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Management systems and websites: paying invoices from credit and sending SMS through the API

What You Can Automate

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Management systems and websites: paying invoices from credit and sending SMS through the API

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The short answer: your billing system, your management software or your website can talk to our API: see the invoices you have with us, **pay them from your account credit** and **send SMS to your own customers**, such as payment confirmations and reminders. This guide brings together the two areas that do this work, Invoices and SMS, and shows how to build the integration safely.

The integration runs on your server, never in the browser

The API only accepts the key in the `Authorization` header, over HTTPS, and browsers can only call the API from the documentation: your site's pages **cannot use the key directly**. The path is always the same: the page calls your server, and your server calls the API.

1. **Keep the key** in an environment variable or a secrets vault, never in the code or in a repository.
2. **Fill in the key's IP list** with your server's IP: a request from any other address answers `403 ip_not_allowed`.
3. **Use one key per program**, with only the permissions it needs. If one leaks, the others keep working.

The permissions for each part

To	Permission	Note
See invoices, the PDF, your credit and transactions	`billing:read`	
Pay invoices from credit	`billing:pay`	Sensitive, off by default. Each invoice total counts towards the key's spending limit.

To	Permission	Note
Send, schedule and cancel SMS, and record who does not want them	`sms:write`	Needs an active SMS reseller account. Without one, the API answers `403 sms_reseller_required`.
See message status, your SMS balance and the history	`sms:read`	

SMS use credits from your SMS balance, not your account credit, and the key's spending limit does not apply to them. The SMS reseller account is switched on in My MozOut, and the product is on the **SMS** page.

Paying your invoices from credit, step by step

1. **See your credit.** `GET /v1/billing/credit` returns `balance` and `currency`.

2. **List unpaid invoices** with `GET /v1/invoices?status=unpaid`. The list comes in pages, and `balance_due` is what is left to pay on each one.

3. **Find out what each invoice is for.** `GET /v1/invoices/{id}` returns the lines, with `type`, `description` and `related_id`, the service or domain the line refers to. That is how your system knows which of your customers that renewal belongs to.

4. **Pay** with `POST /v1/invoices/{id}/pay`, always with an `Idempotency-Key` built from the invoice number: repeating with the same value does not charge again.

5. **Check the answer:** `status`, `amount_charged` and `credit_balance`, the credit left. If the invoice had already been paid in the meantime, `amount_charged` is 0.

6. **Keep the document.** `GET /v1/invoices/{id}/pdf` returns the PDF in `content`, in base64. If `pdf_available` is `false`, `url` takes you to the invoice in My MozOut.

```
curl https://api.mozout.com/v1/invoices/1042/pay -X POST \
-H "Authorization: Bearer $INVOICE_KEY" \
-H "Idempotency-Key: pay-invoice-1042"
```

Answer	What it means	What your system does
`200` with `status` `paid`	The invoice is paid.	Records `amount_charged` and moves to the next one.
`402` `insufficient_credit`	There is not enough credit. Nothing was charged.	Alerts whoever tops up the credit and tries later.
`403` `spending_limit_exceeded`	The payment would go over the key's spending limit. Nothing was charged.	Reviews the limit: create a key with a higher one, if that makes sense.
`409 conflict`	In `details.reason`: `invoice_not_unpaid` (no longer unpaid), `nothing_to_pay`, `credit_not_allowed` (this invoice cannot be paid from credit) or `profile_incomplete` (the account profile is not complete).	Does not repeat. Handles the case in My MozOut.
`429 rate_limited`	Paying invoices and buying domains and extras share 5 requests a minute, per account.	Waits for `Retry-After` and repeats with the same `Idempotency-Key`.

The API only charges your credit.
To pay any other way, use My MozOut or the `url` of each invoice, which shows the **payment methods** for your account. How credit is topped up and used is explained in **credit balance in your account**.

Sending SMS to your customers

1. **Send** with `POST /v1/sms/messages`, with `number` and `text`. Write the number with or without the country code, because the system can tell the country from the first digit: **841234567** goes to Mozambique and **923456789** to Angola. So **+258 84 123 4567** and **258841234567** are the same number as **841234567**.

2. **The sender is optional.** Without `sender`, the message goes out with the free sender, **NETMSG**. For another name, use an approved sender from `GET /v1/sms/senders`.

3. **Always send** an `Idempotency-Key` built from the event (for example the receipt number): a retry never sends twice.

4 **Read the status** in the answer: `sent`, `failed` or `queued`. Later, `GET /v1/sms/messages/{id}` shows it again.

```
curl https://api.mozout.com/v1/sms/messages -X POST \
-H "Authorization: Bearer $SMS_KEY" \
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \
-H "Idempotency-Key: sms-receipt-1042" \
-d '{"number": "841234567", "text": "We have received your payment for invoice 1042. Thank you!"}'
```

The first send, step by step, is in **sending SMS through the API**, and what to write in a confirmation in **payment confirmation SMS**.

Reminders that cancel themselves when the customer pays

When your system issues an invoice to a customer, it can schedule the reminder straight away: add `send_at` to the request, with the date and time in ISO 8601 and the time zone, in the future and no more than 365 days ahead. The message becomes `scheduled` and credits are only taken when it goes out. If the customer pays first, your system calls `POST /v1/sms/messages/{id}/cancel` and nobody gets a reminder for a bill already paid. Only messages still `scheduled` can be cancelled; others answer `409` with `not_cancellable`. See **cancelling a scheduled SMS through the API** and, for the wording, **payment reminder SMS**.

A complete integration, in one table

In your system	API request	Permission
A customer paid you for their domain renewal	`GET /v1/invoices?status=unpaid` and `POST /v1/invoices/{id}/pay`	`billing:read`, `billing:pay`
Confirm the payment to the customer	`POST /v1/sms/messages`	`sms:write`
You issued an invoice to the customer	`POST /v1/sms/messages` with `send_at`	`sms:write`
The customer paid before the reminder	`POST /v1/sms/messages/{id}/cancel`	`sms:write`
The customer asked not to receive SMS	`POST /v1/sms/opt-outs`. From then on, sending to that number answers `422 number_opted_out`.	`sms:write`

In your system	API request	Permission
The customer stopped paying you for a domain	`PUT /v1/domains/{domain}/auto-renew` with `auto_renew` set to `false`: renewal invoices stop being issued.	`domains:write`
The monthly report	`GET /v1/billing/transactions` and `GET /v1/sms/stats`	`billing:read`, `sms:read`

Test everything in Sandbox first.
With a `sandbox_` key, the payment is simulated and the answer tells you, in `credit_sufficient` and `within_spending_limit`, whether it would go through; SMS are simulated and use no credits. If your system is WHMCS, there is already a guide with a ready-made hook: **SMS notices from your own WHMCS**.

RECOMMENDED

Want to connect your system to your account? See the API page and start with a Sandbox key, which charges and sends nothing.

See the API page →

SEE ALSO

- **Invoices through the API: listing, PDF, paying with credit, renewal cycle and cancellations** →
- **Sending SMS through the API: key, permissions, Sandbox and your first request** →
- **Cancelling a scheduled SMS through the API, for example when the customer has already paid** →
- **SMS notices from your own WHMCS: a hook that calls our SMS API on invoices and payments** →
- **Credit balance in your account: where it comes from and how it is used on invoices** →
- **Sensitive API permissions and the spending limit: paying, buying, reinstalling, cPanel access** →

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MozOut International

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