
Subject: Misc questions about the API

Posted by [subvs](#) on Fri, 04 Jan 2013 14:43:48 GMT

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Hi,

I have a few miscellaneous questions regarding the Shapeways API, which I'm using to upload models from my mobile app.

- It appears when I upload my model from my app and visit the resulting model's page in Shapeways, the "description" property, "markup", etc. appear fine, but "tags" appears empty. The value I give in my request is the following comma-delimited list:

```
<tags>egg,easter,painting,magic 3d easter egg painter,subvs,subversus  
interactive,iphone,ipad</tags>
```

Is there anything more I need to do to get those tags to show up?

- In a related question, is there a way to specify the "categories", "shop section", or preview photo through the API? Will there be a way?

- Is there a recommended way to construct the URL given the model's ID? I've noticed sometimes the following format results in a "Redirect Loop":

```
http://www.shapeways.com/model/846755/
```

The following format seems more reliable:

```
http://www.shapeways.com/model/846755/.html
```

Is there a format we should adhere to that will be guaranteed to always work?

- Is it possible to ask `submitModel` to send its response after the model has been processed? Directing our users to a URL that says "Rendering Image..." in place of the preview image is confusing. Currently I just wait 30 seconds after receiving the model ID before directing them to the URL, but I was hoping there's a better way.

- What is the meaning of properties such as `specular_color`, `shininess`, `opacity`, `translucency`, etc on `MaterialArray`? I understand these concepts in the context of 3D computer graphics but with real-world objects and light sources, how can these properties affect appearance?

Thanks!
