

Integration as the Backbone of the New IT World Order

Open standards are gaining more and more popularity and the word interaction is heard more often in the IT industry.

Microsoft used to be a closed platform and got a lot of critics for it. It's now opening its platform, being involved in standards like the Content Management Interoperability Services (CMIS).



We could argue that the giant Apple is still a closed platform, but if we count the number of applications available for the iPhone, we definitely have to conclude that they're "Open for Apps".

So yes, maybe the platform giants still try to control their low level platforms, but if you're a software company, getting your apps to different platforms and working with other applications is becoming easier every day.

The key to doing this simply is to put "integration architecture" at the center of your software development. You don't have the luxury to think of your software as a standalone solution. You must always think of where data could come from, where data could go to, and how data could be influenced by other systems. You must add the exit points that will allow this external integration at different places in your system.

If you include those exit points, you will be ready to integrate to other applications using web services or any other type of API. This will give you the possibility to adapt to any newly identified business opportunity.

At Corium, we were able to experience this at a few occasions. For example, for our content capture tool Librex, we must integrate to different ECM and ERP solutions. Instead of building a synchronisation connector for each solution, we have built generic connecting objects with standard interfaces. From those objects, we can quickly build a new connector once we identified a new business opportunity with a new ECM or ERP system. And this is even easier if the other applications agree on speaking the same language, as for example with Alfresco and SharePoint that both speak the CMIS language.



Don't think you can do everything by yourself. Instead, make sure that your product is ready to leverage the force of your partners... and competitors.

Topics: [partnership](#), [cmis](#), [integration](#), [sharepoint](#), [alfresco](#), [capture](#), [ecm](#)