

## Why consider API Management?

In many organizations, APIs proliferate (100s of APIs) and are minimally re-used. Because there is often minimal communication, inefficient coordination, and a lack of trust, teams underutilize API assets. Team members often find it difficult to understand who is consuming APIs, who is writing re-usable APIs, and whether the API is scalable and secure. Without an agile process to find, explore, evaluate, and subscribe to APIs, teams commonly re-build rather than re-use. The prevalent SOA anti-patterns of Not Invented Here (NIH), tight coupling, and 'build again' are reinforced when teams do not know about an API's existence or cannot easily map API functionality to the needed business capability. Exasperating the situation, bureaucratic red tape creates delays in being able to access the API. Without reliable infrastructure to track usage, manage access, ensure Quality of Service, or monetize the API asset, providers often restrict API consumers to private, internal team use.

## What is WSO2 API Manager?

API Management brings on-demand self-service development onboarding into the SOA and integration space. Developers can rapidly find relevant APIs, discover APIs functionality, test APIs online, subscribe to APIs, evaluate them, generate access keys, and interact with API publishers. API publishers can easily provision their APIs, share documentation, manage API keys, and gather feedback on APIs features, quality and usage.

**WSO2 API Manager** consists of an API policy enforcement gateway and collaboration space where API publishers meet API consumers. The collaboration space consists of an API Store and API Publisher.

**API Gateway:** to secure, protect, manage, and scale API calls.

**API Publisher:** enables API providers to easily publish their APIs, share documentation, provision API keys, and gather feedback on APIs features, quality and usage.

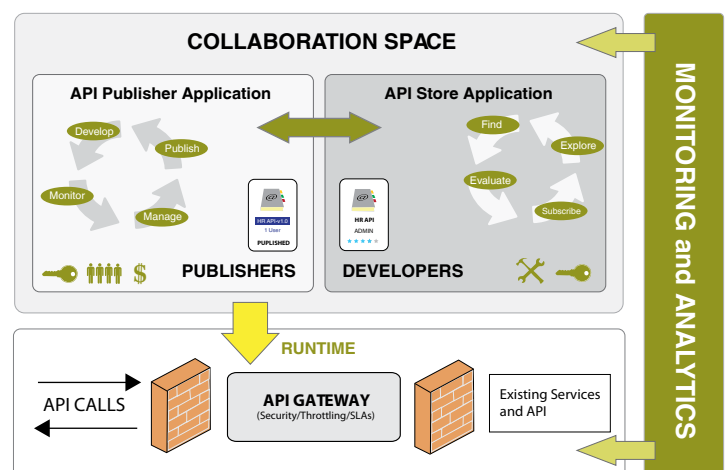
**API Store:** provides a space for consumers to discover APIs functionality, subscribe to APIs, evaluate them and interact with API publishers.

## Why WSO2 API Manager?

**WSO2 API Manager** is the only open source API management product available today. The product builds upon WSO2's deep investment in integration, governance, analytics, and security to solve traditional SOA adoption challenges, deliver managed and secure RESTful APIs, manage identities, and enable new business-to-developer distribution channels.

WSO2 API Manager focuses on API governance, API promotion, and rapid developer on-boarding. Because the product is built on WSO2 Carbon's flexible architecture foundation, teams can configure the WSO2 API Manager to handle complex use cases and integrate with existing enterprise security, management, and service infrastructure.

With the API management space rapidly gaining mindshare, start-up vendors (i.e. ProgrammableWeb, Mashery, 3Scale, Apigee) and traditional enterprise vendors (i.e. IBM CastIron, SOA Software Atmosphere, Layer 7) have created many product offerings. An API management evaluation framework can help you understand if a vendor's product is a good fit with your API management requirements and use cases.



## Comparing Layer 7 and Apigee with WSO2 API Manager

Category and Capability	Layer 7	Apigee	WSO2	Comments on WSO2 Offering
API Gateway				
Throttling and Rate Limiting	Y	Y	Y	Service Level Agreement tiers are enforced
On-premise offering	Y	Y (extra cost)	Y	
Transport mediation	Y	HTTP to JMS only	Y*	HTTP to JMS only
Security Firewalling	Y	Limited	Limited	
Authentication, Authorization, and Audit	Y	Y	Y	
XACML	Y	N	Y	
API Lifecycle Management				
API Publishing	Y	Y	Y	
API Versioning	Y	Y	Y	Several versions can be deployed in parallel
API Governance workflow	N	N	Y	Basic lifecycle management (i.e. created, published, deprecated, retired) included in the initial WSO2 Manager offering. The offering integrates with the WSO2 Governance registry lifecycle, which offers advanced workflow and approval management.
Publish documentation	Y	Y	Y	Associate documentation (i.e. files, inline text, external URLs) with APIs
API Metrics	Y	Y	Y	
Real time dashboard	Y	Y	Y*	Extensible analytics based on WSO2 BAM2
Remote management APIs	Y	N	Y	Web based management consoles
Centrally update policies	Y	N	Y	API Gateways access central shared registry
Automated migration of APIs across environments	Y	N	Y*	With WSO2 AppFactory
API Monetization	Y	Y	N*	The product roadmap indicates monetization will be included in Version 2. For example, track revenue by API and user
Developer Portal				
API Store	N	N	Y	Find and explore published services and documentation. Ask questions to the publisher.
API Reporting	Y	Y	Y	Flexible reporting available by customizing WSO2 BAM2 dashboards
API Usage	Y	Y	Y	Monitor API usage, performance, and SLA compliance
Rate APIs and deliver feedback	N	Y	Y	
Embedded Forums	Y	Y	Limited	Can link to external forums. Embedded forums are on roadmap
API Key management and distribution	Y	Y	Y	WSO2 API Manager key management available per API, per user, or per application.
Content Management System	Y	Y	N	Interfaces with your content management system. The WSO2 API manager publishes API documentation containing inline text and URL pointers to online resources.
Architecture				
Multi-tenant components	N	N	Y	
Open and Composable Architecture	N	N	Y	
100% Open Source	N	N	Y	

Our lean software development process also leads to an important customer benefit; our cost. **WSO2 API Manager** offers significant time saving and affordable acquisition. Purpose-built for rapid configuration and efficient extension, users agree the product is easy to configure and extend. The attributes lead to lower overall costs and higher ROI.