

# API Callouts Overview

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## Overview

API Callouts is the ReadNow Platform feature that enables calling out to external third-party web APIs.

Data payloads can be included in both the request and response. In this way, ReadNow can:

- Push data to external systems
- Pull data from external systems

## Usage

### When should I use API callouts?

Situations where using API Callouts would be appropriate can include:

- Pushing data from a ReadNow application into a third-party system
- Pulling data from a third-party system into a ReadNow application
- Requesting that one or more operations be performed on a third-party system as part of a ReadNow workflow
- Notifying a third-party system of something that has occurred in a ReadNow application

### What kinds of APIs can ReadNow APIs communicate with?

To communicate with a third-party system, ReadNow and the third-party system must be compatible in the following ways:

- **Transport**  
ReadNow supports HTTP and HTTPS web requests
- **Message Format**  
ReadNow supports JSON, XML, and plain text message formats
- **Authentication**  
ReadNow supports unauthenticated APIs, OAuth 2.0, HTTP Basic authentication,

API key authentication, and custom authentication (any authentication scheme that utilises the HTTP “Authorization” header)

Providing that these requirements are met, ReadNow can connect to most web APIs (including REST-style APIs).

## Connectivity

Finally, third-party APIs must be accessible over the public internet; if it is not physically possible for the ReadNow servers to reach the third-party system (for example if it is an on-premises system), then it is not possible for API Callouts to be used.

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