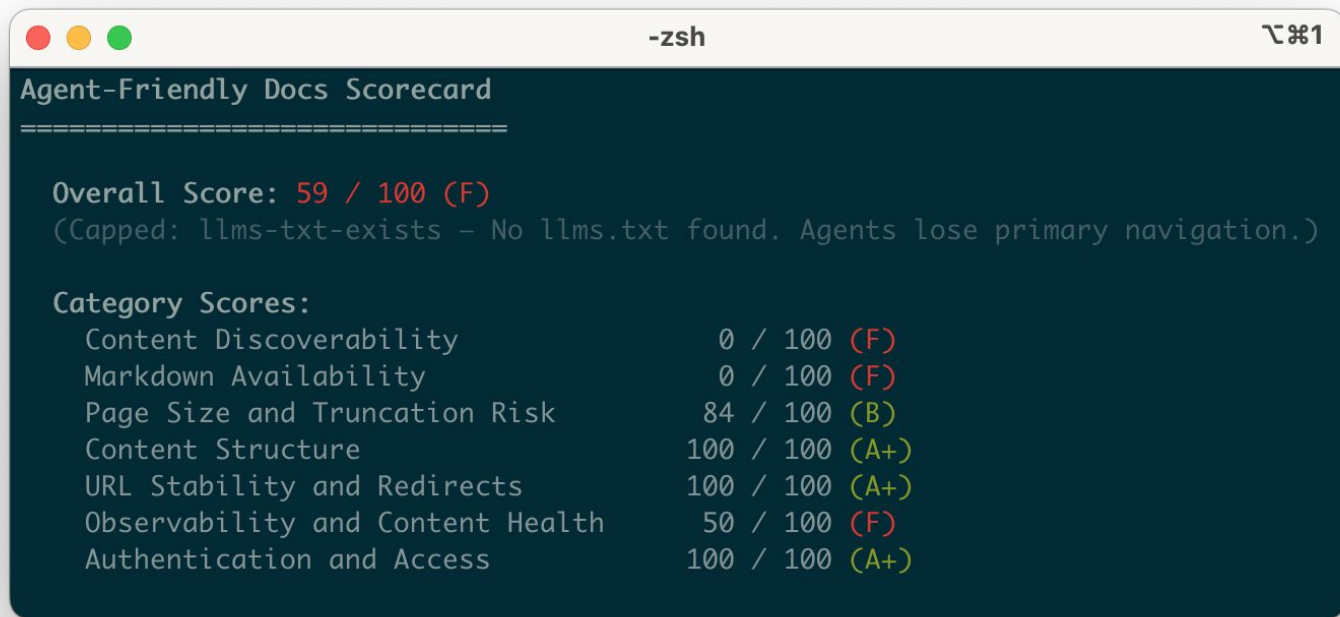
AX (Agent eXperience): AI agents read differently

- ➡ **llms.txt:** some agents look for it, some don't
- ➡ **Truncation:** long pages, partly read, often silently
- ➡ **Tokens:** the smallest unit of docs that does the job

“I don't think what's good for humans is good for agents”

Dachary Carey (AX, NVIDIA), author of the **Agent-Friendly Docs Spec**

Measure it: afdocs.dev

A terminal window with a dark blue background and a light yellow title bar. The title bar contains three colored window control buttons (red, yellow, green) on the left, the text '-zsh' in the center, and a window icon on the right. The terminal content shows the 'Agent-Friendly Docs Scorecard' for 'https://petstore.swagger.io'. It displays an overall score of 59 / 100 (F) and a list of category scores. A note indicates a capped failure for 'llms-txt-exists' due to a missing 'llms.txt' file.

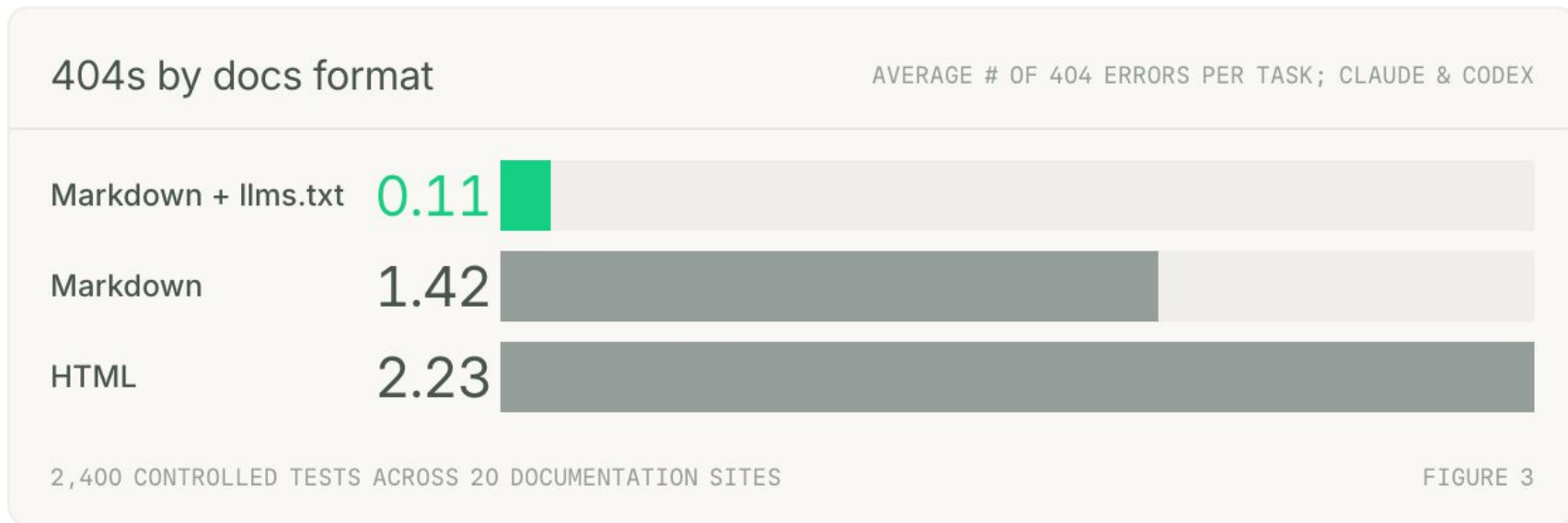
```
Agent-Friendly Docs Scorecard
=====

Overall Score: 59 / 100 (F)
(Capped: llms-txt-exists - No llms.txt found. Agents lose primary navigation.)

Category Scores:
Content Discoverability          0 / 100 (F)
Markdown Availability           0 / 100 (F)
Page Size and Truncation Risk   84 / 100 (B)
Content Structure               100 / 100 (A+)
URL Stability and Redirects     100 / 100 (A+)
Observability and Content Health 50 / 100 (F)
Authentication and Access       100 / 100 (A+)
```

\$ npx afdocs check https://petstore.swagger.io --sampling none --format scorecard

llms.txt: Give agents a map (of your .mds!)



Markdown + llms.txt: 26–60% fewer tokens than HTML (5 models)

What to do on Monday

1. **Contract:** OpenAPI spec with descriptions and examples + Arazzo
2. **Measure:** `npx afdocs check <your doc site>`, then keep it in CI
3. **Map for AIs:** llms.txt linked from every page, plus .md versions
4. **Pages:** small guides, solving a concrete problem, step by step
5. **Skills (*optional*):** a SKILL.md for your top integration task

Keep learning!

afdocs.dev · [Write the Docs](#) · [The Good Docs Project](#) · [APIs You Won't Hate](#)

Your API is your product's interface.

Your Docs are your API's interface.

Questions & Answers

Thanks
for your time!



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