Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) & GSA

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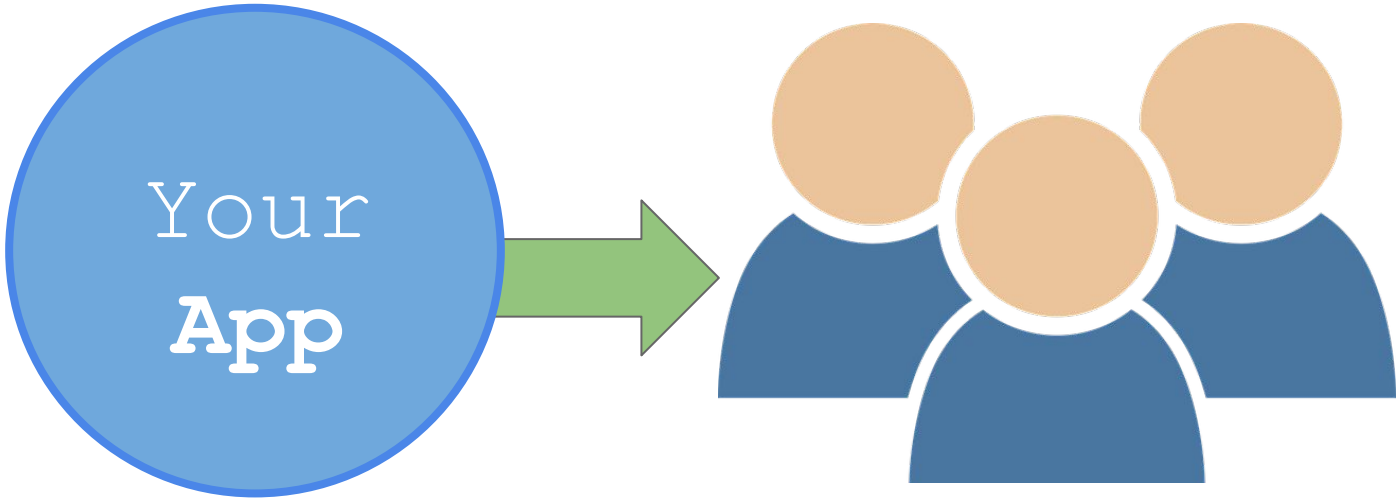
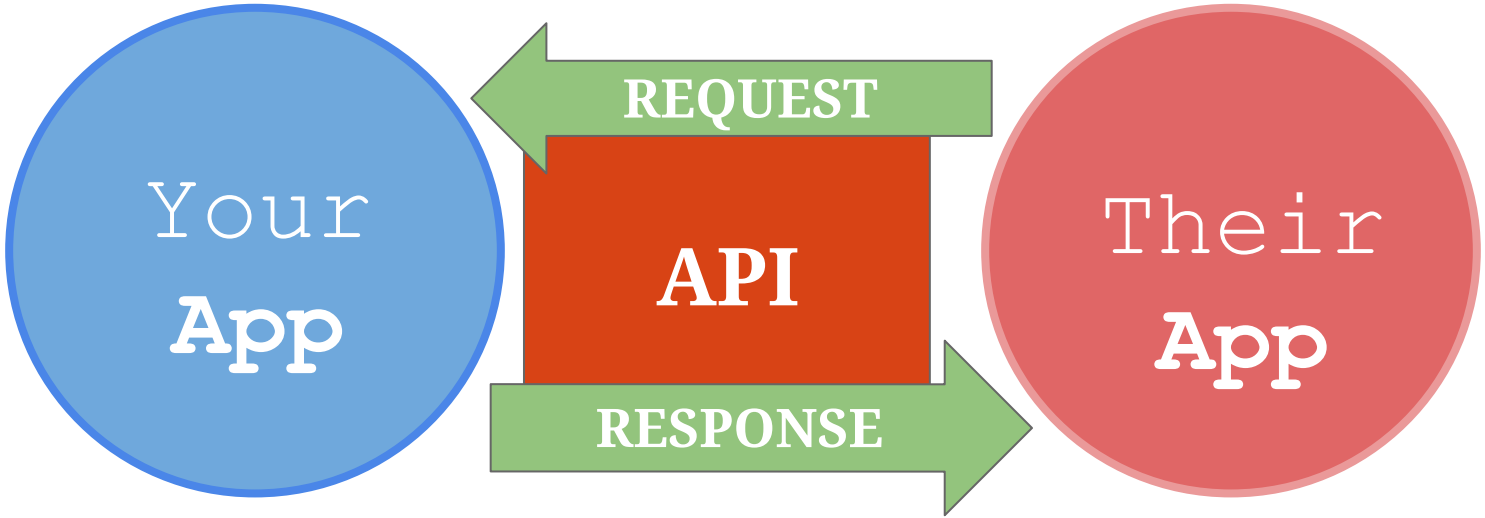
7/20/17

Users Directly Accessing Your App



API = Application Programming Interface



For this presentation, we're talking about Web APIs

(web) API

Web APIs Generally:

- Use HTTP to communicate
- Have a web-accessible address
- Use a request and response
- Typically transfer data in XML or JSON formats

An API is like a wall socket

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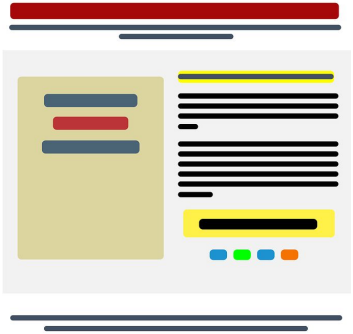
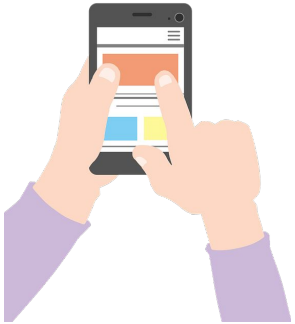
An API can serve multiple consumers

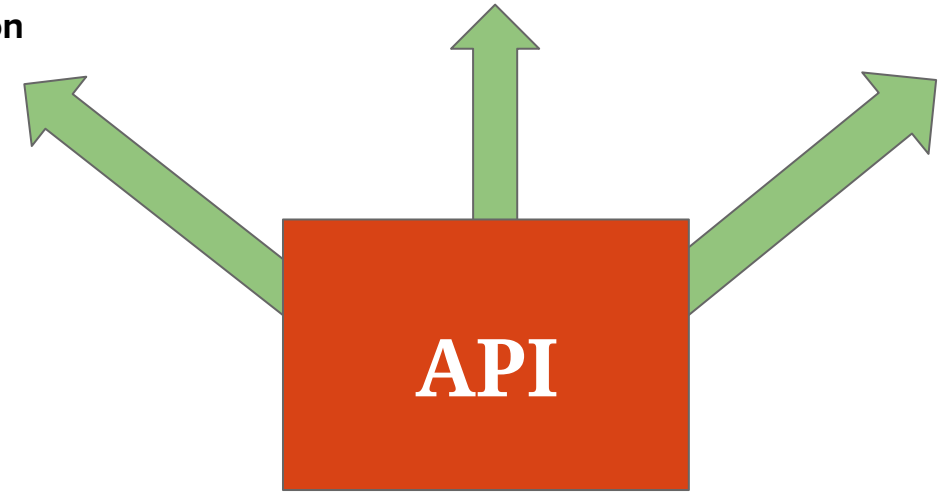


Your Web Site or Application

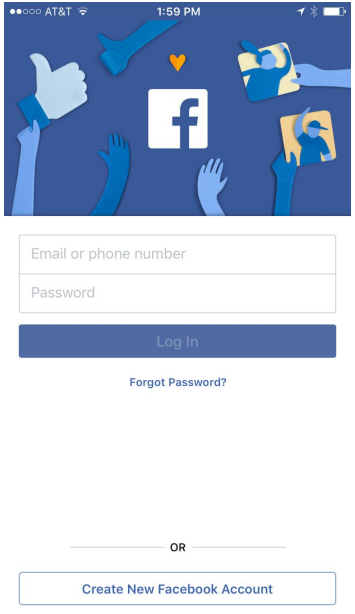


Mobile Application

External web sites or applications

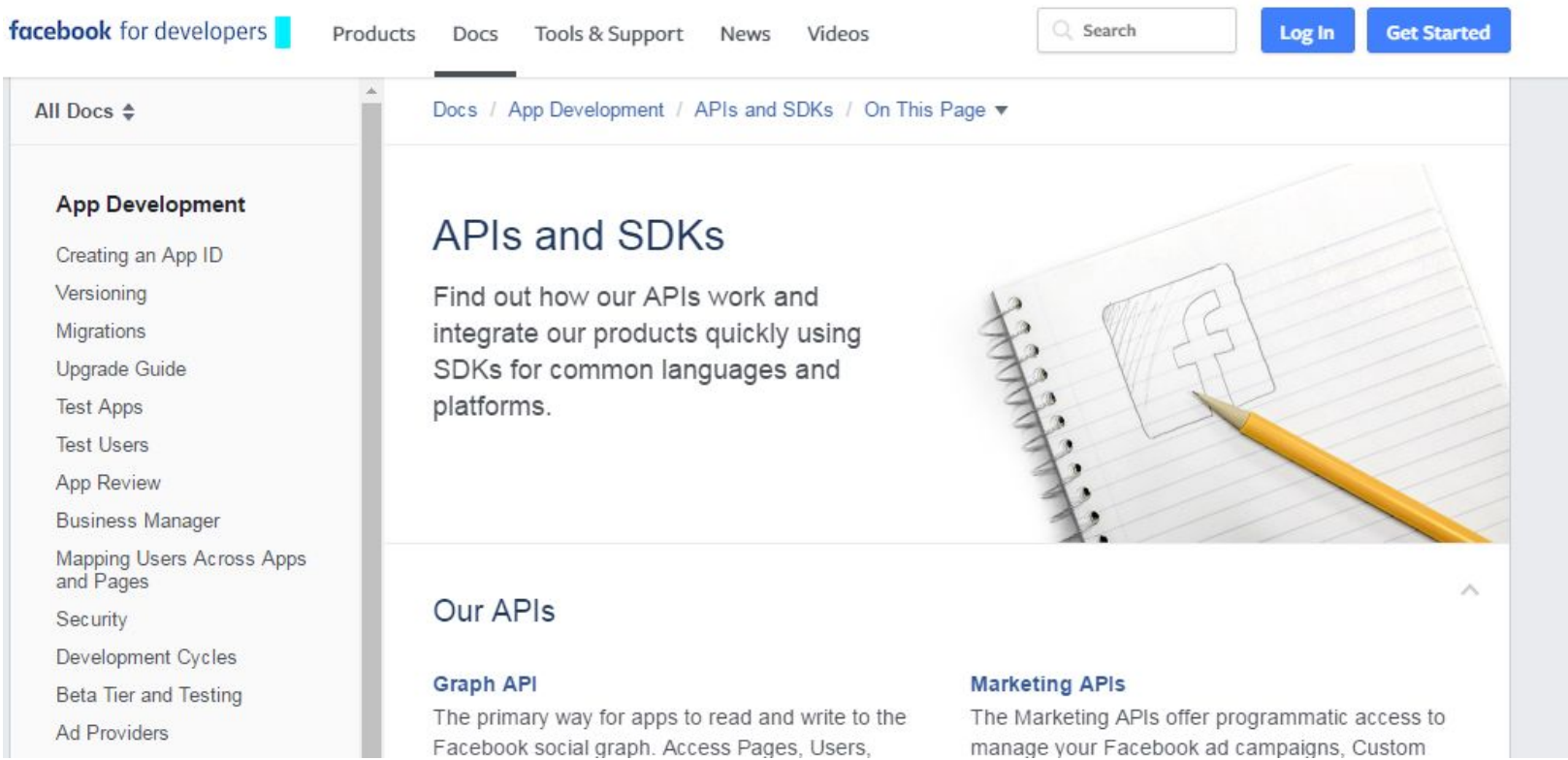


EXAMPLE


AT&T
1:59 PM
Email or phone number
Password
Log In
Forgot Password?
OR
Create New Facebook Account

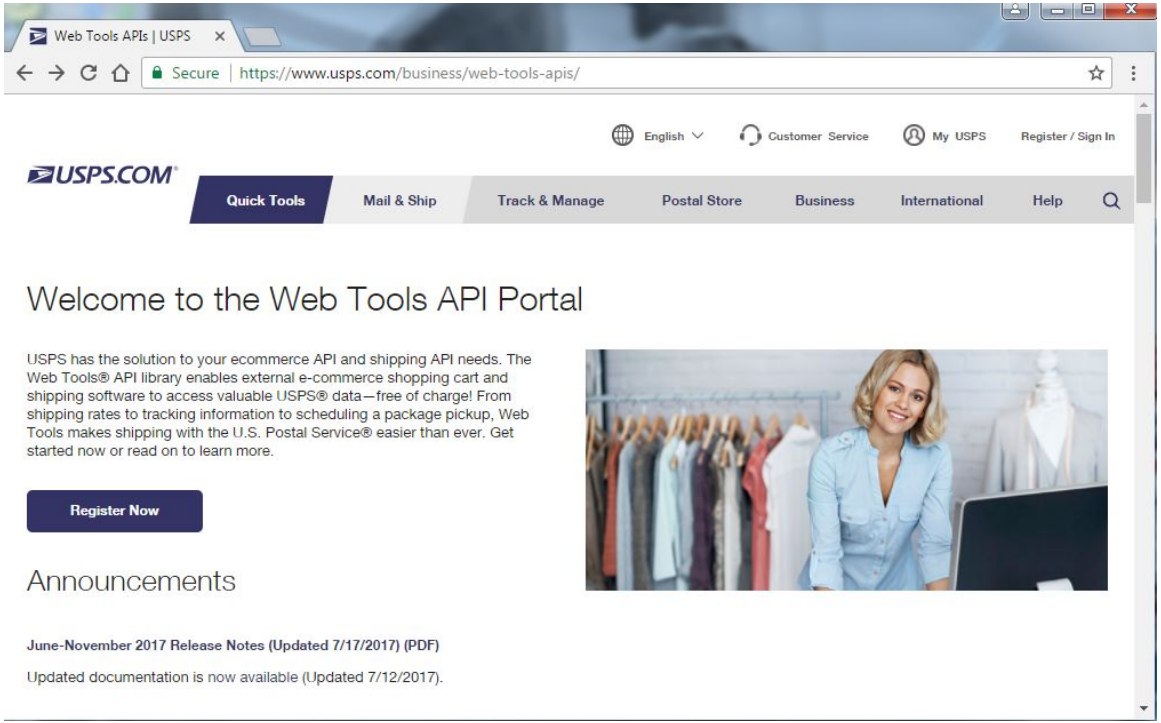
Facebook - Log In or Sig
Secure
facebook
Email or Phone
Password
Log In
Forgot account?
Sign Up
It's free and always will be.
First name
Last name
Mobile number or email
New password
Home
Photos
Profile
Developer
facebook
GitHub
stackoverflow
STEAM
updated his cover photo.
Jul 18, 17
From July 18 '07... 10 years and counting...
61
About
updated his cover photo.
Jan 2, 17

FACEBOOK APIs



https://developers.facebook.com/docs/apis-and-sdks

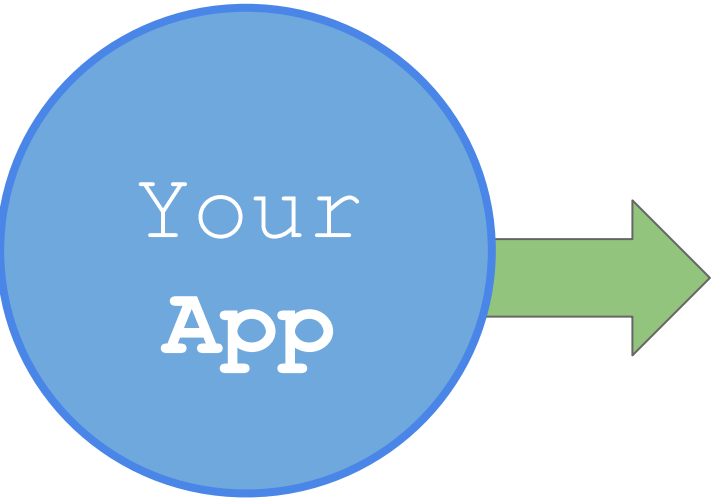
What other Government APIs are out there?

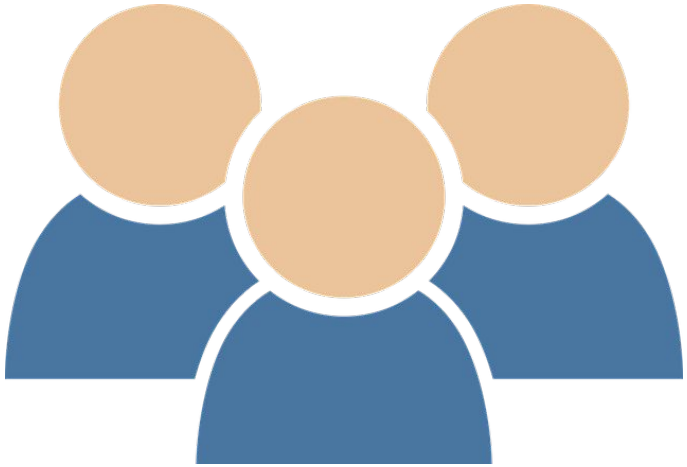


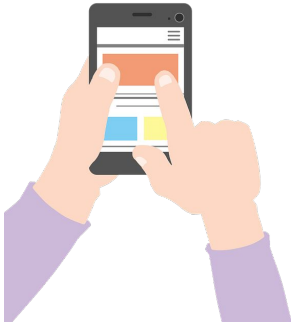
- Package tracking
- Postage price calculator
- Package pickup scheduling
- Address validation

https://www.usps.com/business/web-tools-apis/

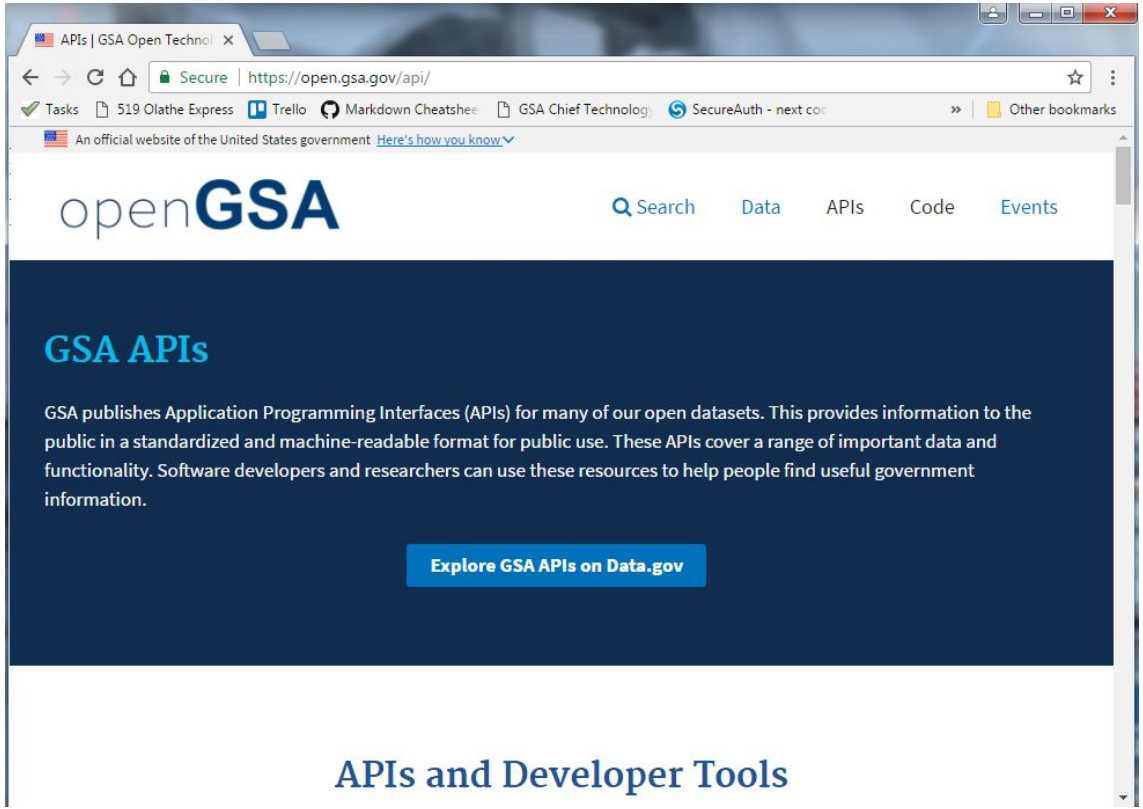
Why create an API?







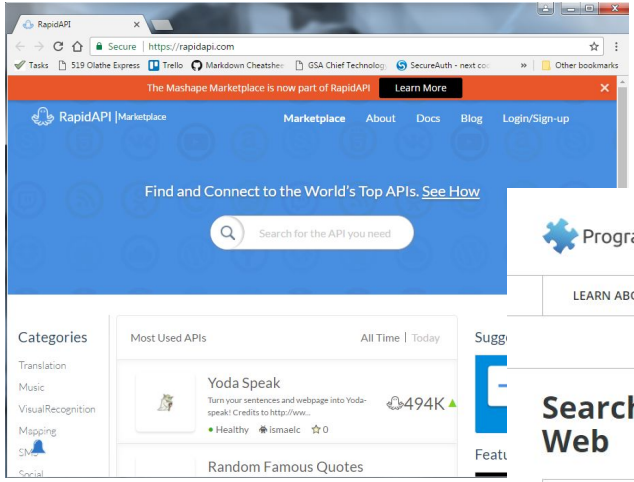
What GSA APIs are out there?

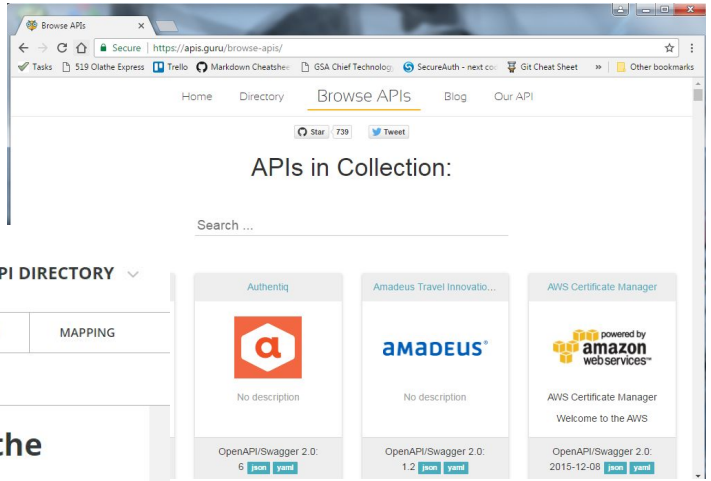


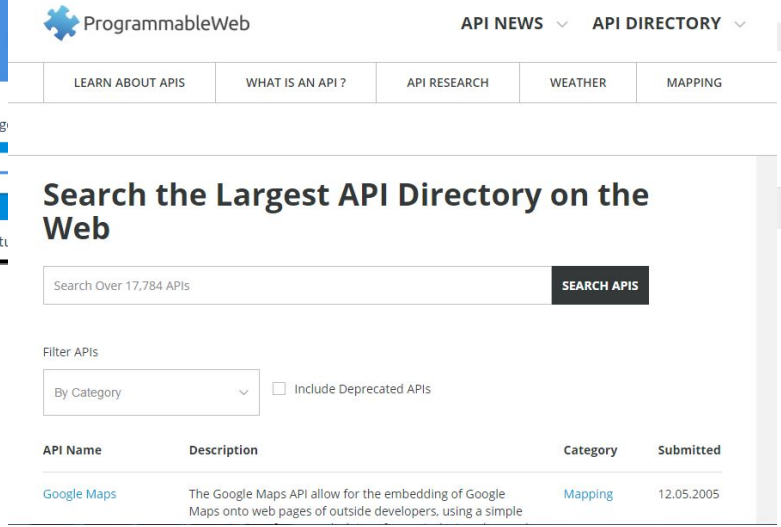
https://open.gsa.gov/api

What other APIs are out there?

Search “API directory”





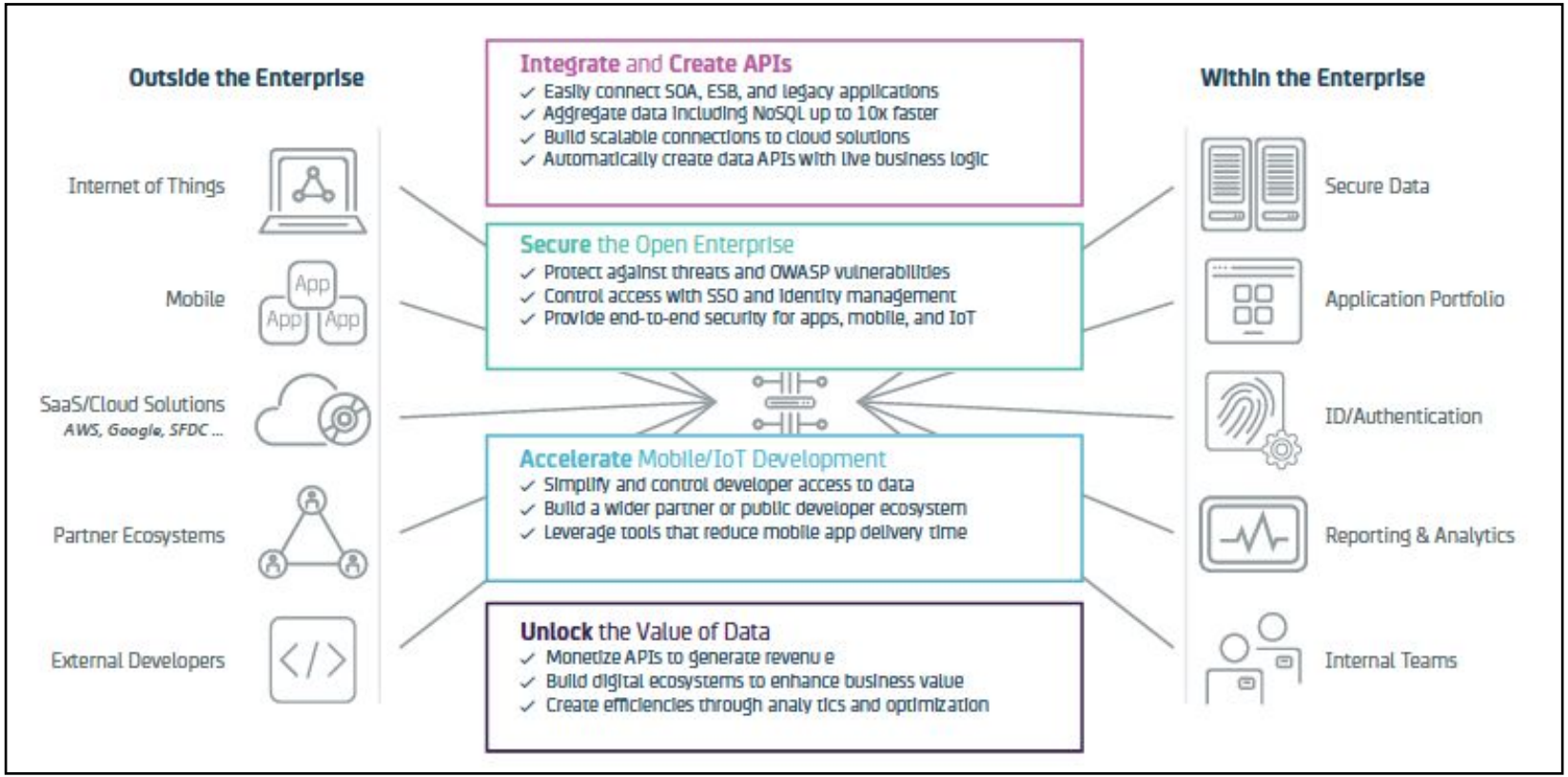


API Strategy (w/ examples)

- GSA API Strategy developed and presented to leadership in March 2016
  - Objectives
  - Specifications
  - Recommendations

- Best place to start - https://open.gsa.gov/api/
  - Standards, Documentation, Feedback
  - City Pair Program and prototype

API Interactions - External and Internal



Follow-up

- Explore the documentation provided in this Tech Talk
  - Slides posted online at tech.gsa.gov/techtalks
  - Reach out to Ryan and Joe with questions
  - Consider creating your own APIs

- Join our quarterly API Workgroup
  - Features APIs currently being developed at GSA
  - Features industry and government guest speakers