

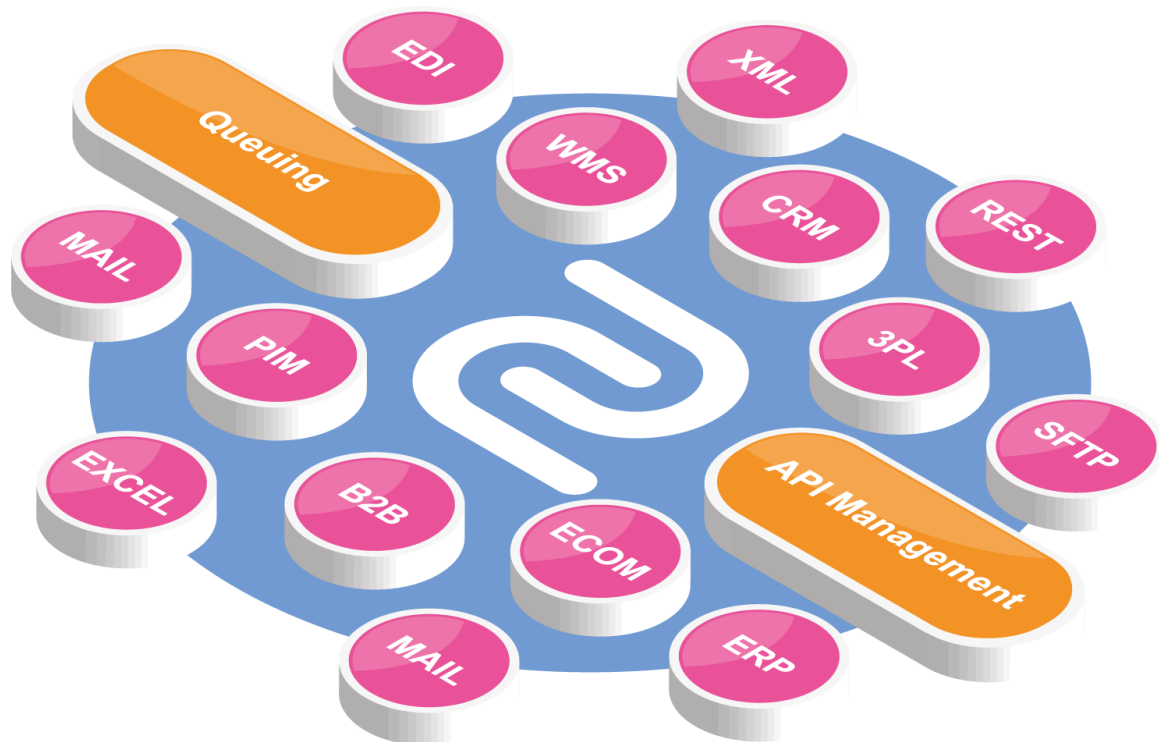


# Hybrid Integration Platform

The use of technology and data is transforming organizations everywhere. To gain insights from your application landscape or to streamline the customer experience, you must first connect and standardize the data. The integration process is critical for digital transformation, from integrating on-premises systems to integrating newly adopted SaaS applications, but it has grown increasingly complicated over the years.

## An integration bottleneck has developed

Almost all enterprises are unable to handle the high demand for new integrations over the past several years. There are simply too many requests for traditional integration approaches. Integration costs must be reduced so that a flexible, scalable model can be created.



Business cannot be paused or infrastructure ripped out and replaced entirely. To maximize integration, companies are streamlining processes, expanding employee skills, and reshaping their integration architecture to simplify and maximize it. When implementing an agile integration strategy, people, processes, and architecture all change. Hybrid integration platforms (HIPs) are also becoming increasingly popular as a means to simplify integration.

### **Hybrid integration platforms do exactly what they promise**

Ovum defines integration software (middleware) as "a cohesive set of products to implement, secure, and manage integration flows to connect diverse applications, systems, and data stores, while facilitating the rapid creation and composition of APIs to accommodate a range of hybrid integration use cases." For example, organizations should be able to integrate their data and applications across on-premises and cloud environments using an integration platform for hybrid environments. Breaking down data silos gives businesses a great chance to make better decisions, improving decision-making speed, by turning their data into actionable insights.

### **What are the benefits of selecting a hybrid integration platform?**

In order to balance traditional and modern ways of integrating data, integration teams today need a combination of tools. You should consider the following features when evaluating hybrid integration platforms:

**Management of API lifecycles:** Modern integration often involves APIs. Creating, securing, managing, and sharing APIs across environments needs to be quick and easy for companies.

**Data integration and application development:** Data silos are one of the biggest obstacles to digital transformation in organizations.

**Copying data and synchronizing:** It across applications will assist with standardization and data formats, among other things. If enterprises want to create engaging customer experiences, they must be able to securely exchange data between cloud-based and on-premise applications across their ecosystems.

**Transfer of data at high speeds:** Modern environments can exchange a staggering amount of data. Global data creation is expected to reach 163 zettabytes annually by 2025, according to IDC. Data creation in 2017 was ten times greater than in 2025. For modern organizations to provide real-time information, it is imperative that large files can be sent, shared, streamed, and synchronized reliably and at high speeds.

## **Is building a hybrid integration platform better than buying one?**

Hybrid integration platforms were considered mainly a way for organizations to piece together features of existing tools from multiple vendors into a cohesive platform until recently. In the end, this can be an expensive and lengthy process, which often produces a product that does not meet the customer's requirements. While some features or capabilities will be common to several vendors, others, such as event streaming or fast data transfer, will not be available. IBM Cloud Pak for Integration is one example of a complete platform that combines all the capabilities needed to support both traditional and modern integration. An asset repository, a common logging and tracing system, and unified dashboards make integration workflows more efficient.

## **How can HIPs modernize integration?**

Organizations can lessen costs and speed up new integrations by combining agile integration techniques with a robust hybrid integration platform. Developing an integration strategy that leverages existing infrastructure gives organizations the option to leverage their existing integration methods while introducing new endpoints, use cases, and deployment models according to their needs. Integration teams can create and manage integrations more collaboratively, more democratically, and more rousingly with hybrid integration platforms that enable them to support digital transformation initiatives in the best way.

## **Why is Hybrid Integration important?**

Taking place where the integration takes place is just one part of the bigger picture of hybrid integration. To make the modern enterprise run like a well-oiled machine, it takes into account each and every person and thing that needs to work together. A truly hybrid approach must integrate the following personalities:

IT specialists are no longer the only ones involved in integration development. Instead of putting in a ticket with IT, "citizen integrators" - Ad hoc developers and business users are tasked with building integrations.

### **Aspects:**

Applications don't just communicate through integration. In addition to B2B partners, processing (for automation) and data (for analytics), it needs to integrate across all three.

### **Embedded endpoints:**

Enterprise IT is being integrated with more and more devices and sources. Twenty-five years ago, it was mostly on-premises. The Cloud and mobile devices have expanded that concept in recent decades. As IoT devices big and small grow exponentially, the explosion is accelerating.

### **Implementation models:**

Hybrid can be defined more traditionally as cross-premises and cross-cloud integration. Embedded models are also being adopted by SaaS apps that require underlying integrations to meet their end user requirements - now becoming a requirement along with headless deployment.

### **Integrating hybrid systems**

For hybrid integration to be successful, a hybrid integration platform is crucial. By using a hybrid integration platform like web Methods, developers can develop, test, deploy, and maintain hybrid integrations at a much lower cost. These platforms connect applications and data located in the cloud and on premises. As well as accessing on-prem applications as well as plugging into the major cloud providers and tools with minimal configuration, they can access apps on the major cloud providers.

Developers can drastically reduce the amount of time spent trying to get all applications to work together by using a hybrid integration platform. Many of these companies offer preconfigured connectors that allow you to complete integrations without coding, which allows you to devote your time to more important tasks.

## **What are the key factors to consider when selecting a platform?**

When you examine hybrid integration platform offerings, you'll find that they range in terms of their robustness and flexibility. Choosing the right solution for your specific needs will take some time but there are a few good places to start. The platform should be able to accomplish the tasks that you need it to. In certain businesses, hybrid integration platforms may be required to provide all of their capabilities. Hybrid integration solutions are typically equipped with:

- An orchestration and linking solution for on-prem and cloud applications that is stable, secure, and scalable. That should be the standard. Integrate custom connectors to reduce the need for hard-coding of connections by the development team.
- Using APIs to integrate data and services so that they can be accessed in a standardized way. The ability to deploy applications anywhere, whether on premises, in a public or

private cloud, or in multiple environments, allowing you to pick the solution that is least expensive and meets your requirements

- The next step is to dive deeper into the apps, hosting environments, and partners each vendor offers. When those you use most heavily are not supported, it's not a deal breaker, but it does mean you have to invest time and resources to supplement the capabilities of the platform.