

Business Case: CMOS Account Management API

Demonstrating Value of Documentation + SDK Solution

The Business Scenario

Business Context

Your API/Integration team at Old Mutual has been tasked with creating a **CMOS Account Management API** that interfaces with the TCS BaNCS Core Modern Operating System (CMOS) mainframe. This system handles all money in/out flows for Old Mutual's insurance and wealth management operations, integrating with all major South African banks.

About CMOS at Old Mutual

- **System:** TCS BaNCS Core Modern Operating System (hired from Tata Consultancy Services)
- **Purpose:** Financial engine for all Old Mutual transactions
- **Integration:** Connected to all major SA banks (FNB, Standard Bank, Absa, Nedbank, Capitec)
- **Current State:** 11 existing endpoints exposed by TCS
- **Business Impact:** Handles billions of rands in policyholder premiums, claims, and investment flows

Stakeholder Departments

- **Personal Finance Team:** Manages personal loans, savings accounts, and investment products
- **Private Wealth Team:** Handles high-net-worth client portfolios and trust fund management
- **Sales Team:** Processes new policy sales and premium collections
- **Branches:** Handles in-person transactions and customer service
- **Communications Team:** Manages automated payment notifications and alerts
- **Claims Department:** Processes insurance payouts and settlements

Current Pain Points

1. Each department submits manual requests to access CMOS transaction data
2. No standardized way to initiate debits/credits across departments
3. Account balance queries require IT intervention
4. No real-time visibility into transaction status
5. Manual reconciliation processes take 2-3 days
6. Compliance reporting requires multiple systems and manual consolidation

The 11 CMOS Endpoints (Based on Old Mutual's Operations)

Core Account Operations

1. **GET /accounts/{account-id}/balance** - Retrieve account balance for policy or investment accounts
2. **POST /accounts/{account-id}/debit** - Debit account for premium collections, fees, or transfers
3. **POST /accounts/{account-id}/credit** - Credit account for claims, maturity payouts, or investment returns

Transaction Management

4. **GET /transactions/{transaction-id}/status** - Check status of debits/credits in progress
5. **POST /transactions/bulk** - Process multiple transactions in batch (monthly premium runs)
6. **GET /accounts/{account-id}/transactions** - Retrieve transaction history for account

Bank Integration

7. **POST /bank-transfers/initiate** - Initiate EFT transfers to/from SA banks
8. **GET /bank-transfers/{transfer-id}/status** - Check bank transfer status
9. **POST /bank-transfers/reverse** - Reverse failed or disputed transfers

Compliance & Reporting

10. **GET /accounts/{account-id}/compliance-status** - Check AML/KYC compliance status
 11. **GET /reporting/transaction-summary** - Generate transaction summaries for SARB reporting
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The API Solution We'll Build

Core API: Account Management Service

```
POST /api/v1/accounts/{account-id}/debit
POST /api/v1/accounts/{account-id}/credit
GET /api/v1/accounts/{account-id}/balance
GET /api/v1/transactions/{transaction-id}/status
```

What It Does

- **Standardizes** access to CMOS operations across all departments
- **Simplifies** complex mainframe interactions into modern REST APIs
- **Provides** real-time transaction status and account information
- **Enables** automated reconciliation and compliance reporting
- **Integrates** with SA banking network through existing CMOS connections

Sample Use Cases

Premium Collection (Sales Team)

```
json

POST /api/v1/accounts/POL-789123/debit
{
  "amount": 1500.00,
  "currency": "ZAR",
  "reference": "MONTHLY-PREMIUM-JUL2024",
  "debitOrder": {
    "bankAccount": "62581234567",
    "bank": "FNB",
    "accountHolder": "John Doe"
  }
}
```

Claims Payout (Claims Department)

```
json

POST /api/v1/accounts/POL-789123/credit
{
  "amount": 50000.00,
  "currency": "ZAR",
  "reference": "CLAIM-SETTLEMENT-CS2024789",
  "beneficiary": {
    "bankAccount": "12345678901",
    "bank": "Standard Bank",
    "accountHolder": "Jane Smith"
  }
}
```

Investment Return (Private Wealth)

```
json

POST /api/v1/accounts/INV-456789/credit
{
  "amount": 8750.00,
  "currency": "ZAR",
  "reference": "DIVIDEND-PAYMENT-Q2-2024",
  "investmentDetails": {
    "portfolioId": "PW-HIGH-GROWTH-001",
    "assetClass": "EQUITY-DIVIDENDS"
  }
}
```

Comparison: API-Only vs. Documentation + SDK Solution

Scenario A: API-Only Implementation (Current State)

What You Provide

- REST API endpoints that call CMOS
- Basic OpenAPI specification
- Internal wiki with integration guidelines

What Happens Next

Week 1-2: Discovery Hell

- **Claims Department:** "How do I process a R50,000 payout to Standard Bank?"
- **Private Wealth Team:** "What's the format for investment account transactions?"
- **Sales Team:** "How do I set up recurring debit orders?"
- **Branches:** "Can you walk me through the error handling for failed transactions?"

Week 3-4: Integration Struggles

- Claims team builds custom HTTP client for payouts
- Private Wealth team writes different error handling logic
- Sales team implements their own retry mechanism for failed debit orders
- Branches create custom transaction status polling

Week 5-8: Ongoing Support Nightmare

- **20+ support tickets per week:** "Why did my transaction fail?"
- **Manual troubleshooting:** Each team interprets CMOS error codes differently
- **Inconsistent implementations:** Different retry logic leads to duplicate transactions
- **Compliance issues:** Teams miss required fields for SARB reporting

Real Costs

- **Your team:** 25 hours/week answering CMOS integration questions
- **Consuming teams:** 60 hours per team to integrate (6 teams × 60 = 360 hours)
- **Business impact:** R2.5M in failed transactions due to implementation errors
- **Compliance risk:** Manual processes delay regulatory reporting

Scenario B: Documentation + SDK Solution (Fern/Speakeasy)

What You Provide

- REST API endpoints that call CMOS
- Interactive documentation portal with live testing
- Auto-generated SDKs in Python, Java, JavaScript, C#
- CMOS-specific code samples and error handling guides
- Sandbox environment with test accounts

What Happens Next

Day 1: Self-Service Discovery

- **Claims Department:** Views portal, sees payout examples, tests with sandbox account
- **Private Wealth Team:** Downloads Python SDK, runs investment transaction sample
- **Sales Team:** Uses JavaScript SDK, integrates debit order collection in web app
- **Branches:** Gets Java SDK, tests integration with their customer service system

Week 1: Rapid Integration

- All teams use standardized SDKs with built-in CMOS error handling
- Automatic retry logic for common mainframe timeouts
- Consistent transaction status polling across all implementations
- Built-in compliance field validation

Ongoing: Minimal Support

- Teams reference interactive docs for transaction formats
- SDK handles CMOS authentication and connection pooling
- Standardized error messages reduce support tickets by 95%
- Automated compliance checks prevent regulatory issues

Real Costs

- **Your team:** 2 hours/week answering advanced CMOS questions
 - **Consuming teams:** 8 hours per team to integrate (6 teams × 8 = 48 hours)
 - **Business impact:** Zero failed transactions due to implementation errors
 - **Compliance:** Automated SARB reporting saves 20 hours/month
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Detailed Business Impact Analysis

Time Savings Comparison

Activity	API-Only	Docs + SDK	Time Saved
CMOS Discovery	3 weeks per team	4 hours per team	19 days per team
Integration Development	2 weeks per team	1 day per team	9 days per team
Error Handling Implementation	1 week per team	Built-in	5 days per team
Testing & Debugging	2 weeks per team	4 hours per team	12 days per team
Ongoing Support	5 hours/week	30 min/week	4.5 hours/week

Total Time Saved: 45 days per consuming team

Financial Impact Analysis

Development Costs

- **API-Only:** 6 teams × 60 hours × R1,200/hour = R432,000
- **Docs + SDK:** 6 teams × 8 hours × R1,200/hour = R57,600
- **Savings:** R374,400 per integration cycle

Operational Costs (Annual)

- **API-Only Support:** 25 hours/week × 52 weeks × R1,200/hour = R1,560,000
- **Docs + SDK Support:** 2 hours/week × 52 weeks × R1,200/hour = R124,800
- **Savings:** R1,435,200 per year

Business Risk Mitigation

- **Failed Transactions:** R2.5M annual loss reduced to R0
- **Compliance Penalties:** R500K potential SARB fines avoided
- **Operational Efficiency:** R800K saved in manual reconciliation

Revenue Impact

- **Faster Claims Processing:** 50% faster payouts = improved customer satisfaction
- **Automated Premium Collection:** 99.5% success rate vs. 85% manual process
- **Real-time Account Management:** Enables new digital products

Business Value Demonstration by Department

Claims Department

Before: "We process R50M in claims monthly but spend 40% of time on CMOS integration issues" **After:** "Claims processing is now automated - we can focus on customer service and fraud detection"

Business Impact:

- Payout processing time: 3 days → 30 minutes
- Customer satisfaction: 40% improvement in payout speed
- Operational efficiency: 60% reduction in manual work
- **ROI:** R2.5M saved in operational costs

Private Wealth Team

Before: "Managing R20B in assets but can't provide real-time account updates to clients" **After:** "Our wealth management platform shows live account balances and transaction history"

Business Impact:

- Client reporting: Weekly → Real-time
- Assets under management: R20B → R25B (better service = more clients)
- Operational efficiency: Automated rebalancing saves R1M annually
- **ROI:** R5B increase in AUM

Sales Team

Before: "Losing 15% of policy sales due to failed premium collection setup" **After:** "99.5% success rate in premium collection setup during policy sales"

Business Impact:

- Premium collection success: 85% → 99.5%
- Annual premium loss: R50M → R2.5M
- Customer onboarding: 1 week → same day
- **ROI:** R47.5M additional premium revenue

Branches

Before: "Customers wait 2-3 days for transaction confirmations and account updates" **After:** "Instant transaction processing and real-time account information"

Business Impact:

- Customer satisfaction: 3.2/5 → 4.6/5
- Transaction processing: 3 days → instant
- Staff productivity: 50% reduction in follow-up queries
- **ROI:** R5M saved in customer service costs

Technical Implementation Roadmap

Phase 1: MVP with Speakeasy (Proof of Concept)

Timeline: 3 weeks **Deliverables:**

- Core Account Management API (debit, credit, balance, status)
- Integration with 3 key CMOS endpoints
- OpenAPI specification with CMOS-specific extensions
- Python SDK with Old Mutual authentication
- Pilot with Claims Department

Success Metrics:

- Claims processing time: <1 hour
- SDK integration: <4 hours
- Support tickets: 90% reduction
- Transaction success rate: >99%

Phase 2: Enterprise Implementation with Fern

Timeline: 8 weeks **Deliverables:**

- Interactive documentation portal with CMOS testing sandbox
- Multi-language SDKs (Python, Java, JavaScript, C#)
- Integration with Old Mutual SSO and Active Directory
- Advanced error handling for all CMOS failure scenarios
- Rollout to all 6 consuming teams

Success Metrics:

- All teams integrated within 1 week
- Support burden reduced by 95%
- Zero failed transactions due to implementation errors
- Compliance reporting automated

Phase 3: Advanced CMOS Features

Timeline: 6 weeks **Deliverables:**

- Real-time transaction webhooks
- Bulk transaction processing for premium runs
- Advanced reporting and analytics dashboard
- Integration with SA banking network status APIs

- External partner portal for reinsurance companies
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ROI Calculation

Investment

- **Speakeasy (Proof of Concept):** R0/month (free tier)
- **Fern Enterprise:** R10,000/month (estimated)
- **Development time:** 120 hours @ R1,200/hour = R144,000
- **CMOS integration costs:** R50,000
- **Total first-year investment:** R314,000

Returns

- **Development cost savings:** R374,400 (one-time)
- **Support cost savings:** R1,435,200 (annual)
- **Failed transaction recovery:** R2,500,000 (annual)
- **Compliance penalty avoidance:** R500,000 (annual)
- **Additional premium revenue:** R47,500,000 (annual)
- **Total first-year return:** R52,309,600

ROI: 16,551% in first year

Risk Mitigation

Technical Risks

- **CMOS downtime:** SDK implements circuit breakers and graceful degradation
- **Bank integration failures:** Automatic retry with exponential backoff
- **Data consistency:** Built-in transaction reconciliation and audit trails
- **Security:** End-to-end encryption and Old Mutual authentication integration

Business Risks

- **Regulatory compliance:** Automated SARB reporting and audit trails
- **Financial accuracy:** Built-in validation and double-entry accounting
- **Operational continuity:** Fallback mechanisms for critical operations
- **Change management:** Comprehensive training and support during rollout

Mainframe-Specific Risks

- **CMOS version updates:** SDK abstracts TCS BaNCS complexity

- **Performance degradation:** Connection pooling and transaction optimization
 - **Legacy system integration:** Gradual migration path with backward compatibility
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Success Story for Executive Presentation

The Problem

"Our teams were spending 60% of their time fighting with CMOS integration instead of serving customers. A simple R50,000 claim payout required 3 days and 5 different systems."

The Solution

"We created a modern API layer that makes CMOS as easy to use as online banking. Teams can now process transactions in minutes instead of days."

The Results

- **R47.5M additional premium revenue** from improved collection rates
- **R2.5M saved** from eliminating failed transactions
- **R1.4M annual savings** in support costs
- **25% increase in customer satisfaction** due to faster processing

The Vision

"This transforms Old Mutual from a company that processes insurance transactions to a financial technology platform that can rapidly launch new products and services."

Next Steps

1. **Build Speakeasy POC** with core CMOS endpoints
2. **Pilot with Claims Department** to demonstrate R2.5M savings
3. **Measure and document** real business impact
4. **Present to executive team** with concrete ROI numbers
5. **Secure budget** for Fern enterprise implementation
6. **Scale to all departments** and external partners

Implementation Priority

1. **Claims Department** (highest transaction volume, biggest impact)
2. **Sales Team** (revenue-critical premium collection)
3. **Private Wealth** (high-value clients, competitive differentiation)
4. **Branches** (customer-facing, satisfaction impact)

5. **Personal Finance** (scalability and automation)

6. **Communications** (automated notifications and alerts)

This business case demonstrates how modernizing CMOS access can transform Old Mutual's operational efficiency and competitive position while delivering measurable ROI of over 16,000% in the first year.