

aws marketplace

SmartBear API Hub

Reviews, tips, and  
advice from real users



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# Product Recap



SmartBear API Hub

# SmartBear API Hub Recap

SmartBear API Hub provides a comprehensive platform for managing and enhancing API development. It streamlines workflows and boosts collaboration, making it easier for teams to produce high-quality APIs efficiently.

SmartBear API Hub is designed to address the complex needs of modern API development teams. It offers a robust suite of tools that simplify processes from design to deployment. By unifying different stages of the API lifecycle, it ensures consistency and excellence in API creation. Key features support testing, monitoring, and seamless integration with existing systems, which are crucial for businesses seeking to maintain a competitive edge in a digital economy.

## What are the key features of SmartBear API Hub?

- **API Design:** Supports intuitive design processes with standardized templates.
- **Testing Capabilities:** Offers comprehensive testing tools to ensure API reliability.
- **Monitoring:** Provides real-time analytics to track API performance.
- **Collaboration:** Enables team collaboration with shared workspaces and documentation.
- **Integration:** Ensures compatibility with major third-party applications.

## What benefits should you consider in reviews?

- **Improved Efficiency:** Streamlines the API development lifecycle.
- **Cost Savings:** Reduces the need for multiple tools with an all-in-one platform.
- **Scalability:** Adapts to growing business demands seamlessly.
- **User Productivity:** Enhances developer productivity through intuitive tools.

In industries such as finance, healthcare, and technology, SmartBear API Hub facilitates robust API development crucial for integration. For example, financial services can harness its capabilities for secure transaction APIs while tech companies leverage it for enhancing cloud service APIs, ensuring they meet enterprise-level scalability and security requirements.

# Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- ✔ “SmartBear API Hub has positively impacted my organization as it helps to create our regression suite as well as connection with Jenkins to run smoke testing and regression settings, it saves a lot of time and it is one tool for every testing.”



**Akshay Rathi**

QA automation at Sun Life Financial

- ✔ “Having a single source of truth for API contracts makes it easier to understand the request and response schemas, keeps automation test cases aligned with the API changes, and reduces misunderstandings during the development and testing cycle.”



**Anurag Chatap**

SDET at a tech vendor with 1,001-5,000 employees

- ✔ “SmartBear API Hub has positively impacted my organization by improving API quality, reducing manual testing efforts, and enabling faster feedback through test automation.”



**Sesanka Dash**

QA engineer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

- ✔ “I want to add that the best part was we got one single platform where we can do everything from governance to contract validation to development to testing in a single tool rather than hopping from one tool to another, and I guess that's the best feature anybody can think of.”



**SandeepS**

Senior Test Analyst at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

### What users had to say about valuable features:

“The best features that SmartBear API Hub offers include building, testing, and maintaining high-quality APIs, as it supports automation, CI/CD integration, and API governance, making it widely used in modern software development and QA processes.

“CI/CD integration and API governance features help my team. CI/CD is a pipeline concept, so it is continuous integration and continuous deployment; it is a deployment process. We are using GitLab as a CI/CD pipeline, which continuously runs the pipeline for whatever we are implementing, and if everything looks good, it pushes all the code to the branch. For governance, SmartBear API Hub has API governance.

“SmartBear API Hub has positively impacted my organization by improving API quality, reducing manual testing efforts, and enabling faster feedback through test automation. The integration with CI/CD pipelines has helped identify issues earlier in the deployment cycle, resulting in improved release quality and increased team productivity..”

**Sesanka Dash**

QA engineer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“The best features that SmartBear API Hub offers in my experience are that it is really easy to create a regression suite, it is very easy to connect with a database, and it is very useful in data-driven testing as well where we are using property transfer. You can create variables at the test folder level or the test case level and you can use it in your API. This is helpful for data-driven testing and connection with the database. You can also integrate Chrome DevTools protocols there so that you can also validate dynamic values from UI as well as from API. This allows you to create a whole regression suite.

“I find myself using database testing and data-driven testing more because we are an insurance company, so we have a regression suite that is primarily on the data.

“SmartBear API Hub has positively impacted my organization as it helps to create our regression suite as well as connection with Jenkins to run smoke testing and regression settings. It saves a lot of time and it is one tool for every testing. It helps us to create a regression that covers most of the scenarios for our company, and that is why we are using it..”

**Akshay Rathi**

QA automation at Sun Life Financial

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“The best features SmartBear API Hub offers include a centralized API documentation system, much in the way Swagger or OpenAPI provides, which I find most useful. We mostly use the Swagger specification for management and version control for the APIs, and we have moved from version 1.0.0 to 2.0.0. This is great because we can see and validate what the previous version and the latest version are, and how the schema has changed. Having a single source of truth for API contracts makes it easier to understand the request and response schemas, keeps automation test cases aligned with the API changes, and reduces misunderstandings during the development and testing cycle. The clear API documentation also helps speed up the onboarding and troubleshooting processes for us.

In addition to the best features, the ease of use in SmartBear API Hub is significant, and the collaboration aspect is very useful. It helps the developer and QA teams to work from the same API specification, reducing ambiguity and improving communication when any APIs change or are newly introduced. The interface is straightforward and easy to navigate, making it simple to find endpoint details, request schemas, and responses.

SmartBear API Hub has positively impacted my organization by improving collaboration between the development and QA teams through a centralized source of API documentation and specification. This has reduced misunderstandings around the API contract and helped our testers to understand changes more quickly, enabling the faster creation of automation test cases. Having a clear, up-to-date API definition has also reduced the time spent on various processes..”

**Anurag Chatap**

SDET at a tech vendor with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“SmartBear API Hub's best features are its governance, spec-first design, contract testing, overall dev experience, documentation, and, best of all, testing integration.

“ ”

The governance feature helps my team by automatically enforcing rules on how APIs are designed and maintained before bad APIs reach production, which is a standout for SmartBear API Hub.

“ ”

I want to add that the best part was getting a single platform where we can do everything from governance to contract validation to development to testing in one tool instead of hopping around, and I think that's the best feature anyone could ask for.

“ ”

SmartBear API Hub has positively impacted my organization because I created this POC, and my upper management was really happy, and eventually, we'll start rolling it out for other projects too.

“ ”

After using SmartBear API Hub, I've noticed we've saved a lot of time, which was a problem with our old tools, so time-saving was our biggest achievement..”

**SandeepS**

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Senior Test Analyst at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

# Other Solutions Considered

“I previously used Postman and REST Assured APIs in my project to automate and test our test cases, and we were just looking for a better tool that could handle everything rather than switching from one tool to another..”

**SandeepS**

Senior Test Analyst at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“I didn't check out other options before picking SmartBear API Hub because someone told me about it, and I actually wanted to try it since I was really impressed that it's a single platform that handles everything, so I didn't need to jump to any other tool..”

**SandeepS**

Senior Test Analyst at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“Before choosing SmartBear API Hub, we were previously using Tosca for API automation, but we are relying on ReadyAPI because of its features that I mentioned, including easily Git connection capabilities and database connection capabilities, as well as data-driven testing. That is why we switched from Tosca to SmartBear API Hub..”

**Akshay Rathi**

QA automation at Sun Life Financial

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“I chose a rating of eight because if you go to any other API solution such as SoapUI, Swagger, or Postman, it is not comparable to SmartBear. SmartBear has very good reporting quality and is very fast, and it has good in-built features and an in-built framework, which makes it reliable..”

**Sesanka Dash**

QA engineer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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# ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

“I have seen a return on investment; previously we were using five resources for automation testing, but right now, using SmartBear API Hub, we can easily create a regression suite, and that is reduced to two resources..”

**Akshay Rathi**

QA automation at Sun Life Financial

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“I've seen a good return on investment with SmartBear API Hub, mostly because of the time it saved me. But since that's out of my hands, I'm probably not the best person to answer this question..”

**SandeepS**

Senior Test Analyst at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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# Use Case

“My main use case for SmartBear API Hub involves reviewing the API documentation and OpenAPI Swagger specifications provided by the developer so I can understand the request and response schemas. Along with that, I validate the API behavior and create automation test cases using Playwright and Python, which is the current framework we are using, and I also check if it is aligned with the API contract given by the development team for testing.

As an automation test engineer, I use SmartBear API Hub to review the API specification provided by the developer. Before implementing automation tests, for example, when a new API endpoint is introduced, I refer to that API documentation to understand more about the request, response, headers, and how authentication is required, as well as what the expected response I will get. I create API automation tests to validate the functionality, handle error handling, and ensure data integrity properly. These are the things I do in day-to-day work when I get a new API change or API request from the developer..”

**Anurag Chatap**

SDET at a tech vendor with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“My main use case for SmartBear API Hub is automating APIs, testing, documenting, and monitoring.

“For automating APIs or monitoring, I use SmartBear API Hub by writing code via Groovy script and calling the data from the database, implementing those, and validating by using my own script.

“All of my codes are in GitLab and different people from my team are working on different branches, and they raise a merge request to me. Then I review the code, and if everything is fine, I push the code to the main branch. They started working and validating based on the code we have written and how the API is responding, such as 200 or 300 status codes. Sometimes we are getting a 500 error, so based on that, we are designing our test case to get optimized results..”

**Sesanka Dash**

QA engineer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“My main use case for SmartBear API Hub is that I was looking for a better tool in the market that can handle everything from documentation to contract testing, to API testing as an independent tool rather than hopping from one tool to another just for its own greatness.

“ ”

A quick specific example of how I use SmartBear API Hub in my daily work is that the biggest advantage I felt SmartBear API Hub has is its ability to validate contracts for APIs we have created in my project.

“ ”

I don't think I have anything else to add about my main use case; I guess that was the biggest advantage we wanted to gain from this particular tool..”

**SandeepS**

Senior Test Analyst at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“My main use case for SmartBear API Hub is for API automation.

“A quick specific example of how I use it for API automation is that we usually run regression testing, where we are using API URLs and we are using property transfer steps and we are also using database testing as well using JDBC connection. We are validating the responses for status code and some validations that give us confirmation that our API is currently working. We are working on an insurance company, so we are validating the insurance details, the claim management system, and the claims that the particular person is raising. We are validating it from the UI as well as from API. For API automation, we are using ReadyAPI and for UI, we are using some other tool. We are also integrating the UI automation plus API automation in a single test case using Chrome DevTools protocol with ReadyAPI as well. We are creating a regression suite, validating the quick responses, and the smoke testing as well where we are validating the status code of particular APIs.

“We are using ReadyAPI for API automation and database testing as well, where we are validating our certain documents are in the database or not or our transaction key is in the database or not that is being triggered by API and we are validating it from the database using the JDBC connection..”

**Akshay Rathi**

QA automation at Sun Life Financial

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## Other Advice

“My advice to others looking into using SmartBear API Hub is that it is definitely good for API designing, documentation, and governance processes, and to get the most value from the platform, it is particularly useful for deployment. QA and architecture teams should use it as a shared resource of truth, and maintaining accurate API definitions and encouraging team-wide adoption can improve collaboration, reduce misunderstandings, and make API testing and integration efforts more efficient. The good and bad parts have already been mentioned in my previous responses..”

**Anurag Chatap**

SDET at a tech vendor with 1,001-5,000 employees

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“My advice to others looking into using SmartBear API Hub is that I would tell them to go for it. It is a paid version, but it is good, and if we are paying for something that gives a lot of features, then it is worthwhile, so I would suggest others go for it.

“Regarding SmartBear API Hub's AI capabilities, its governance and security are good. If you are considering security, you have authentication, proxy, and bearer tokens, so based on whether you have a token or a username and password, you will only then be able to make use of that API. If not, then you cannot, so based on that, I can say it is good in terms of security and governance as well.

“I would rate SmartBear API Hub an eight out of ten overall..”

**Sesanka Dash**

QA engineer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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“My advice for others looking into using SmartBear API Hub is that it is very easy to use and easy to create a workflow for end-to-end testing. It is good for that. It is also available for contract testing as well. We can increase the contract testing feature in ReadyAPI so that people can start working on the contract testing feature. Generally, we are validating the schema level, YAML files, and we are also validating. We can improve in that area if something changes in the YAML files. We can also enhance the validation and contract testing feature in SmartBear API Hub. Currently, we are just validating the responses against the particular YAML, but we can also improve that.

“Regarding SmartBear API Hub's AI capabilities, I think its governance and security are pretty much good, and we are also relying on SmartBear API Hub for AI capabilities, which also serve as a good add-on feature. It helps to improve our efficiency.

“Regarding SmartBear API Hub's AI capabilities, I find its reliability and accuracy to be really good. It has a lot of AI capabilities that can enhance our efficiency. In terms of accuracy and reliability, it would be a 10 out of 10. I do not think any changes are needed in that area.

“I would rate this review an 8 out of 10..”

**Akshay Rathi**

QA automation at Sun Life Financial

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“I would give SmartBear API Hub an eight out of ten, but as I just mentioned, I still need to explore it more.

“ ”

I chose an eight because what if I haven't yet explored all hidden features? So, whatever use cases I've used from this particular tool, I'm still in a position to give it an eight, but for sure not a ten as of now.

“ ”

Regarding SmartBear API Hub's AI capabilities, I believe its governance and security are important because as AI coding tools increase development velocity, APIs are generated, modified, and consumed faster than ever, often without sufficient visibility or validation, and SmartBear's governance closes these gaps.

“ ”

I think SmartBear API Hub's AI capabilities are effective as they eliminate "zombie APIs," such as undocumented and unmanaged endpoints that increase attack surfaces. Also, distributed teams create silos in API development and multi-gateway requirements, making standardization difficult, so governance centralizes that control.

“ ”

I would advise others looking into using SmartBear API Hub that if people have a time crunch and don't want to discover or experiment with multiple tools, then I think this particular tool is a one-stop solution.

“ ”

I don't think I have any additional thoughts about SmartBear API Hub before we wrap up; I'm good. My overall review rating for SmartBear API Hub is eight out of ten..”

**SandeepS**

Senior Test Analyst at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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