

FileSender - API

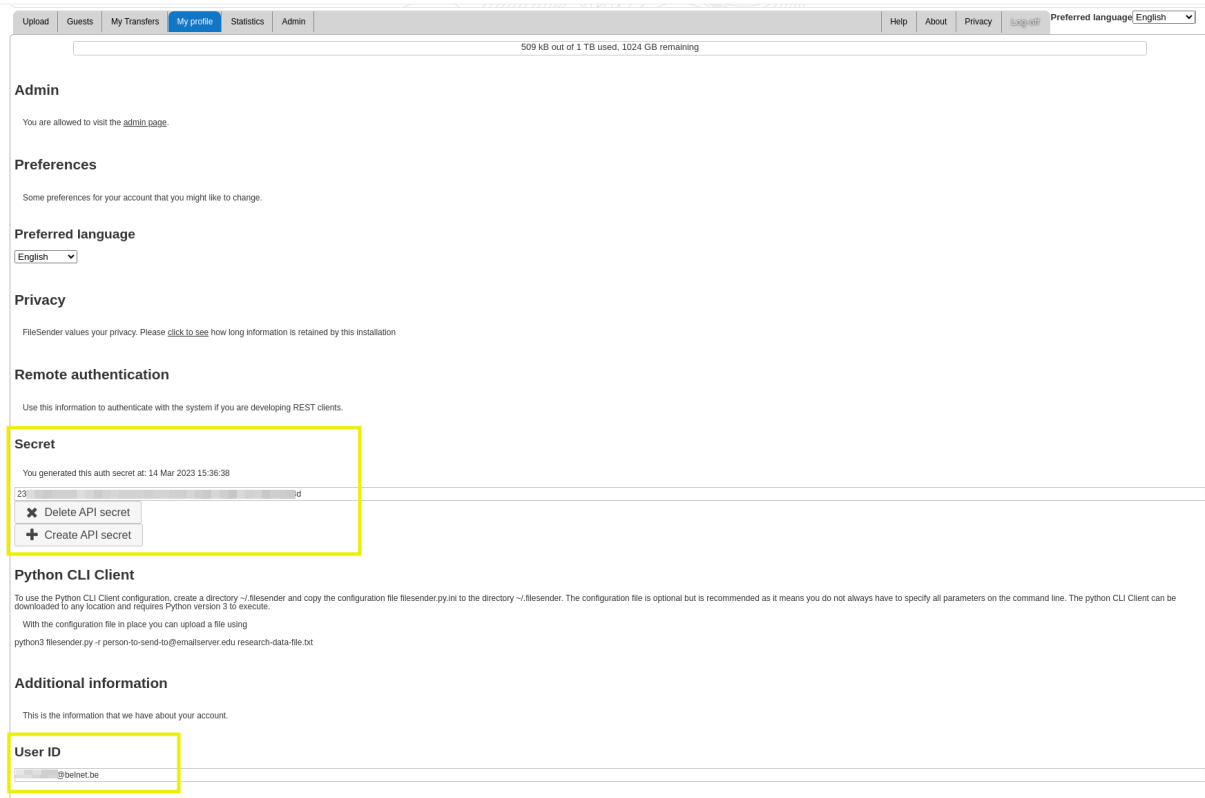
Since FileSender 2.0 there is a API available to upload files using a REST API.

1. Prerequisites

On first login, FileSender generates an API secret and you should use this secret and your IDP username when using the API.

1.1. Secret & Identity

You can get your API Secret key from the Filesender interface by clicking on '**My Profile**'. Users can delete current API secret and create a new one.



The screenshot shows the 'My Profile' page of the FileSender interface. The page has a navigation bar at the top with links: Upload, Guests, My Transfers, My profile (active), Statistics, Admin, Help, About, Privacy, and a login button. A status bar indicates '509 kB out of 1 TB used, 1024 GB remaining'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Admin' (You are allowed to visit the [admin page](#)), 'Preferences' (Some preferences for your account that you might like to change), 'Preferred language' (English), 'Privacy' (FileSender values your privacy. Please [click to see](#) how long information is retained by this installation), 'Remote authentication' (Use this information to authenticate with the system if you are developing REST clients), 'Secret' (You generated this auth secret at: 14 Mar 2023 15:36:38. It shows a secret key and buttons to 'Delete API secret' and 'Create API secret'), 'Python CLI Client' (Instructions on how to use the Python CLI Client, including a sample command: `python3 filesender.py -f person-to-send-to@emailserver.edu research-data-file.txt`), and 'Additional information' (This is the information that we have about your account). The 'Secret' and 'Additional information' sections are highlighted with yellow boxes. The 'Secret' section shows a secret key and buttons to delete or create a new secret. The 'Additional information' section shows the User ID.

Here you can see your **Secret** and your **Identity** (username provided by your Identity Provider at authentication process).

These credentials are the ones to make use of for the Rest API.

2. Python script

2.1. Host URL

The host base_url for Belnet FileSender API is <https://filesender.belnet.be/rest.php>.

FileSender has a example of Python script available to make use of the Rest API.

Take care to define the correct base_url variable.

2.2. Python CLI Client

To use the Python CLI Client configuration, create a `~/filesender` directory (thus under your home_dir) and copy the the Python CLI Client **filesender.py** . Requires Python version 3 to run.

[Download Python CLI Client](#)
[Download Python CLI Client configuration](#)

With the configuration file in place, you can create a Transfer (upload a file) with the command :

```
$ python3 filesender.py -v -m "Hello, here some file i'd share with you" -s "Sending using API" -u  
<your_id>@<your_domain.tld> -a <mysecret> -r <recipient_addr@domain.tld> /Path/to/your/file_1.extension /Path/to  
/your/file_2.extension
```

The configuration file **filesender.py.ini** is optional but still recommended because it saves you from having to enter all the parameters on the command line. The configuration file **filesender.py.ini** should also reside into the `~/filesender` directory (alongside your `filesender.py` script).
Example:

filesender.py.ini (config file)

```
[system]
base_url = https://filesender.belnet.be/rest.php
default_transfer_days_valid = 7 # the number of days for which the transfer remains active, up to the maximum
number of days allowed by the service.

[user]
username = <your_identity>
apikey = <your_api_secret>
```

Now you can simplify/shorten your command (not specify the `-u` & `-a` options):

```
$ python3 filesender.py -v -m "Hello, here some file i'd share with you" -s "Sending you file via API" -r
<recipient_addr@domain.tld> /Path/to/your/file_1.extension /Path/to/your/file_2.extension
```



default transfer days valid

By default, the transfer validity is 7 days. If more time is required, edit this line in the script `filesender.py` or overright this variable in the configuration file **filesender.py.ini**. For instance:

```
default_transfer_days_valid = 14
```

Constraints **Transfer expiry days (max)** & **Guest expiry days (max)** documented in the [help section](#) remains valid also for the API use.

Exceeding allowed max days will lead to PostTransfer failure !!

```
postTransfer
Failure when attempting to call: https://filesender.belnet.be/rest.php/transfer?remote_user=...@...e&signature...
Retry attempt 1
Fail Reason: 500 ← Exceeding max allowed "Transfer expiry days" or "Guest expiry days"
```

3. Conclusion

The script can be very useful to automate the uploading of files.

The transfers are visible on your profile if you login into the web interface:

- So you can extend, or delete the transfer.
- Although it should be possible to see and extend all transfer using Rest API.

Although there are a few disadvantages:

- The sender can be easily spoofed using the Rest API

4. Considerations

These scripts are those proposed by default by the Filesender opensource project. These scripts are not administered by Belnet. Belnet will not propose any other script development for the use of Filesender APIs. You are free to develop your own scripts according to your needs.

5. APi Documentation

You can find the documentation for FileSender's API at <https://github.com/filesender/filesender/blob/master/docs/v2.0/rest/>. Please note that this is an external project; not administered by Belnet.

5.1. Sample API scripts

Example scripts can be found here: <https://github.com/filesender/filesender/tree/master/scripts/client>. Please note that this is an external project; not administered by Belnet.