

Interface Comparison

Access to our system is available through our Trader Workstation, Proprietary API, and Computer-to-Computer-Interface (CTCI) as described below. Each account may have a concurrent TWS and API application open, but accounts may only be designated as TWS/API or CTCI (account types with multiple accounts, such as advisors, may only be designated as TWS/API or CTCI). Switches in designation can take up to a week.

Features	TWS	API (Proprietary)	CTCI (FIX)
Description of Application	A java-based electronic trading platform written by IB, available through a browser or as a standalone product.	An application programming interface that allows you to write custom applications that link to TWS using Java, C++, Active X, or DDE (Excel).	Computer-to-computer interface that uses FIX protocol, which allows you to use IB's order routing network to facilitate your own trading application or front-end.
Level of programming expertise required	None	Intermediate to Expert	Expert
Supported Platforms	Windows, MAC, UNIX/Linux	Windows - All APIs MAC, UNIX/Linux Java API	Windows, MAC, UNIX/Linux
Customer Access	Internet with secure login	Internet with secure login through an active TWS session.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet via secure login • Extranet • Dedicated line
Supported Order Types	All. Please refer to the Order Types page on our website for a full list of all supported order types.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market • Market at the open • Limit • Limit on Close • Pegged to the Market • Stop • Stop Limit • Trailing Stop • Relative • VWAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market • Limit • Stop • Stop Limit • Market on Close • Limit on Close • Hidden • Iceberg • Pegged to the Market • Pegged to Primary • Trailing Stop • VWAP • Combo • Conditional • Good after time • Good until time
Message limit per second	Depends on speed of manual entry	50	150
Method for placing orders	Manual	Proprietary API message	FIX message

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Features	TWS	API (Proprietary)	CTCI (FIX)
Receive realtime portfolio update data	Yes	Yes	No
Receive realtime market data	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sample test application available	N/A	Yes	No
Accessible from multiple IP addresses?	Yes	Yes	Internet - Yes Extranet and Dedicated Line - No
Built-in event/error logging	Yes	Yes	No, must program your own logging.
Advisor Allocations	Yes	Yes	Orders may only be sent to one account at a time.
Support Links	Release Notes User's Guide Customer Service Email: tac@interactivebrokers.com	Software Release Notes User's Guide Email: api@interactivebrokers.com	Individuals and Non-pro Advisors should send an email to tac@interactivebrokers.com in order to request CTCI integration. Pro Advisors, Institutions and Brokers should contact their sales representative for integration information. Integration can take up to one week.
Monthly Minimum Commissions	Internet: \$10.00 (\$3 for age 25 and under) Extranet and Dedicated Line: \$500.00	Same as TWS	Internet: \$100.00 \$500.00 one time setup fee. Extranet and Dedicated Line: \$1,500.00 (line1) \$1,000.00 (line2)