

APIs are driving new innovation and collaboration in air cargo

Christopher Shawdon, Head of Business Development

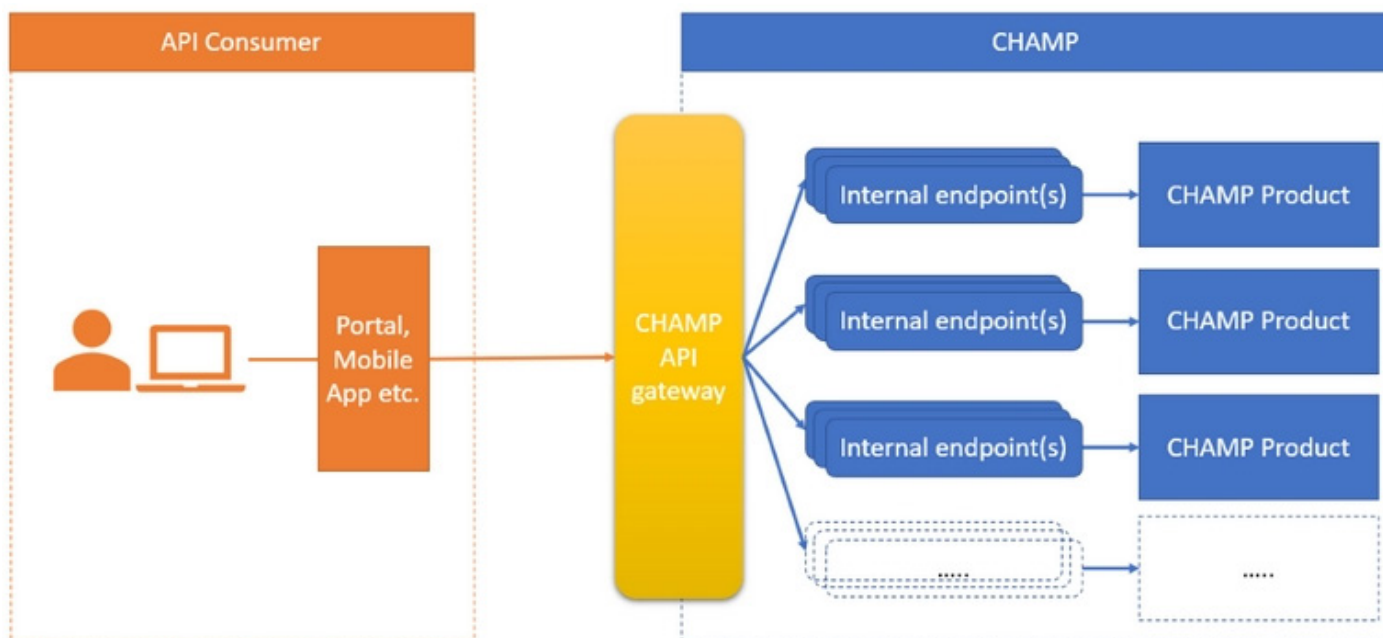
Leading CHAMP customers are using APIs to transform their businesses.

APIs, or Application Programming Interfaces, allow the capabilities of one computer system to be used by another. When you use a ride hailing app, for instance, it could well be using an API from a map service provider to display the maps. The ride hailing app provider doesn't need to know the details of mapping or retain maps, so they can innovate faster around their core business.

CHAMP has long used APIs for internal developments. Such technologies helped create our new Cargospot Mobile handling app which was built by two teams – a core Cargospot team who exposed the APIs, and a Mobile app team who used them. The Cargospot APIs weren't specific to the Mobile app so can easily be used for other developments. And the Mobile app team could focus on innovation around the user experience without needing to understand the technical details of Cargospot.

Many shippers already use CHAMP APIs to keep updated on the status of their shipments across almost 100 carriers. Those APIs and new ones are being made available through CHAMP's powerful new API gateway. The Weight Scale API allows ground handlers to record ULD weights from a weight scale. The Availability and Price API allows a service to request a list of eligible flights for a route and key parameters and see the availability options and prices. The Track and Trace API allows participants to request status information based on air waybill numbers. A Booking API coming at the end of this year will open new integration opportunities for forwarders and carriers to have bookings created through various sources such as forwarder systems, multi-carrier booking portals and similar services.

While a few leading airlines and integrators have started to offer APIs, CHAMP's will work across many organizations, making its gateway a key integration hub for air cargo.



One of the components of CHAMP's new API gateway service is the developer portal which is designed for self-service. It includes features that allow users to view the list of available APIs and register to try them out. If the user then wants live access, a request process obtains the consent of the data owner and a commercial agreement. You can see a work-in-progress version of the developer [portal here](#).

In the team effort that we call air cargo, the winners are those who best integrate with partners, suppliers and clients to deliver differentiated services. APIs open up new levels of collaboration to do so, especially when they work across multiple organizations.

