IN MY OPINION

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OpenLegacy

The API Integration Specialist

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CEO & Co-Founder

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OpenLegacy:
The API
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By Joe Phillip

"W e keep one leg in the deepest, most proprietary legacy applications and the other in the cutting edge of latest technologies," expresses Romi Stein, CEO and Co-Founder of OpenLegacy. Stein's statement resonates well in a time when Application Programming Interface (API)—often considered as the poster child of digital transformation—is proliferating deeper into enterprises that make industry-leading investments in mobile, IoT, and big data. However, for more than a decade now, the enterprise integration part of it has not seen much of an improvement, and is often achieved the conservative way. Introducing the much needed innovation to this space is the Princeton, NJ based OpenLegacy which was founded by veterans of IT and enterprise integration, to provide a native API architecture for even the most complex and proprietary applications. The company is changing the way how enterprises achieve API integration to legacy systems with solutions centered on speed-to-execution blueprints, to deliver timely support to mobile, cloud, and B2B initiatives.

Living in an API economy and with Forrester predicting the annual spending on API management solutions by U.S. companies alone to rise from $140 Mn in 2014 to $660 Mn in 2020, CIOs today believe in maintaining APIs and API strategies

at the top of their priorities. While new and emerging applications and technologies are likely to support APIs, the challenge lies with existing and legacy applications. Also, in order to truly innovate, enterprises are striving to provide digital services, accessing their core applications which is challenging in terms of time-to-value, complexity, and risk. OpenLegacy is enabling clients to overcome this hurdle by providing a unique API integration platform with automation and flexibility that reduces time-to-value and risk dramatically while providing standardization—an ideal ecosystem for digital transformation projects. The company uses API technology to extend back-end applications and data, reducing reliance on traditional closed-source Enterprise Service Buses (ESBs) and legacy modernization solutions. OpenLegacy enables the enterprise to build on the value of on-premise systems rather than replacing them.

Once OpenLegacy is onboard, its standard tools extract the services and information from within client's legacy systems into an open standard format that puts the power of integration into the hands of enterprises without the expensive handcuffs of vendor lock in. When the business process is exposed, as an API, it can then be used in new mobile, web, and cloud solutions. Most importantly, no changes are required to the on premise system in order for OpenLegacy to work, making the process quick and easy–two words not typically associated with legacy integration.

Scoring High on API Integration

Being a basketball fan and an active player, Stein understands that to achieve goals, one has to always keep the eye on the ball and not get distracted. So while focusing on innovating in the future, it is paramount for companies to realize that accomplishing novelty depends on the success of their existing products and offerings. "We help companies refocus on their existing core assets and products, and turn them into digital offerings to remain relevant in the future," says Stein. For instance, a major bank, which processes over 40 percent of total transactions in its country, was collaborating with numerous vendors over the years to open up their legacy applications and making them available for the rest of the bank's IT environment. All the attempts achieved little success until the bank approached OpenLegacy. Once onboard, OpenLegacy enabled the bank to create APIs in hours, compared to months of development per API with previous vendors. With the API building blocks in place, the bank's business units are now accelerating the introduction of new consumer services and products.

OpenLegacy's API platform supports both generation of internal APIs from any backend system as well as a 'contract first' approach of starting from designing the external APIs and connecting with the internal APIs to the enterprise core backend applications. This is in line with the current trends like the concept of internal versus external APIs and microservices. While internal APIs are built from the bottom up allowing access to existing backend systems and exposing their complexity and siloed nature as standard interfaces, external APIs are built from the internal ones. By adding orchestrations, validation and additional logic, external APIs expose high-level business processes and well defined services

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to the end-consumers. Microservices, on the other hand, are a pattern of vertical development and deployment where small teams can be assigned responsibilities over specific services from start to finish. This allows agile and fast development, and quick reaction to market needs. OpenLegacy's distributed architecture also supports complex atomic transactions. In today's complex

easy. And so is the case with versioning integration against versioning code. The company's key benefits include fast time-to-execution, simplicity, and risk-reduction. This approach has won OpenLegacy a diverse client base across industries. One such example is a credit card provider with close to a third of the country's population using one of their cards. The client has long offered

Driven by the success customers are experiencing, OpenLegacy has been continuously expanding its platform capabilities and services, including Phased Cloud Migration—a process comprising four different steps, each offering unique value to clients to seamlessly migrate to the cloud. The steps create a cloud-based internal API layer for accessing legacy assets from anywhere; add orchestrations, validations and microservices in the cloud, based on the internal APIs to create external APIs; enhance functionality with new business logic leveraging existing APIs; and eventually move the core application, which is decoupled, from the new logic to the cloud.

> " We help companies refocus on their existing core assets and products and help turn them into digital offerings so that their great organization will remain relevant in the future

hybrid environments of on premise legacy and cloud, this flexibility is needed for solutions that need to combine both legacy and cloud applications.

The Cool Vendor

Adjudged as the 'Cool Vendor in Integration' by Gartner, OpenLegacy further distinguishes itself by offering an architecture that transforms integration challenges into code solutions. The company's fresh approach to play against already established offerings is based on the grounds that, while testing integration is complex, testing code is standard and

a consumer-facing website, allowing its cardholders to view transaction and account details, and perform account maintenance operations. However, the company recently decided to re-build its website, which connected to the backend IBM mainframe applications. The team was looking for a more open alternative, with less reliance on IBM, as well as improved performance and better usability. OpenLegacy helped the client by replacing the previous solution, lowering the total cost of ownership by 75 percent and reducing dependency on existing vendors.

"OpenLegacy is the product of countless development hours and decades of integration experience," says Stein. With API economy becoming the enabler for turning a business or organization into a platform, OpenLegacy sees great demand for its solutions across industries. Stein points out the financial services market opening myriad opportunities for players in API space as it is undergoing the perfect storm of digital banking and API. While churning innovation in the space, the company is planning to geographically expand into the far East over the years. Working hand-in-hand with regional and global system integrators, OpenLegacy is striving to ensure its customers can execute in their digital transformation strategies with solutions that can act now, transforming the traditional integration project from months to days. CR

CIOReview

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20 Most Promising API Solution Providers 2016

Today, enterprises use APIs to monetize, reuse and share their core assets and extend the reach of their services. By offering external customers the entire spectrum of services via an API, organizations benefit from the innovations of new players who experiment with a variety of approaches and thereby generate new customers. The emergence of cloud computing, analytics, IoT, and consumerization of IT have greatly influenced the design and structure of APIs. In light of these innovations, RESTful APIs have come to existence to engage with ongoing and upcoming trends, used for myriad of purposes like auto documentation and auto tooling.

RESTful APIs help create a series of small modules providing developers the flexibility to address each component of the transaction. From enabling a smooth exchange of information to proposing on demand access to data and services,

APIs and API management platforms provide the required translators to streamline the process. Enterprises are therefore using various APIs to apply definitions and implementations without compromising the interface. They are also harnessing APIs for a strategic and systematic way to fulfill their digital ambitions.

In the last few months, a distinguished panel comprising of CEOs, CIOs, VCs and analysts including the CIO Review editorial board has reviewed the top companies in the API domain, and shortlisted the ones that are at the forefront of tackling industry challenges. The selection panel looked at the vendor's capability to fulfill needs of the buyers with effective solutions that curb the challenges.

We present to you 20 Most Promising API Solution Providers 2016.

Open Legacy

recognized by CIOReview *magazine as*

20 MOST PROMISING
API
SOLUTION PROVIDERS - 2016

An annual listing of 20 companies that are at the forefront of providing API solutions and impacting the marketplace

Company:
Open Legacy

Key Person:
Romi Stein,
CEO & Co-Founder

Description:
Changing how API integration to legacy systems gets done by delivering solutions centered around on speed-to- execution blueprints to deliver timely support to mobile, cloud and B2B initiatives

Website:
openlegacy.com