

yalst LiveSupportTool

Chat API Documentation

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Author: Dr. Markus Jasinski

Visisoft OHG, Schonenfahrerstr. 7, 18057 Rostock, Germany

www.visisoft.de - www.yalst.de - www.yalst.com

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Introduction

The chat API (application programming interface) allows you develop a chat client for the visitor's side of the yalst LiveSupportTool. It provides all the necessary functions to start, carry out and terminate a chat with an operator from any yalst site. All API functions (except DOWNLOAD) return their answers in the JSON format (see www.json.org for details) using the UTF-8 character set.

Prerequisites

You will need yalst 8.0 (or newer) to use the chat API.

API Calls

API calls are simple http or https (if supported by the respective yalst site) invocations of the chat.api.php script:

```
http://www.example.com/yalst/chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=hello
```

Please replace "www.example.com" with the domain of the respective yalst installation and "1-1" with the yalst site you want to chat with.

Here is a sample answer in the JSON format:

```
{
  "version: "1.8",
  "ssl": true,
  "chat": "online",
  "charlimit": 400,
  "welcome": "Welcome",
  "welcome2": "We are looking forward to chat with you!",
  "red": 0,
  "green": 0,
  "blue": 51,
  "boxred": 136,
  "boxgreen": 13,
  "boxblue": 0
}
```

Error Handling

Error messages will also be returned in the JSON format:

```
{
  "error": "missing site parameter",
  "code": 3
}
```

Language Support

Please add the lang parameter to every command to use another than the primary language. Additional languages must be configured in the yalst administration area. Use the two-character language code (ISO 639-1) as the parameter value, e.g. lang=fr for French. This feature requires API version 1.7 or newer.

API Commands

HELLO

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=hello

Purpose:

collect information about yalst site and it's chat status

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.6, 1.0 if omitted) lang primary ("1") or secondary ("2") language ("1" if omitted)

Returns:

refresh

integer

netums.		
chat	string	"online", "busy" (not in Basic edition) or "offline"
charlimit	integer	maximum lengths of chat texts
filesizelimit	integer	max. file size in bytes for uploads (requires a clientcap>=1.6)
ssl	boolean	"true" or "false" (true, if yalst site supports SSL)
version	string	version of the chat API (requires a clientcap>=1.2)
title	string	window title of chat windows (requires a clientcap>=1.4)
welcome	string	welcome message on chat start screen (header)
welcome2	string	welcome message on chat start screen
red	integer	background color, red part of RGB value (0-255)
green	integer	background color, green part of RGB value (0-255)
blue	integer	background color, blue part of RGB value (0-255)
boxred	integer	background color of boxes, red part of RGB value (0-255)
boxgreen	integer	background color of boxes, green part of RGB value (0-255)
boxblue	integer	background color of boxes, blue part of RGB value (0-255)
charset	string	character set of yalst installation, requires a clientcap>=1.4
transcript	boolean	"true" or "false" (true if visitor transcript feature is turned on),
		requires a clientcap>=1.4
rating	boolean	"true" or "false" (true if rating feature is turned on),
		requires a clientcap>=1.4
contactform	boolean	"true" or "false" (true if contact form is available),
		requires a clientcap>=1.4
offlinetext	string	system offline message, only available if contact form is not
		available (requires a clientcap>=1.4)
cookiedomain	string	domain setting for visitor cookies, default is an empty string,
		requires a clientcap>=1.5
salutation	string	"sie" or "du", used only for some languages,

requires a clientcap>=1.6

yalst page refresh setting in seconds, requires a clientcap>=1.6

Command-specific errors:

none

Note:

There are dedicated scripts "online.php" and "online.js.php" if you are only interested in the online status of your site. Refer to the appendix for details.

ABOUT

(added in yalst 9.1)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=about

Purpose:

retrieve whitelabel information

Additional parameter:

site yalst site (required)

lang primary ("1") or secondary ("2") language ("1" if omitted)

Returns:

white boolean "true" or "false" (true in case of whitelabel versions)

label string about line as HTML code **OR** simple string

label boolean "false" if no about line configured

Command-specific errors:

none

ENTER

(added in yalst 9.3)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=enter&site=...

Purpose:

indicate loading of a specific page

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

visitorid ID of current visitor (required)

page specific page, currently only "startform" implemented

Returns:

success string "entered startform"

Command specific errors:

79 "missing visitorid parameter"80 "invalid visitorid parameter"

81 "database_query failed" (unable to read visitor data)

82 "missing page parameter"83 "invalid page parameter"

"database_query failed" (unable to update visitor data)

LEAVE

(added in yalst 9.3)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=leave&site=...

Purpose:

indicate unloading of a specific page

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

visitorid ID of current visitor (required)

page specific page, currently only "startform" implemented

Returns:

success string "entered startform"

Command specific errors:

same as in ENTER command (see above)

STARTFORM

(added in valst 9.3)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=startform&dept=...

Purpose:

retrieve chat start from including user-defined fields in HTML

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

dept show form for this department (1 character)

Returns:

html string chat start form in HTML name string full name of department

welcome string welcome message on start screen for department (header)

welcome2 string welcome message on start screen for department

offlinetext string department offline message, only available if contact form is not

available

Note:

The fields welcome, welcome2 and offlinetext are only available if the "dept" parameter is used.

Command-specific errors:

"database_query failed" (unable to read department data)

PICTURE

(added in yalst 9.4)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=picture&operatorid=1

Purpose:

retrieve a photo/avatar of an operator

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

operatorid ID of the operator in question

Returns:

picture string URL to the operator picture

Command-specific errors:

"missing operatorid parameter""invalid operatorid parameter"

97 "database_query failed" (unable to read operator data)

START

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=start&name=johndoe&query=...

Purpose:

start a chat

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

name name or nickname of visitor (up to 20 characters)

visitorid visitor monitoring ID (added in yalst 9.1)

query initial question (max. length depends on max. chat length setting)

email visitor's e-mail address

custom[n] value of custom field n (starts with 0, added in yalst 9.3) addfields additional key-value fields (format "key1:value1; key2:value2",

added in yalst 9.3)

phone for internal use only (up to 30 characters)

ref referrer information (up to 80 characters, added in yalst 9.1)

ref2 additional referrer information (up to 250 characters, added in yalst 9.1)

dept department information (1 character, added in yalst 9.1)

department user-choosen department for chat (1 character, added in yalst 9.3)

time visitor's local time (in hh:mm format) client see client section below for details

colors color depth of the client device (required, 8, 16, 24 or 32)

resolution screen resolution of the client device (required, xxx*yyy w/o spaces, e.g.

800*600)

direct "1" or "true" skips tests for required fields like email (added in yalst 9.3)

chattype "active" or "auto", omit for standard chats (added in yalst 9.3)

comment additional chat information (added in yalst 9.4)

Returns:

chat integer number of the new chat session string session ID of the new chat

Note:

The "chat" and "session" values will be needed for every of the following commands. With an clientcap of 1.4 or better the API now enforces a possible required setting for the "query" and "email" parameters. The "department" parameter is required if the option "choose department prior to chat startup" is set in yalst and overrides the "dept" parameter. The "custom" parameter array requires a clientcap of 1.4 or better.

Client parameter:

For clientcaps below 1.6 client contains the name of the client software or device (required, up to 20 characters). For a clientcap of 1.6 or newer this parameter describes the properties and capabilities of the API client. The syntax is

<device type>, <client type>, <capability1>, <capability2>, ...

<device type> "desktop", "tablet" or "phone"

<cli>type> "full-page" or "in-page"

More capabilities will be added in future versions of the API. Currently the following capabilities are supported:

alarm the client is capable of alerting the visitor if the operator sends an alarm

files the client supports file downloads and file uploads

cobrowsing the client supports cobrowsing

Example:

desktop, in-page, alarm, files

(desktop client which implements a chat directly in a web page and supports visitor alarms and file transfer)

Command-specific errors:

- 7 "missing client parameter"
- 12 "chat is busy"
- 13 "chat is offline"
- 14 "invalid time value"
- 15 "database_query failed" (can't create chat meta-data)
- 16 "database_query failed" (can't create temporary chat data)
- 17 "invalid colors parameter"
- 18 "missing colors parameter"
- 19 "missing resolution parameter"

58	"email is required" (only for clientcap>=1.4)
59	"query is required" (only for clientcap>=1.4)
60	"department is required" (only for clientcap>=1.4)
61	"invalid department" (only for clientcap>=1.4)
62	"department is busy or offline" (only for clientcap>=1.4)
63	"xxx is required (custom field)" (only for clientcap>=1.4)
64	"xxx has no yyy option (custom field" (only for clientcap>=1.4)
122	"user is blocked"

STATUS

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=status&chat=...

Purpose:

collect status information about chat and inform operator about visitor's typing status

Additional parameters:

site valst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted lang

chat chat number (required) session ID (required) session

visitor's typing status (true, if visitor is typing) typing

visibility state of the chat, if the document is in the background or an invisible visibility

tab set to "hidden"

text that the visitor has typed so far (note: this must be a POST parameter) preview

Returns:

"running" or "closed" status string name of operator operator string

(or null if chat hasn't been accepted yet)

picture URL of Operator picture string

(or null if chat hasn't been accepted yet or no image is

configured)

"true" or "false" (true, if operator is typing) typing boolean

number of contributions to this chat lines integer

"true" or "false" (true, if chat is paused, added in 1.2) paused boolean timestamp server time as UNIX timestamp (added in 1.2) integer

optimestamp integer server time of last refresh of operator chat window

(added in 1.2)

"true" or "false" (true, if the visitor is blocked, blocked booloan

added in 1.3)

2-character language code, added in 1.5, changed in 1.7 lang string alert boolean

"true" or "false" (true, if the visitor should be alerted,

added in 1.6 for capable clients)

"allowed" or "forbidden" (allowed, if file uploads are sendfiles string

possible, added in 1.6 for capable clients)

secondop boolean/object "false" if no 2nd operator is or was involved, otherwise

one of the following objects will be returned: secondop: {"color": false, "nicks": false} secondop: {"color": false, "nicks": true} secondop: {"color": true, "nicks": false} secondop: {"color": true, "nicks": true}

if "color" is "true" chat contributions of the 2nd operator must be displayed in a different color, if "nicks" is "true" chat contributions of the 2nd operator must be labeled with the operator nick (see TEXT command for details) chat close information, only available for closed chats

closecase string chat close information, only available for closed chats

(added in 1.6), possible values:

"visitor" - chat was closed by the visitor
"operator" - chat was closed by the operator
"connection" - chat was closed automatically

(connection problems to operator)

"inactivity" - chat was closed automatically

(no contributions on both sides for a given time period) text phrase (if defined) to display before an operator

takes over the chat; changes, if the waiting position

changes

waitphrase string text phrase (if defined) to display if half of the acceptance

timeout has been exceeded

Command-specific errors:

30 "database_query failed" (can't update temporary chat data)

"database_query failed" (can't read chat data)

string

Note:

queuephrase

This command also indicates that the client is still participating in the chat. It should be called at least every 30 seconds, otherwise the chat could be closed automatically.

TEXT

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=text&chat=...

Purpose:

retrieve a chat contribution

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

chat chat number (required) session session ID (required)

pos desired contribution number (required, 1 for 1st position)

counter number of contributions to retrieve (added in 1.5)

Returns:		
time	string	time stamp of the contribution (in hh:mm format)
from	string	source of the contribution
		("operator", "visitor" or "system")
text	string	text of the contribution
links	integer	number of links in the chat text
url1	string	link url #1 (only if links > 0)
url n	string	link url # n (only if links > 0)
type	string	type of contribution, "text", "file" or "cobrowse" (added in 1.6)
file_id	integer	ID of a transferred file (only if type is "file", added in 1.6)
file_size	integer	size of a transferred file (only if type is "file",
1116_3126	integer	added in 1.6)
file_mimetype	string	mime type of the transferred file (only if type is "file",
me_mmetype	Stillig	added in 1.6)
secondop	boolean/	only in chats with 2nd operator, possible values:
-	string	- "false" - contribution is from main operator
		- "true" - contribution is from 2nd operator,
		name is not public
		- string with operator name, contribution is from 2nd
		operator, contribution must be labelled with name
		(added in 1.6)
resolution	string	recommended screen size for cobrowsing (only if type
	· ·	is "cobrowse", added in 1.6)
ycobro_sid	string	cobrowsing session ID (only if type is "cobrowsing",
-	· ·	added in 1.6)
operator	string	display name of operator (added in 1.6)
operatorid	integer	ID of operator (added in 1.6)
message	string	"transfer" (chat is in transfer) or empty (added in 1.6)
: 3		(,) (,)

Note:

This command returns an array in the case of multiple contributions.

Command-specific errors:

"missing pos parameter""invalid pos parameter"

"database_query failed" (can't read chat data)

POST

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=post&chat=

Purpose:

post a chat contribution

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

chat chat number (required) session session ID (required)

text text of chat contribution (note: this must be a POST parameter)

Returns:

line integer line number of the new contribution

time string time stamp of the new contribution (in hh:mm format)

timestamp integer server time as UNIX timestamp (added in 1.2)

Command-specific errors:

36 "missing text parameter"

"database_query failed" (unable to read chat data)"database_query failed" (unable to update chat data)

UPLOAD

(added in yalst 9.4)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=upload&chat=...

Purpose:

upload a file to operator

Additional parameters:

site valst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

chat chat number (required) session session ID (required)

userfile file to upload (note: this must be a POST parameter)

Returns:

line integer line number of the new contribution

time string time stamp of the new contribution (in hh:mm format)

timestamp integer server time as UNIX timestamp

Note:

This command requires a client with file capabilities (see START command for details). It is very similar to the POST command.

Command-specific errors:

85 "client has no file capabilities"

86 "file uploads are not allowed"

87 "no file received"88 "file too large"

89 "file is empty"

- 90 "upload failed"
- 91 "database_query_failed" (unable to update file transfer data)
- 92 "chat is closed"
- "database_query failed" (unable to update chat data)
- "database_query failed" (unable to update chat data)
- 103 "uploaded file defective" (file didn't pass an optional virus check)

DOWNLOAD

(added in yalst 9.4)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=download&chat=...

Purpose:

download a file from operator

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

chat chat number (required) session session ID (required)

file_id ID of the file to download, see TEXT command for details (required) savefile send additional headers to save the file (boolean, not required)

Note:

This command requires a client with file capabilities (see START command for details). It is the only command which doesn't return a JSON response, instead the requested file will be returned. HTTP errors are used to indicate problems (see list below).

Command-specific errors (HTTP codes!):

400 "Bad Request" (missing or invalid file id)

410 "Gone" (chat closed)

500 "Internal Server Error" (database or filesystem errors)

QUIT

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=quit&chat=...

Purpose:

quit a chat

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

chat chat number (required) session session ID (required)

Returns:

byetext string farewell message from the chat system

(or null if no message is configured)

lines integer number of contributions for this chat

Command-specific errors:

28 "chat is closed"

"database_query failed" (unable to update chat data)

40 "database_query failed" (unable to read chat data)

"database_query failed" (unable to update chat meta-data)

78 "database_query failed" (unable to update chat meta-data)

PAUSE

(added in yalst 9.0)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=pause&chat=...

Purpose:

interrupt a chat for a short period of time (useful for single-tasking systems or integrated web chats)

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

chat chat number (required) session session ID (required)

Returns:

success string "chat paused"

Command-specific errors:

43 "chat is closed"

44 "chat is already paused"

45 "database_query failed" (unable to update chat meta-data)

"database_query failed" (unable to update temporary chat data)

RESUME

(added in yalst 9.0)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=resume&chat=...

Purpose:

resume a paused chat

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

chat chat number (required) session session ID (required)

Returns:

success string "chat resumed"

Command-specific errors:

46 "chat is closed and online"47 "chat is closed and busy"48 "chat is closed and offline"

49 "chat is not paused"

"database_query failed" (unable to update chat meta-data)

"database_query failed" (unable to update temporary chat data)

ABSENT

(added in yalst 9.4, release 9.405 or better)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=absent&chat=...

Purpose:

indicate, that the visitor has left the page

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

chat chat number (required) session ID (required)

Returns:

success string "visitor absent"

Command-specific errors:

104 "chat is closed"

105 "visitor is already absent"

106 "database_query failed" (unable to update chat meta-data)

RATE

(added in yalst 9.3)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=rate&chat=...

Purpose:

rate a chat

Additional parameters:

site yalst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

chat chat number (required) session session ID (required)

rating 1 (worst), 2, 3 or 4 (best) (required)

Returns:

success string "chat rated"

Command-specific errors:

67 "rating feature is turned off"

68 "chat is not closed"

"missing rating parameter""invalid rating parameter"

71 "database_query failed" (unable to update chat meta-data)

TRANSCRIPT

(added in yalst 9.3)

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=transcript&chat=...

Purpose:

send a chat transcript to the visitor via e-mail

Additional parameters:

site valst site (required)

clientcap API version the client supports (e.g. 1.7, 1.0 if omitted)

lang ISO 639-1 language code, primary language is used if omitted

chat chat number (required) session session ID (required)

email e-mail address of visitor (required)

Note:

The e-mail address can be omitted, if an address was provided by the START command.

Returns:

success string "transcript sent"

Command-specific errors:

72 "missing email parameter"

73 "invalid email parameter"

"database_query failed" (unable to read chat data)

75 "chat has no content"

76 "mail failed"

77 "database_query failed" (unable to update chat meta-data)

Debug Parameter

Every command supports the "debug" parameter. Use this parameter to log all GET and POST parameters into yalst/log/error.log.

Example:

chat.api.php?site=1-1&cmd=hello&debug=true

General Errors

- 1 "database connect failed"
- 2 "database_select_db failed"
- 3 "missing site parameter"
- 4 "invalid site parameter"
- 5 "database_query failed" (unable to read site settings)
- 6 "site not found"
- 7 "missing command parameter"
- 8 "invalid command parameter"
- "unable to locate language file"
- "database_query failed" (unable to read department data)
- "database_query failed" (unable to read session data)
- 57 "database_query failed" (unable to read operator data)
- "unable to locate or read language file"

Errors for the commands STATUS, TEXT, POST, PAUSE, RESUME, ABSENT, RATE, TRANSCRIPT, DOWNLOAD, UPLOAD and QUIT

- 20 "missing chat parameter"
- 21 "invalid chat parameter"
- 22 "missing session parameter"
- 23 "invalid session parameter"
- 24 "database guery failed" (unable to read chat meta-data)
- 25 "chat or session not found"
- "database_query failed" (unable to read temporary chat data)
- 27 "chat not found"

API Versions

- 1.0 yalst 8.0
- 1.1 valst 8.1
- 1.2 yalst 9.0
- 1.3 yalst 9.1
- 1.4 valst 9.3
- 1.5 yalst 9.31
- 1.6 yalst 9.4
- 1.7 yalst 9.5
- 1.8 yalst 9.61

APPENDIX:

Additional API Endpoints for the Pre-Chat Phase

A. online.php

online.php?size=1-1&dept=A

Purpose:

check if the system is online, offline or busy

Parameters:

site yalst site (required)

dept department information (1 character, optional)

This script call returns just a single digit:

0 an error occurred

1 system is offline

2 system is online

3 system is busy

Note:

The dept parameter requires a Business edition, the "busy" status is only available in Professional and Business editions.

B. online.js.php

Purpose:

online.js.php is a variant of online.php for easy usage within JavaScript code

Parameters:

site valst site (required)

dept department information (1 character, optional)

callback returns the result in JSONP format; refer to this **Wikipedia article** for details any true value returns the result in JSON format (for usage in AJAX calls)

Returns:

returns the definition of a JavaScript identifier (yONLINE) with the online status; the same number codes are used as in online.php; refer to the parameter list for alternate output formats

```
E.g. (JSON case):
{"availability" : "online" }
```

C. visitor-api.shouldinvite.php

visitor-api.shouldinvite.php?site=1-1&dept=A&priority=50

Purpose:

ask yalst if a visitor should be invited based on the settings of the operator capacity based auto-invitation (administration > configuration > Apps and APIs > Visitor API)

Parameters:

site yalst site (required)

dept department information (1 character, optional)

callback returns the result in JSONP format instead of JSON;

refer to this Wikipedia article for details

priority optionally increase likelihood of invitation by using a higher number

(allowed are values from 1 to 100)

Returns (JSON case):

```
{"shouldInvite" : false } or {"shouldInvite" : true }
```

Note:

returns an error text in JSON format if an error occurs, example:

```
{"error" : "missing site parameter"}
```

D. invite.api.php

invite.api.php?site=1-1&dept=A&cookie=...

Purpose:

triggers a yalst chat invitation; this requires a yalst integration with enabled visitor monitoring

Parameters:

site yalst site (required)

dept department information (1 character, optional)

cookie value of YALSTSESSION cookie for this visitor (required)

Returns (in JSON format):

success string "chat invitation started"

Possible errors (in JSON format):

- 1 "database connect failed"
- 2 "database select db failed"
- 3 "missing site parameter"
- 4 "invalid site parameter"
- 5 "database_query failed" (unable to read site settings)
- 6 "site not found"
- 7 "invites are not supported in this edition"
- 8 "auto-invites are currently deactivated"

- 9 "database_query failed" (unable to get online status)
- 10 "chat is offline"
- 11 "chat is busy"
- 12 "missing cookie parameter"
- 13 "invalid cookie parameter"
- "database_query failed" (unable to read visitor data)
- 15 "visitor not found"
- 16 "visitor has left site"
- 17 "visitor is blocked"
- 18 "another visitor action is running"
- 19 "database_query failed" (unable to update visitor status)