



Application Interaction Capabilities

Digitizing processes requires seamless interaction between applications to move and analyze data. The two main methods are APIs and enterprise application integration (EAI):

APIs

- Allow one app to access data and functions of another app programmatically.
- Abstract complexity so developers don't need to know internal app code.
- Enable reuse and integration without reinventing the wheel.
- Previously done via libraries and SDKs. Modern APIs are web-based.
- Popular types: REST, SOAP, GraphQL.

Key Benefits:

- Speed up development and reduce effort - leverage proven capabilities vs. building from scratch.
- Foster innovation - combine data and functions in new ways.
- Enable ecosystem of partners - safely provide access to capabilities.

EAI

- Middleware that transfers data between apps and translates between formats.
- Implements adapters, bridges, brokers, and orchestration.
- Enables legacy app data to be accessed by modern systems.
- Implementations: message brokers, transactional engines, adapters, orchestration tools.

Benefits:

- Reuse existing systems vs. expensive replacements.
- Incrementally modernize vs. high-risk rip and replace projects.
- Avoid fragmentation - central integration layer connects landscape.

In summary, APIs and EAI allow systems to interact, enabling end-to-end digitization of processes across an application landscape.