Generic Webhooks

How to create and manage generic webhooks for custom integrations.

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[PDF VERSION](#)
Tags | [**Settings**](#) | [**Webhooks**](#) | [**Integrations**](#) |

Applies to: Free Basic Business **Enterprise**

ADMIN PRIVILEGES REQUIRED

*This documentation is for **Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise**. Free, Basic, and Business users can access their documentation [here](#). [Find your plan.](#)*

Overview

A webhook watches activity on a site, sending an alert to another site or service when a specific activity takes place. Administrators can use webhooks to set up integrations between different tools used by their company, or trigger events on other platforms when a specific action occurs on their Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise (SOE) site. By adding a signing secret, you can authenticate the webhook payload.

Enable webhooks

Before setting up your integrations, follow these steps to enable the generic webhooks feature on SOE:

1. Go to https://[your_site]/developer/site-settings/edit?name=Webhooks.EnableGenericWebhooks.
2. Change the `EnableGenericWebhooks` site setting to **True**.
3. Add a brief reason for making the site settings change.
4. Click **Save New Network Default**.

Create generic webhooks

As an administrator, click **Admin Settings** then **Webhooks**. Click **Create a Generic Webhook** to open the "Get notifications via webhooks" window.

Get notifications via webhooks ✕

What would you like to name this webhook?

Python Accepted Answers

Which location should be used for this notification?

Python Wranglers ⇕

What activity type would you like to be notified about?

☐ Questions   ☐ Edited questions

☐ Answers   ☐ Updated answers

☑ Accepted answers   ☐ Comments

What tags would you like to be notified about?

○ All tags

● Specific tags

python ✕

What community would you like to be notified about?

No community selected ⇕

Where would you like the payload to be sent?

https://api.devcentral.com/soe-hooks/receive

Signing secret 1

[   ] Generate

Signing secret 2

[   ] Generate

Create notification   **Test notification**   Cancel

Configure the fields as follows.

- **What would you like to name this webhook?** Give your new webhook notification a short, descriptive name.
- **Which location should be used for this notification?** Choose whether the webhook should monitor the main site or a Private Team (if enabled).
- **What activity would you like to be notified about?** Select all actions that should generate the webhook notification.
- **What tags would you like to be notified about?** Choose **All tags**, or **Specific tags** if you'd like the webhook to generate a notification only for activity in specific tags.
- **What community would you like to be notified about?** If you'd like webhook notifications only for a specific Community, select it here.
- **Where would you like the payload to be sent?** Enter the URL that will receive the notifications for this webhook. The site or service set up to receive the webhooks should provide this URL.
- **Signing Secret 1 and Signing Secret 2** Click **Generate** to generate a signing secret for the webhook payload. Click **Copy** to copy a secret to your clipboard, or **Clear** to delete it.

After configuring the webhook, you can optionally click **Test Webhook** to generate a test notification to the destination URL.

Click **Create Webhook** to save the settings and create the new webhook. It will appear in the webhook list.

Authentication

When you generate a signing secret, SOE will add an HMAC-SHA256 signature and timestamp to the webhook payload for authentication. This allows the receiving service to verify the authenticity of the webhook.

SOE allows you to create an optional second signing secret, which it then adds to the webhook header. With flexible authentication logic at the receiving end of the webhook, you can use this redundancy to streamline the key rotation process and reduce downtime.

Manage generic webhooks

The Manage webhooks page contains a list of all webhooks on your site.

Next to each webhook are links to **Edit** or **Delete** it. Click **Edit** to bring up a window similar to the "Get notifications via webhooks" window, where you can change the configuration of the webhook. To delete a webhook, click **Delete** then **OK** to confirm the deletion.

NOTE: *If SOE detects a problem with a webhook, it will display that webhook in gray. The **Edit** and **Delete** links still work, allowing you to troubleshoot or delete the nonfunctional webhook.*

Action type

When an action triggers a webhook, your SOE site sends the webhook notification in the form of a small data "payload". In this data is a `type` field that identifies what action triggered the webhook.

The `type` field values in each of the categories (questions, answers, and comments) are as follows:

- **Questions**
    - question created
    - question edited
- **Answers**
    - answer created
    - answer edited
    - answer accepted
- **Comments**
    - comment created

Based on the `type` field, the application receiving the webhook payload can take the appropriate action. For detailed examples of using generic webhooks, read the webhooks.pdf document linked at the bottom of this article. To see an example webhook payload, go to the "Example webhook payload" section below.

Webhooks site settings

You can change several global site settings that affect the functioning of all webhooks:

- `Webhooks.EnableGenericWebhooks` Enable or disable the generic webhooks feature.
  - https://[your_site]/developer/site-settings/edit?name=Webhooks.EnableGenericWebhooks
- `Webhooks.DispatchInterval` Set how often the site should look for new events to generate notifications.
  - https://[your_site]/developer/site-settings/edit?name=Webhooks.DispatchInterval
- `Webhooks.DispatchDelay` How long the site should wait before sending notifications. Longer wait times will help prevent multiple duplicate notifications for repeated similar actions.
  - https://[your_site]/developer/site-settings/edit?name=Webhooks.DispatchDelay
- `Webhooks.EnableTriggerHistory` Enable or disable the logging of events that trigger webhooks. This log can be useful for troubleshooting.
  - https://[your_site]/developer/site-settings/edit?name=Webhooks.EnableTriggerHistory

Example webhook payload

Payload contents will differ based on the trigger event, but they all follow the same structure.

```json
{
  "questions": [
    {
      "tags": [
        "tag1",
        "tag2"
      ],
      "owner": {
        "user_id": -1,
        "display_name": "Community"
      },
      "score": 5,
      "creation_date": 1538594411651,
      "last_edit_date": 1538680811651,
      "question_id": 1,
      "link": "https://local.soe.com/questions/1/testing-webhooks",
      "title": "Testing Webhooks",
      "body": "This is a test for firing webhooks from Stack Overflow.",
      "type": "question created"
    }
  ],
  "answers": [
    {
      "owner": {
        "user_id": -1,
        "display_name": "Community"
      },
      "score": 5,
      "last_edit_date": 1538680811651,
      "creation_date": 1538594411651,
      "answer_id": 2,
      "link": "https://local.soe.com/questions/1/testing-webhooks/2#2",
```