

// NEXURAL AUTOMATION

Broker API Comparison

Side-by-side evaluation of the 5 most common automation platforms. No affiliate links. No rankings. Honest trade-offs only.

Feature	IBKR TWS	Alpaca	Tradovate	NT8	TradingView
Language	Python, Java, C++	Python, JS, REST	REST/WS API	C# (NinjaScript)	Pine Script
Asset Class	Stocks, Options, Futures, FX	Stocks, Crypto	Futures only	Futures, Stocks	All (view only)
Paper Trading	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	✓ Yes (Sim)	✗ No direct exec
Real-Money Cost	~\$0.005/share	Free (spread)	\$0-\$2/contract	\$50-100/mo	Webhook extra
Order Types	All types	Basic + bracket	Basic types	Full NT8 suite	Alert-triggered
Rate Limits	50 req/sec	200 req/min	~100/min	N/A (local)	15 min delay free
Audit Log	✓ TWS logs	✓ API events	✓ REST history	✓ Strategy logs	✗ Limited
Community	Good docs	Strong Python	Growing	Very active	Largest by far
Where It Breaks	Complex auth setup	US stocks only	Futures only limit	Windows-only	Requires proxy
Best For	Professional, multi-asset	Equities, algo starter	Pure futures dev	NT8 strategies	Signal generation

Key Recommendations

Starting out with US equities?

Alpaca — clean REST API, generous free tier, excellent Python SDK.

Trading futures professionally?

IBKR TWS API or Tradovate — both have full order type support and institutional-grade audit logs.

Already on NinjaTrader 8?

NT8 API is the path of least resistance. NinjaScript gives you full control within a live platform.

Want signal-only automation?

TradingView webhooks → webhook receiver → broker. Simple, visual, great for PineScript strategies.

Crypto focused?

Alpaca supports crypto. For pure crypto, consider Binance API or Coinbase Advanced Trade API.

Full comparison and live examples: nexural.io/automation