IBM API Connect for a premium African financial services group

A pan-African investment, savings, insurance, and banking group.

A pan-African insurance company had a need for a customizable and automated developer portal. ITC Infotech was asked to help with a digital transformation where APIs become critical to unlock the value of business data and assets.

- Efficient API management
- Time to market

ITC Infotech is a leading global technology services and solutions provider, led by Business and Technology Consulting. ITC Infotech provides business-friendly solutions to help clients succeed and be future-ready, by seamlessly bringing together digital expertise, strong industry specific alliances and deep domain expertise. The company provides technology solutions and services to enterprises across industries through a combination of traditional and newer business models, as a long-term sustainable partner.

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CHALLENGE

There is growing demand for API development to enable the introduction of new complex business solutions to market quickly. A solution to address the risks and challenges associated with providing APIs was needed which could:

- Govern and manage API lifecycle and consumption
- Create, release and update APIs rapidly while giving APIs secure access to data
- Ensure that the APIs scale
- Analyze the API usage and performance
- Publish APIs and related documentation for the application developers

SOLUTION

- The IBM API Connect and DataPower API Gateways were used to implement the API management solution.
- This was done via the API cloud that is made up of three components. The Cloud Management Console (CMC) is used to administer the cloud. An API Cloud administrator would manage the API Cloud.
- API Developers uses the API Manager is used to create, manage, and publish APIs.
- Application Developers discover and register application that will use the APIs via the developer portal.
- The solution also has a runtime enforcement component called the API Gateway. It will enforce API entitlements at runtime, collect analytical information about the API activity and performs minor API mappings.
- The API Gateway will be implemented on DataPower (external facing)
- The first usage pattern is for internal developers for APIs published on the trusted network. The second pattern is used by Internet and 3rd party application developers to consume APIs published on the Internet or 3rd Party network.

RESULTS

- API access control
- Authentication and authorization systems to ensure that users of the API have permission
- Analysis of traffic patterns to track how API is being used
- API user onboarding
- Systems to allow users to sign up, receive access credentials and be assigned usage rights
- There are mechanisms to roll out new versions of the API and the ability to migrate applications to new versions
- API monitoring and logging
- Market fast and Monetization for the business to get new features to market fast