

TAPICC: Translation API (Use) Cases and Classes Initiative

Call to Action

What is TAPICC?

The use of APIs is prevalent in the translation and localization sector. A lack of standards in this area, combined with the abundance of proprietary APIs, poses a challenge to interoperability and requires big investments in R&D and code maintenance. The Translation API Cases and Classes (TAPICC) initiative aims to create a pre-standardization model to address these challenges and lead to the support of just one API instead of hundreds. It has an open-source legal framework and is already supported by major industry companies and associations.

What problem are we trying to solve?

The aim of the TAPICC initiative is to help companies reduce investments in R&D and decrease redundant development efforts (i.e. reinventing the wheel) by relying on a standard API data model. On an industry scale, a common API will improve interoperability among tools and platforms and increase freedom of choice for tools and vendors. It will also support supply chain automation efforts.

What are some of the specific goals and objectives of TAPICC?

- Create an open-source, standardized business data model that is harmonized with existing models such as COTI, TIPP, STS, etc. (to include canonical names and data types)
- Address both package level metadata and “payload” metadata
- Create concrete serializations (e.g. XML, JSON, YAML) and classes
- Create a body of knowledge for companies wanting to connect their tools and content repositories to the localization process where they can research and get specifications and sample code
- Create reusable sample code for the most popular and important integrations that can be used as building blocks

What are some of the benefits of having a common API?

- No need to reinvent the wheel every time there is a new integration
- Reduce development overhead on interfaces and APIs
- Enhance compatibility with all tools and clients supporting the standard
- Leverage the combined and harmonized knowledge of an entire industry when building your own process or tool integration
- Dramatically reduce data and file handling overhead
- Speed up project management; enhance supply chain automation
- Enable more choice among suppliers; make vendor selections based on criteria other than IT compatibility
- Immediate savings on R&D costs

What is the concrete plan for the next 6 months?

Work has been structured into four work packages:

1. Business metadata
2. Payload specification
3. XLIFF extraction
4. API specification

What can I do to support TAPICC?

- Join the TAPICC group on GALA Connect where you can stay abreast of the latest developments, the initiative's progress, get calls to action, and engage in discussions
- Designate a representative from your company to be a liaison to the TAPICC initiative or to work on one of the "work packages"
- Contribute code or code work to the initiative in an open source fashion
- "Influence" the initiative by sharing your company's specific needs; make sure they are addressed