API Gateway

What is an API?

To understand API Gateways, we must first understand what an API is. API stands for Application Programming Interface – a type of software that systems, applications and developers can use to perform a specific function (e.g. change the background color of a web page, securely retrieve data from a database). Once developed, an API can be reused by others for their own purposes, thus minimizing building redundant solutions, contributing to reducing costs and promoting standardization. In short, APIs can deliver tremendous business value when properly used and managed.

As APIs proliferate it becomes increasingly important that organizations invest in tools that ensure that individual APIs are accessible and available. Managing an increasingly complex "API eco-system" can spiral out of control. API Gateways can mitigate many of these risks.

What is an API Gateway?

An API gateway is a clearing house for API requests. The gateway accepts the consumer request, identifies the API provider and delivers the results of the API request back to the consumer. The gateway may also perform additional value-added functions such as quality, security and information checks and manipulations as it passes information back-and-forth between the API consumer and the API provider.

EPA & API Gateways

EPA is exploring multiple vendor offerings to establish a formal API Gateway for EPA, including Microsoft's API Management Suite and Amazon Web Service's (AWS) API Gateway and other cloud-native solutions which have API management capabilities.

Additional Information

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