

Platform – Application Quotas

Public Description

Quotas limit the use of the API to ensure an application doesn't overload our system. Desktop applications are constrained by the session and web applications are constrained by the API key. This is due to the fact web applications are controlled by the developer whereas desktop applications are distributed and may not be under the direct control of the developer.

Each method has a base number of points which are used when the method is called. If the application doesn't have enough points to call the method the API will return an error. If the application does have enough points the method will be called and the response returned to the application no matter how much data is returned. Currently the only method which takes the returned data into account is the PFQL method. The data returned from this method adds to the points used for each call. The more data returned the more points used.

If a request returns an error it may or may not use up points depending on where in the process the error occurs. In general if an error occurs before the method is actually called such as an invalid method, invalid API key, etc. no points will be used. If the method is actually called then at a minimum the static method points will be used (opposed to dynamic points or points based on the returned data).

We have two types of quotas; a short and long quota. The short quota prevents quick bursts from overloading our servers. The long quota is ensures no application is continually overusing the API. In general, only accessing the API once every few seconds will keep your application within its quotas.