

Docmosis Web Services Guide

Version 1.0 Beta

Great documents from Anywhere!





Docmosis Web Services Guide

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Preface

Welcome to the *Docmosis Web Services Guide*. This manual is intended for document application developers and integrators who need to produce richly formatted document and reports from applications.

The *Docmosis Web Services Guide* provides information for making the most of Docmosis Cloud services.

Related Reading

Please refer to the *Docmosis Template Guide* for information about how to create and maintain templates.

Please refer to the *Docmosis Developer Guide* for information about in-depth concepts of using Docmosis as a developer.



1 Introduction

Docmosis Cloud Services provide an easy way to generate sophisticated and dynamic documents from virtually any application. The combination of web services and the Docmosis engine provides a great capability that can be integrated surprisingly fast.

Whether you are developing an large enterprise application or a trend setting mobile application, Docmosis Cloud services allows you to produce great documents based on merging your templates and data.

1.1 Feature Summary

Docmosis cloud services are:

1. *Template Driven* - you can change your templates any time with a word processor, upload and they will take effect immediately - wherever your application is running.
2. *Accessible* - as long as you have internet connectivity you can render your documents using just about any development environment and delivered to multiple destinations
3. *Secure* - all communications between Docmosis and your application are SSL encrypted and Docmosis doesn't hold your data or documents after processing.
4. *Reliable* - built on the Amazon Web Services platform providing security and reliability.
5. *Powerful* - the Docmosis engine provides amazing template abilities and output formats
6. *Simple API* - calls to the service are made using HTTPS/SSL form posting. The *render* service is the only service that need be called.

1.2 Quick Overview

Using the cloud services is easy:

1. Sign up to get an account
2. Upload / modify your templates, or start working with some of the samples
3. Use the example code to make calls to the `render` service to produce your documents

When you sign up, you are provided with a unique token ("*access key*") which you use to access the services. Your access key is a private identifier and should be treated with care like a password.



Templates can be uploaded and downloaded using either calls to the Docmosis services, or using the Docmosis web site.

Now that you have a taste for what is involved, go ahead and give it a go. The remainder of this document detail the developer API.



Note

There is an extended developer API available providing product-level Docmosis extensions. This allows your application to sign up users automatically, provide default and shared templates, send emails from "you" and much more. Please contact Docmosis Support to get started.

1.3 Character Encoding

All data passed to Docmosis Services should be `UTF-8` encoded. This provides a great balance between flexibility and compatibility. If you pass data containing special characters, then you will need to ensure you are `UTF-8` encoding it, otherwise you'll get strange characters in your resulting documents.

1.4 Fonts in your templates

Your templates will need to use standard/common fonts. If you use fonts which the Docmosis Service does not have, then you may see unexpected font substitutions in your PDF documents or inaccurate page references when using indexes or tables of content.

1.5 Stock Images

Docmosis Cloud Services allow you to stream image data with which your templates can be populated. The services also provide the concept of "stock" images which can be uploaded to the site and dynamically inserted during document creation without the need to send the image data every time you make the request.

See section 2.8 The Image Upload Service for more information.

1.6 Template Merging

The render process is powerful enough to merge multiple templates into a single set of documents. Templates may reference other templates dynamically (via data) or statically (in the template itself). This provides an ideal mechanism for inserting common content across multiple templates.

See section 2.4 The Upload Template Service for more information.



1.7 Important Reading

The Docmosis Template Guide is essential reading to making the most of the services. It provides fundamental details about how to create templates. Please note that the web services have a new feature allowing field markup to be done using PLAIN TEXT instead of merge fields.

1.8 Production vs Development Mode

Some services provide the option to operate in a forgiving manner (*development mode*) or in a very strict manner (*production mode*). The intention is that in development mode you are allowed to produce documents that contain errors, helping you to locate the error and make the necessary adjustments.

In production mode, no document with detected errors will be produced. Instead the operation will fail with diagnostic information so you can be assured that documents will never be delivered that have fundamental errors in processing.



2 The Developer API

2.1 Fundamentals

The Docmosis cloud services is a REST-based API. You can find more information about REST here [Wikipedia REST](#). All calls to Docmosis are made using HTTPS POST requests. You can write code to call the API directly or use a third-party toolset like the Java Jersey Client (<http://jersey.java.net>) creating your own requests. There is example code in various languages available on the Docmosis web site.

Alternatively you may use a toolset that can read a Web Application Description Language (WADL) and generate the code to access the service automatically.

The Docmosis WADL is available here:

```
https://dws.docmosis.com/services/rs/application.wadl
```

You can examine the WADL by pointing a browser to it to see the definition of the available services.

2.2 Error Codes and Messages

The Docmosis service returns response status codes as follows:

Status Code	Definition
200	Successful operation
400	Your Docmosis request is not valid
500	A server error has occurred
404	Invalid URL (not found)

Docmosis services also return information about the result in JSON or XML format as follows:

Field	Definition
succeeded	"true" or "false".
shortMsg	A short message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a short error message. It may be blank in the case of a successful operation.
longMsg	A more descriptive message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a long error message. It may be blank.

Each service may also return additional information in the response information as indicated in the sections to follow.



2.3 The Render Service

The `render` service is the document-production workhorse, and it is the only service you need to invoke from your application since template operations may also be carried out via the Docmosis web site. You invoke the render service with data and instructions indicating which template to use, what formats you would like, where to send the result and more.

Render works in production mode by default, meaning that any errors in the template or data supply are considered fatal and the render call will fail. You may override this with the `devMode` flag.

2.3.1 Service URL

`/render`

2.3.2 Content-Type

There are three ways to invoke the render service based on `content-type`. Set the `content-type` in your request as follows:

Content Type	Description
<code>Multipart/form-data</code>	Parameters are passed as separate form parameters. The <code>data</code> parameter may be either XML or JSON.
<code>application/xml</code>	A single XML document string provides instructions and data (see examples below).
	A single JSON document string provides instructions and data (see examples below).

Choose the one that makes it easiest for you to work with.

2.3.3 Request Parameters

There are many parameters to control the render method, but most are optional. Please see the details in the table below for each parameter.

As an example, using the `application/json` content type a simple JSON format request could look like this:

```
{ "templateName": "templatel.doc",  
  "outputName": "result.pdf",  
  "accessKey": "xxx-my-access-key",  
  "data": { "title": "Company Profile Report", "scope": "Initial Scoping  
Report" } }
```

You can see the data and instructions are combined into a single JSON structure. The same request in XML format would look like:



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<render templateName="template1.doc" outputName="result.pdf"
  accessKey="xxx-my-access-key">
  <data>
    <report title="Company Profile Report" scope="Initial Scoping Re-
port"/>
  </data>
</render>
```

The table below details the settings and options for the render request.

Parameter (bold=mandatory)	Description	Default
accessKey	Your unique access key you were given when you created your account.	
templateName	The name of the template to use. Template must have been uploaded previously with the template upload request.	
outputName	The name to give the rendered document. If no format is specified (see <code>outputFormat</code>), the format of the resulting document is derived from the extension of this name. For example "resume1.pdf" implies a PDF format document. The name may be supplied without an extension (eg "resume1") and the <code>outputFormat</code> parameter will specify the format(s) to return.	
<code>isSystemTemplate</code>	If set to "true", <code>templateName</code> refers to a System template, as opposed to your own template. System templates are managed by administrators.	false
<code>outputFormat</code>	The format(s) of the rendered document. ; delimited. Multiple formats imply a zip file and <code>ouputName</code> will have .zip appended as required. Files inside zip will be named using <code>outputName</code> and will have the format-specific extension appended as required. Valid options are pdf, doc, odt, rtf, html, txt.	
<code>compressSingleFormat</code>	The document produced will be zipped and will contain a document in the specified format with a name based on <code>outputName</code> + <code>outputFormat</code> . The resulting zip file name will be the <code>outputName</code> with the .zip extension appended as required. This option is ignored if more than one <code>outputFormat</code> is specified. Positive values are "y", "yes" and "true" (case-insensitive).	false
<code>storeTo</code>	Specify where to send the resulting document. If no specification is given, "stream" is assumed and the result will be streamed back to the requester, otherwise the ; delimited list of destinations will receive the result. Valid options are <code>stream</code> , <code>mailto:</code> (see the <code>mailto</code> options below). All destinations will receive all formats specified by <code>outputFormat</code> (or implied by the <code>outputName</code> if <code>outputFormat</code> not specified) by default. The "stream" option may optionally override the broader settings and specify what to receive using this style "stream:<format>" eg "stream:pdf".	stream
<code>devMode</code>	Document production can run in development and production respectively. If set to "y", "yes" or "true" this operation will work in "dev" mode, meaning that if something is incorrect in the template, data or instructions Docmosis will do it's best to produce a document. Such a document may contain errors such as missing images and data, and wherever possible, Docmosis will highlight problems to indicate the failure. In production mode errors in document rendering will result in a failure result only and no document will be produced. The production mode is to ensure that a bad document is never produced/delivered to a recipient. The default mode is production (that is, dev mode is off).	false
<code>data</code>	The Data to populate the document with. This may be either XML or JSON format. The type of data given determines the format of the	

Parameter (bold=mandatory)	Description	Default
	response.	
mailSubject	If sending email, this will be used as the subject line of the email.	
mailBodyHtml	If sending email, this will be used as the body of the email and will be sent as html format.	
mailBodyText	If sending email, this will be used as the body of the email and will be sent as text.	
mailNoZipAttachments	If this is set to true, any email attachments will be attached as individual files rather than as a single zip (when multiple formats are being used).	false
requestId	Any string you would like to use to identify this job. This string will be returned in responses.	

2.3.4 Including Image Data

Image data can be included in the data stream. This is achieved by base64 encoding the image data, and assigning the value to the key which your template image is using. Base64 encoding is outside the scope of this guide, but it is easy to find libraries and reference material to help you create it.



Note

Image data is typically large compared with textual information. You should use image injection only where it must be dynamic to improve your performance. If there are only a few options for an image, consider using different templates, sub-templates or separately uploading "stock" images.

2.3.5 Response Messages

The response from the render method varies depending on:

1. whether it succeeds or fails
2. whether your destinations include streaming back in your request

Remember, you should always check the status code first to determine what to do next, any status other than 200 means the render failed, and error information will be available in the response body.

The following cases show the types of check you should perform to extract the response information:

1. **On Success (status code = 200) and storeTo includes "stream":**

the body of the response is the binary document stream.

2. **On Success (status code = 200) and storeTo excludes "stream":**

the body of the response is a JSON object containing:

Field	Definition
succeeded	"true".
requestId	The requestId given in the render request (if any).

3. **On failure (status code <> 200):**



the body of the response is a JSON object containing:

Field	Definition
succeeded	"false"
shortMsg	A short message about the cause of the failure.
longMsg	A more descriptive message about the failure if applicable. It may be blank.
requestId	The requestId given in the render request (if any).

2.3.6 Response Header

For the render service, if you supply a `requestId` in the request this will always be returned in the *header* of the response in addition to the response message. This means whether the render succeeds or fails, streams back or not, you will always be able to use the header to determine the related request. This is particularly handy in scenarios where the request is run asynchronously by your code.

2.4 The Upload Template Service

This service allows you to upload templates to be rendered into documents. When you upload a template, Docmosis analyses it and will report any errors in the template at this time.

There are two categories of templates:

- User Templates - templates owned and managed by you
- System Templates - system managed templates that you may use, but only administrators can modify.

By default all template operations work with your templates, but you may set the `isSystemTemplate` flag to override the default behaviour.

Docmosis has a special capability to report errors in the template within rendered documents. This means that when you render a document you can see the error AND its location in the template. By default this capability is enabled (`devMode=true`) to assist with development. Any template uploaded in development mode with errors will not render unless the render also uses development mode.



Note

Uploading of templates can be done via the Docmosis web when you log into your cloud services account. This makes direct use of this service optional.

2.4.1 Service URL

`/uploadTemplate`

2.4.2 Content-Type

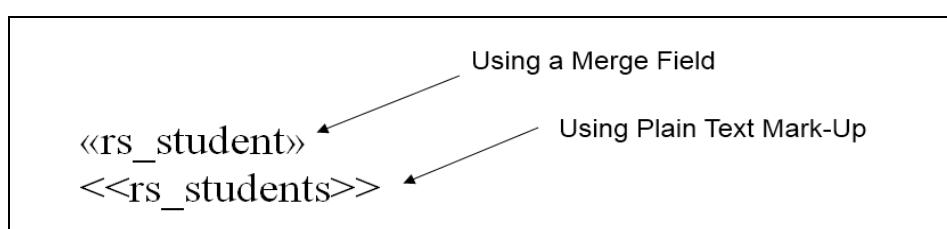
The content-type for the upload is `"multipart/form-data"`.

2.4.3 Plain Text Markup

Docmosis normally uses merge fields for identifying fields in a template (details of how to build templates can be found in the Docmosis Template Guide). The Docmosis Cloud Services have a new capability allowing fields to be created using plain text mark-up, making template maintenance much simpler.

Merge fields can complicate templates because sometimes what you see in the document is not what the merge field is using, and sometimes the fields can be hidden entirely. Sometimes even inserting the first field is difficult with newer versions of MS Word.

The difference in appearance (using MS Word) between merge fields and plain text fields can be seen here:



The delimiters are set to << and >> by default, and they will be used when uploading templates. If your templates use << or >> for other purposes, then you will need to override the delimiters by setting the corresponding parameters when you upload.

2.4.4 Request Parameters

Field	Definition
accessKey	Your access key.
templateFile	The template file you are uploading.
templateName	An optional overriding name which may include a path.
templateDescription	A description for the template.
isSystemTemplate	If set to "y", "yes" or "true" this template will be uploaded as a system template. Only authorised users may modify system templates. Defaults to "false".
devMode	If set to "y", "yes" or "true" the upload is run in developer mode - meaning that Docmosis will do it's best to handle errors and report them within a rendered document to ease development. Defaults to "false".
fieldDelimPrefix	If using plain text mark-up in your templates this specifies the prefix delimiter identifying a field. The default is <<
fieldDelimSuffix	This is the closing delimiter for plain text fields. The default is >>

2.4.5 Response Messages

The response is a simple indicator of success or failure plus any further helpful information.



Status Code	Definition
succeeded	"true" or "false".
shortMsg	A short message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a short error message. It may be blank in the case of a successful operation.
longMsg	A more descriptive message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a long error message. It may be blank.

2.5 The Get Template Service

Get template retrieves the template that was originally uploaded.

2.5.1 Service URL

`/getTemplate`

2.5.2 Content-Type

The content-type for the upload is "multipart/form-data".

2.5.3 Request Parameters

To list templates, you need only supply your access key.

Field	Definition
<code>accessKey</code>	Your access key.
<code>templateName</code>	The name of the template.
<code>isSystemTemplate</code>	Indicator as to whether the template is a system template or not (optional) - defaults to false.

2.5.4 Response Messages

On success (status=200), the body of the response will contain the binary stream for the template.

On failure, the response provides the following information:

Status Code	Definition
succeeded	"true" or "false"
shortMsg	A short message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a short error message. It may be blank in the case of a successful operation.
longMsg	A more descriptive message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a long error message. It may be blank.



2.6 The List Templates Service

List templates lists the templates available to you, including system templates which are managed by vendors.

2.6.1 Service URL

`/listTemplates`

2.6.2 Content-Type

The content-type for the upload is "multipart/form-data".

2.6.3 Request Parameters

To list templates, you need only supply your access key.

Field	Definition
<code>accessKey</code>	Your access key.

2.6.4 Response Messages

The response includes the normal success indicator and messages as well as a JSON object containing the list of templates.

Status Code	Definition
<code>succeeded</code>	"true" or "false"
<code>shortMsg</code>	A short message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a short error message. It may be blank in the case of a successful operation.
<code>longMsg</code>	A more descriptive message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a long error message. It may be blank.
<code>templateList</code>	The list of templates in JSON format having attributes for each template: <code>name</code> - the template file name <code>lastModifiedMillisSinceEpoch</code> - last modified in milliseconds <code>lastModifiedISO8601</code> - last modified yyyy-MM-dd'T'HH:mm:ssZ <code>sizeBytes</code> - the size in bytes <code>isSystemTemplate</code> - whether a system template ("true" or "false") <code>templatePlainTextFieldPrefix</code> - the prefix used when it was uploaded <code>templatePlainTextFieldSuffix</code> - the suffix used when it was uploaded <code>devMode</code> - the dev mode setting used when it was uploaded

The `templateList` is an array of objects giving details for each template in the list.

2.7 The Delete Template Service

The delete template service does the obvious - delete the specified template.



2.7.1 Service URL

/deleteTemplate

2.7.2 Content-Type

The content-type for the upload is "multipart/form-data".

2.7.3 Request Parameters

Field	Definition
accessKey	Your access key.
templateName	The name of the template.
isSystemTemplate	Indicator as to whether the template is a system template or not (optional) - defaults to false.

2.7.4 Response Messages

The delete template service responds with a simple indication of success or failure using the standard structure:

Status Code	Definition
succeeded	"true" or "false".
shortMsg	A short message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a short error message. It may be blank in the case of a successful operation.
longMsg	A more descriptive message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a long error message. It may be blank.

2.8 The Image Upload Service

The upload image service works the same as the template upload service, but is significantly simpler since there are few options to set.

2.8.1 Service URL

/uploadImage

2.8.2 Content-Type

The content-type for the upload is "multipart/form-data".

2.8.3 Request Parameters

Field	Definition
accessKey	Your access key.
imageFile	The file stream of the image.
imageName	An overriding name for the image which may include a path (eg project1/stock/logo1.jpg).
imageDescription	A short description for the image.
isSystemTemplate	Indicator as to whether the image is a system image or not (optional) - defaults to false.

2.8.4 Response Messages

The delete template service responds with a simple indication of success or failure using the standard structure:

Status Code	Definition
succeeded	"true" or "false"
shortMsg	A short message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a short error message. It may be blank in the case of a successful operation.
longMsg	A more descriptive message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a long error message. It may be blank.

2.9 The List Images Service

List images lists the images available to you, including system images which are managed by vendors.

2.9.1 Service URL

`/listImages`

2.9.2 Content-Type

The content-type for the upload is "multipart/form-data".

2.9.3 Request Parameters

To list images, you need only supply your access key.

Field	Definition
accessKey	Your access key.

2.9.4 Response Messages

The response includes the normal success indicator and messages as well as a JSON object containing the list of templates.



Status Code	Definition
succeeded	"true" or "false"
shortMsg	A short message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a short error message. It may be blank in the case of a successful operation.
longMsg	A more descriptive message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a long error message. It may be blank.
imageList	The list of images in JSON format having attributes for each image: name - the image file name lastModifiedMillisSinceEpoch - last modified in milliseconds lastModifiedISO8601 - last modified yyyy-MM-ddT'HH:mm:ssZ sizeBytes - the size in bytes isSystemImage - whether a system image ("true" or "false")

The `imageList` is an array of objects giving details for each template in the list.

2.10 The Delete Image Service

The delete image service does the obvious - delete the specified image.

2.10.1 Service URL

`/deleteImage`

2.10.2 Content-Type

The content-type for the upload is "multipart/form-data".

2.10.3 Request Parameters

Field	Definition
<code>accessKey</code>	Your access key.
<code>imageName</code>	The name of the image.
<code>isSystemImage</code>	Indicator as to whether the image is a system image or not (optional) - defaults to false.

2.10.4 Response Messages

The delete template service responds with a simple indication of success or failure using the standard structure:

Status Code	Definition
succeeded	"true" or "false".
shortMsg	A short message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a short error message. It may be blank in the case of a successful operation.



Status Code	Definition
longMsg	A more descriptive message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a long error message. It may be blank.

2.11 The Get Image Service

Get image retrieves the image that was originally uploaded.

2.11.1 Service URL

/getImage

2.11.2 Content-Type

The content-type for the upload is "multipart/form-data".

2.11.3 Request Parameters

To list templates, you need only supply your access key.

Field	Definition
accessKey	Your access key.
templateName	The name of the image.
isSystemImage	Indicator as to whether the image is a system image or not (optional) - defaults to false.

2.11.4 Response Messages

On success (status=200), the body of the response will contain the binary stream for the image.

On failure, the response provides the following information:

Status Code	Definition
succeeded	"true" or "false"
shortMsg	A short message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a short error message. It may be blank in the case of a successful operation.
longMsg	A more descriptive message about the result. In the case of an error this will be a long error message. It may be blank.