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API permissions by area: read or write, and which permission each task needs

WhatsApp & APIs

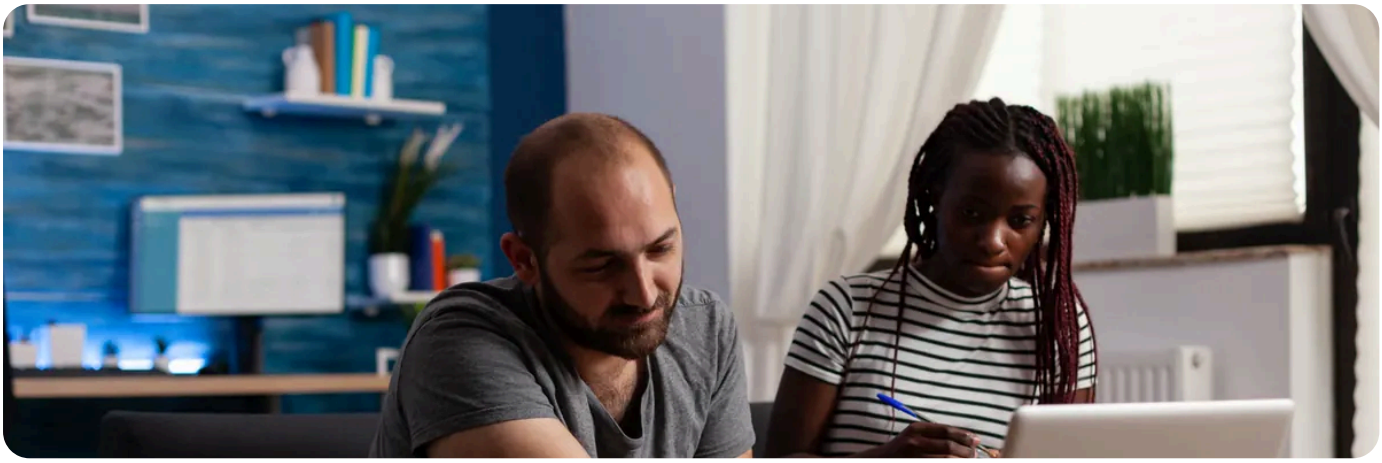
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https://www.meu.interweb.co.mz/knowledgebase/2752

API permissions by area: read or write, and which permission each task needs

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The short answer: each API area has two permissions, `:read` to read and `:write` to change, for example `dns:read` and `dns:write`. A key only does what you granted when you created it. If it lacks the permission an operation needs, the API answers `403` with the code `insufficient_scope`.

The areas and their status

Area	Permissions	Status
Account	`account:read`, `account:write`	Read available; write has no operations yet
Catalogue	`catalog:read`, `catalog:write`	Read available; write has no operations yet
Domains	`domains:read`, `domains:write`	Available
DNS	`dns:read`, `dns:write`	Available
Hosting	`hosting:read`, `hosting:write`	Available
E-mail	`email:read`, `email:write`	Available
WordPress	`wordpress:read`, `wordpress:write`	Coming soon
VPS servers	`vps:read`, `vps:write`	Available
Billing	`billing:read`, `billing:write`	Available
Support	`support:read`, `support:write`	Available
Extras	`extras:read`, `extras:write`	Available

Area	Permissions	Status
Reseller	`reseller:read`, `reseller:write`	Read available; write has no operations yet
SMS	`sms:read`, `sms:write`	Available
Automatic notices	`webhooks:read`, `webhooks:write`	Coming soon

You can already tick the "Coming soon" areas, but they only take effect once their operations exist.

Which permission each task needs

You want to…	The key needs
See your domains and nameservers	`domains:read`
Change nameservers, transfer lock or auto-renewal	`domains:write`
Register, renew or transfer a domain	`domains:write` and `billing:purchase`
Add, change or delete DNS records	`dns:write`
See the list of services (hosting and servers)	`hosting:read`
Create a database or a subdomain	`hosting:write`
Create mailboxes or forwarders	`email:write`
See and restart a VPS	`vps:read` and `vps:write`
See invoices, orders and quotes	`billing:read`
Pay an invoice from your credit	`billing:pay`
Open and reply to support tickets	`support:write`
Send SMS	`sms:write`

A known trap:
The list of services, `GET /v1/services`, uses `hosting:read` even for servers. The server operations themselves use `vps:read`. A program that manages a VPS usually needs both.

What needs no area permission

`GET /v1/ping` and `GET /v1/openapi.json` need no key at all. `GET /v1/token` and `GET /v1/limits` work with any valid key, and they are the quickest way to confirm which permissions a key has.

A permission is missing: now what?

The API's own advice for `insufficient_scope` is to create a key with that permission. Do it on the **API page in Meu Interweb**, swap the key in your program and revoke the old one, as described in **looking after your keys**.

There is also a separate group of permissions

, off by default, for anything that can cost money or give full access: paying, buying, cancelling, reinstalling a VPS, logging in to cPanel. They are covered in **sensitive permissions and the spending limit**. As a rule, prefer `:read` whenever the program only reads.

RECOMMENDED

Creating a key? Tick only the areas your program needs, and write access only where it really is required.

Create a key →

SEE ALSO

- **Sensitive API permissions and the spending limit: paying, buying, reinstalling, cPanel access** →
- **Creating an API key: name, mode, permissions, validity, IP list and spending limit** →
- **Looking after your API keys: one per program, expiry, revoking and replacing a key** →
- **Our API's error codes: what each one means, and which ones are worth retrying** →
- **Our API in one page: what you can automate in your account, area by area** →
- **API Sandbox or Production: what each key really does, and moving your program to production** →

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