



Technology Area

DEFINITION

<i>Name</i>	Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)
<i>Description</i>	<p>An API is a set of instructions or rules that comprise the interface between computer applications and/or lower-level services and functions (e.g., operating systems, device drivers, and other low-level software). APIs serve as the building blocks for programmers putting together software applications.</p> <p>In application-to-application interoperability, the programmer may use a custom-developed API or use a vendor supplied API to which the programmer adds the required arguments. API's may include interfaces to vendor supplied products or interfaces to user written applications.</p> <p>This technology area is an aid in understanding the various standards applicable to application programming interfaces.</p>
<i>Rationale</i>	In order to make applications interoperate, programmers should rely on the use of standardized API's. API's may be custom and/or proprietary and allow applications on various platforms to be connected.
<i>Benefits</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards in the API area can reduce maintenance complexity as more and more applications are integrated and depend on each other. Eliminates the dangers of building point-to-point custom interfaces (having to build a new interface for each new application). API standards help improve communications between applications.

ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURE LEVELS

<i>Specify the Domain Name</i>	Integration Domain
<i>Specify the Discipline Name</i>	Application Integration

KEYWORDS

<i>List Keywords</i>	API, Application Program Interface, Programming Interface, Application Integration
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ASSOCIATED COMPLIANCE COMPONENTS

<i>List the Compliance Component Names</i>	Vendor Provided API Guidelines Custom API Development Best-Practices
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ASSOCIATED PRODUCT COMPONENTS

<i>List the Product Component Names</i>	
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CURRENT STATUS

Provide the Current Status

In Development *Under Review* *Approved* *Rejected*

AUDIT TRAIL

<i>Creation Date</i>	11/07/03	<i>Date Approved / Rejected</i>	4/13/04
<i>Reason for Rejection</i>			
<i>Last Date Reviewed</i>		<i>Last Date Updated</i>	
<i>Reason for Update</i>			