# Web services

We are currently in the process of assessing the requirements for a comprehensive external API. At present, web services represent the only supported external API, though they will eventually be deprecated and replaced by our new system once it is complete.

Web services allow external systems to control your Totara site. They can be enabled under *Quick-access menu > Configure features*.

It is recommended that you only enable web services if you intend to use them. Since this feature allows external systems to control your site it could leave your Totara vulnerable if you have web services enabled but don't use them.

By going to *Plugins > Web services* from the quick-access menu you can access all of the settings associated with web services.

## Overview page

The **Overview** page walks you through the necessary steps for setting up web services. This includes setting up mobile devices, enabling access for external systems, and setting up users as clients.

## API documentation

If you want to see the API documentation for your site, navigate to *Quick-access menu > Plugins > Web services > API Documentation*.

As different Totara sites can choose to enable and restrict certain web services, then the API documentation becomes tailored to an individual site.

You can save the API documentation as a PDF by clicking the **Print all** button. This is helpful if you need to share it with someone outside of your site.

## External services

To view or edit the functions being carried out by external services enabled on your site, you can go to *Quick-access menu > Plugins > Web services > External services*.

In either the **Built-in services** or **Custom services** tables, you can click **Function** next to a particular service to view all the functions being carried out by that service or click **Edit** to customise the functions that web service is carrying out.

To add a new external service:

1. Click the **Add** link, located underneath the tables **Built-in services** and **Custom services** tables.
2. Fill out the form, you can click **Show more...** to see additional options. Mandatory fields are marked with an asterisk (*).
3. Once you've set up everything you need, click **Add service** to save this new external service (or click **Cancel** if you no longer wish to add the service).

## Manage protocols

The **Manage protocols** page allows you to enable or disable various web service protocols. Available protocols are: AMF, REST, SOAP, and XML-RPC.

It is recommended for security reasons that you only enable protocols that are in use by your site.

If you are either a developer yourself or you are working with a web services client developer then you will want to enable **Web services documentation.** This is done by ticking the box alongside this option and clicking **Save changes**.

## Manage tokens

You can generate a unique token for any users in the system - this is the only way to generate tokens for admin users.

The **Manage token** page will show you a list all the currently issued tokens; you can use the **delete** link to get rid of any of these. The list only shows the details of the current tokens, and not the tokens themselves (to maintain their security and integrity).

To create a new token:

1. Click the **Add** link under the list of tokens.
2. Complete the mandatory fields (marked with an asterisk), you can also add an **IP restriction** and **Valid until** date.
3. Once you have entered all the required information click **Save changes** to generate the token.
4. You will be shown the newly created token, which will need to be copied before closing the page as it will not be shown again.