



Building foundation for integration success.

API-led integration initiatives without solid foundations often get out of control and fail. Follow our plan of activities for an API integration programme that is robust, scalable, secure and delivers business value fast. You are now on a paved road to integration success!

—> Align with the business

Establish the business strategy and the overall desired outcome

Don't start with a technical problem. Aim to deliver business value, not just a technical project.

Understand and identify leaders within your business domains

Individuals who can really drive forward projects within those domain areas.

Consider Resources

Do you have the necessary skillset in the company to support your integration initiative? You might need to recruit, outsource or partner with SME.

—> Set up the right foundations

Set up a Center for Enablement (C4E)

C4E is an IT operating model with a focus on enablement and delivery. It helps shorten delivery cycles, reduces project risks, ensures better compliance with standards and improves deliverable quality.

Governance

- Define standards so that everyone is building and developing in a common way (API naming conventions, approach to logging, auditing and exception handling).
- Outline a set of tools to support automation of build and deployment processes as well as automated code quality checks.
- Agree on a branching strategy to align on ways of working with a code repository.
- Have an onboarding strategy for your development and delivery teams to communicate and enforce governance on the programs to come.

Security

- Design and implement a strategy for securing both infrastructure and APIs.
- Engage internal Security teams to ensure buy-in and agreement.
- Consider infrastructure features such as VPC, IPsec with VPN, VPC Peering as well as application features including Open Authorisation, Client ID and secret, and encryption of important properties and data.

Reusability

Avoid point-to-point integrations ('spaghetti' of APIs) and the need to build from fresh for every project. Consider the bigger picture. Always challenge the potential for reuse to ensure that your integration initiative is both time and cost-effective.



— Internal Culture

- Enable your workforce with the necessary skills.**
Get that correct enablement in place across the organisation to drive collaboration, awareness and promote the new APIs.
- Ensure reuse of assets.**
Reiterate a culture of reusability of API's; all developers should always approach design with reuse in mind.

— Ensure Continuous Success

- Ensure Adoption**
Continue to educate your business users, so they understand and appreciate the value of integration. Consider hackathons, webinars, training and attendance at project demonstrations.
- Automate**
Use continuous integration to scale even faster. Automation will free your team to focus on the build itself and not waste time on repetitive tasks.
- Conduct regular audits**
 - Make sure everything is running smoothly. Validation will ensure that your APIs are up to the standard.
 - Keep testing as some issues are tricky and can be identified only during implementation or once the solution is released to the target environment.
- Gather regular feedback.**
Encourage your API users from different departments to give feedback for continuous improvement.

Integration with confidence for innovation leaders

IT departments are under enormous pressure to support innovation and deliver results faster, but API-led integration programs without solid foundations are doomed to fail. Our integration framework will set you on the right path, so you can leverage the full potential of the API-economy, innovate, increase the time-to-market for new services, beat the competition and grow.

