Creating and Configuring an API Integration

What is an API Integration?
The acronym API stands for application programming interface. You may also hear this termed a web services API or REST API. For this project, an API is a set of specifications for how one application can connect to another application to send and receive data. Let’s take an example of a student information system (SIS) connecting to the data hubs. The SIS requires a web address (or URL – Universal resource locator) to know where to connect to the hubs. When it connects, it passes login and password information (known as a key and secret) to the data hubs and gets back a token if all of the information is correct. When the SIS wants to send or receive data, it first sends the token which tells the data hubs who is requesting (or sending) data and that the connection is authorized. Tokens time out after a period of time, so the SIS needs to re-authenticate with the key and secret once that occurs.

Who may create an API Integration?
Any person listed as a Technical Contact for a district can create and configure an API integration in the data hub cockpit application. In addition, the Operations Manager and Data Hub System Administrator contacts have the ability to create these integrations on behalf of the district. These users (OM and DHSA) will only create an API Integration when that is approved by a district technical or administrative contact.

What are the steps involved in creating and configuring an API Integration?
1) The first step toward creating and configuring an API Integration is to have a valid login as a technical contact for the district. If you do not have a login, please email don.dailey@kresa.org for a replacement email. If you have forgotten your password, please use the Forgot Password functionality on the login screen to reset your password.
2) Once logged into the system, select your Intermediate School District (ISD) from the list of ISD’s displayed and then choose your district from the list of districts available. If your district is not available, you are not an authorized contact for the district. You should now be at the “Manage District” screen for your district.
3) Before an API Integration can be used, a district superintendent or proxy will need to electronically sign a data hosting agreement. Please refer to the document “Electronically Signing the Data Hosting Agreement” for instructions on how to complete that piece. To check the agreement status, simply click the Agreements dropdown in the upper-left corner of the screen. A status of Accepted is required. A status of Pending means the agreement has not been addressed and a status of Revoked indicates that the superintendent declined to sign.
4) In the lower-right corner of the screen you will see a section entitle “API Integrations”. Click the link to Add Integration. The screen will appear as below:

![Add API Integration](image)

5) Choose the System Type from the dropdown. The choices are self-explanatory, but you may need to go through a few choices to find the vendor of your choosing.

6) Once a System Type is selected, the Vendor dropdown will be populated. Choose the vendor of the product that you wish to integrate. Some are straightforward, but others may take some investigation. For instance, if you choose Alert Systems and want to find SchoolMessenger, the vendor is actually West Corporation.

7) Once the Vendor Type is chosen, the System dropdown will be populated. Choose the system that is the closest match to your product. Please note that the version numbers will always say V1 at this point. This allows capability for alternate versions in the future, but for now all are V1. This does not indicate a product version number.

8) Click on the Submit button and you will return back to the navigation screen. If you added Skyward as an option, the screen will look similar to that below:

![API Integrations](image)
9) Click on the newly added API Integration link and the screen will expand to look as shown below:

![Manage API Integration Screen]

10) This screen provides all of the information needed to cut and paste into other systems for configuration purposes.
   a. Please note that most systems remove the “/2016” from the end of the API Endpoint URL. Those systems automatically control that piece, which will allow them to read and write from multiple years of information to meet your needs.
   b. The terminology used in various systems varies, but should be close to that on the screen.
   c. To get the Secret, you can click the eye symbol next to it to unmask it.
   d. The Status dropdown can be used to inactivate an integration temporarily or permanently if you desire. There is no way to remove an API integration, so inactivation is the only option for that.
   e. The Namespace Prefix information is not commonly used for configuration.
   f. If you see a dropdown for a Profile selection, know that a profile is essentially a filter on what data can be read or written by a connecting system. This is a security mechanism that allows you to provide more limited access to system data.
   g. You can click on Cancel to return to the Manage District screen or use the breadcrumbs at the top of the screen to navigate away from the page as needed.