

Methods

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What are methods?

Methods are the basic constructs that allow you to perform actions or fetch information from Flock. For example, Flock has methods for each of the sample use cases listed below, among others.

- Sending a message to a user or a group;
- Fetching the list of a user's contacts;
- Fetching information about a user or a group.

Similar to methods and function calls in any programming language, Flock methods too receive a list of named parameters, and may optionally return a value.

List of methods available in FlockOS

- [channels.addMembers](#)
- [channels.create](#)
- [channels.getInfo](#)
- [channels.list](#)
- [channels.listMembers](#)
- [channels.removeMembers](#)
- [chat.sendMessage](#)
- [chat.fetchMessages](#)
- [roster.listContacts](#)
- [users.getInfo](#)
- [users.getPublicProfile](#)

Calling a method

Flock provides an HTTPS endpoint for each API method.

```
https://api.flock.co/v1/<method-name>
```

To call a method, send an HTTP `GET` or `POST` request to the method endpoint, alongwith its parameters (can be either `GET` or `POST`).

For example, to call `chat.sendMessage`, you can either send a `GET` request to following URL:

Method call using a GET request

```
https://api.flock.co/v1/chat.sendMessage?to=u:  
513a9f4ae409&text=hello&token=632542db-1a23-4e06-8b39-01f8b0868d57
```

(See [Authentication](#) for more on the `token` parameter.)

Or you can send a `POST` request to `https://api.flock.co/v1/chat.sendMessage`:

Method call using a POST request

```
POST /v1/chat.sendMessage HTTP/1.1
Host: api.flock.co
Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Content-Length: 70

to=u:513a9f4ae409&text=hello&token=632542db-1a23-4e06-8b39-01f8b0868d57
```

If a method call is successful, the status code 200 is returned in the HTTP response.

Authentication

To call a method, an app will need to pass an authentication token on behalf of the user (either a normal user or a bot).

For normal users, you receive this token in the `app.install` event.

For a bot, you can see the token in the developer dashboard after you enable it.

This token is passed as the `token` parameter in the HTTP request that calls the method.

Return values

Yes, methods may optionally return a value. A response value is returned as a JSON document in the response body of the HTTP request.

HTTP response to a method call

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 51

{
  "uid": "d9e054e0-a679-4a7a-9cfa-72996669aa083"
}
```

Errors

If an error occurs while processing your request, an HTTP status code other than 200 is returned. Further information about the error is provided by a JSON in the HTTP response body.

Error response to a method call

HTTP/1.1 400 Bad Request

Content-Type: application/json

```
{
  "error": "MissingParameter",
  "description": "One or more parameters required for this method call
are missing",
  "parameter": "text"
}
```

Two fields will always be present when an error is returned:

- `error` – an error code
- `description` – a human readable description of the error

Depending on the error code, additional fields may also be present in the JSON if they provide more context. For example, `parameter` is an additional field in the response above.

Below is a list of generic error codes that can be returned in response to a method call. Note that some methods can return other errors in addition to these. See individual method pages for more information.

| Error Code | HTTP Status | Description | Additional Attributes |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| <code>InvalidRequestData</code> | 400 | The request was malformed | |
| <code>InvalidParameter</code> | 400 | A parameter for the method call is missing or invalid | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <code>parameter</code> – name of the missing parameter |
| <code>InvalidToken</code> | 403 | An invalid authentication token was sent with the request | |
| <code>AppDisabled</code> | 403 | App has been disabled for this user | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <code>disabledBy</code> – one of user or team |
| <code>NoSuchMethod</code> | 404 | The method named in the request URL does not exist | |
| <code>HTTPMethodNotAllowed</code> | 405 | An HTTP method other than <code>POST</code> was used | |
| <code>RequestTimeout</code> | 408 | A timeout occurred before the server could receive the complete request from the app | |
| <code>TooManyRequests</code> | 429 | Rate limit reached | |
| <code>InternalServerError</code> | 500 | An unexpected condition was encountered | |
| <code>ServiceUnavailable</code> | 503 | The API service is unavailable at this time | |