

TAPICC: Translation API (Use) Cases and Classes Initiative

Call to Action

What is TAPICC?

APIs are used to connect applications with cloud-based systems. The use of APIs is prevalent in the translation and localization sector where a multitude of applications and systems must be connected to complete projects. 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 for tech-savvy firms. 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?

APIs are required to connect applications to specific systems in the cloud – today’s translation and localization workflows simply demand it. Virtually all technology vendors, LSPs, and clients deploy cloud-based systems and services, and many spend copious resources on developing and maintaining numerous APIs. The TAPICC initiative aims to standardize certain business data common to translation industry APIs in order to reduce investments in R&D and decrease redundant development efforts (i.e. reinventing the wheel). On an industry scale, a common API will improve interoperability among tools and platforms to the benefit of all stakeholders.

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

- Create an open-source, standardized business data model
- Create a body of knowledge for companies developing APIs where they can research, get specifications and sample code, and learn without having to reinvent the wheel
- Create reusable sample classes (sample code) for the most popular and important integrations
- Get buy-in from stakeholders to reduce the “API jungle” for the benefit of the whole industry

Why should my LSP/vendor company get involved?

- Immediate compatibility with all tools and end clients who support the standard
- No need to re-invent the wheel every time a new customer wants to integrate
- Dramatically reduce data and file handling overhead
- Increase freedom of choice for tools and vendors because of interoperability
- Speed up project management by receiving project data automatically

Why should my translation technology company get involved?

- Reduce development overhead on interfaces and APIs by implementing a standard
- Immediately support all other tools adhering to the standard

- Focus on core technologies rather than the ever-increasing jungle of third party tools
- Support your client-base as they work toward improvements and efficiencies
- Build your reputation as a standards-friendly company that is easy to work with

Why should my enterprise/SMB company get involved?

- Streamline internal processes and interfaces by having a clear go-to knowledge base
- Take advantage of the classes and metadata models already developed by the initiative
- Stop content silos in your organization from constantly re-inventing the wheel
- Enable all content repositories in your organization to base the localization process on the same detailed IT requirements
- Immediate compatibility and integration with the supply chain, particularly for new content
- Ability to clearly communicate to IT and vendors what the localization process requires re: APIs
- Encourage more choice among suppliers; make vendor selections based on criteria other than IT compatibility
- Reliability in data integrity and information transfer
- Immediate savings on R&D costs and/or the ability to shift R&D investments to other technology advances

What can I do to support TAPICCC?

- Join the TAPICCC 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 TAPICCC 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