API Usage

IFS Cloud

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Valid for: IFS Cloud 21R1 (and newer)
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Contents

Introduction

The functionality and data within IFS Cloud is available for IFS customers to use through various user interfaces as well as through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). The latter are, for example, used for extending on the outside, integration, add-on development, and reporting/analytics.

This document outlines IFS policy for customer's use of these APIs. The purpose is to outline general principles and facilitate understanding.

Please note that this policy cannot exclusively be relied on to determine what use of APIs is permitted, as terms set out in license, maintenance and support agreements can override what is expressed in this policy.

General

Functionality and data within IFS Cloud is available for IFS customers to use through Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). There are multiple types of APIs available, each of which can be accessed in different ways for the purpose of integration, extending on the outside, reporting/analytics and other use cases.

There are different API classes which indicate the level of documentation, guidance and advice we intend to provide for an API, both at present and as we evolve our software in future updates and releases. We don't change APIs unnecessarily and for premium APIs (see API classes below) we make an extra effort to maintain compatibility and provide guidance in the event we do need to make changes.

Allowed Usage

IFS customers are allowed to use the API types and classes mentioned below provided all usage is in compliance with licensing requirements.

Unless otherwise explicitly agreed IFS takes no responsibility for non-IFS software or other artifacts developed using the APIs.

It is the responsibility of the customer to make sure that APIs are used appropriately, and that the user of those APIs has enough knowledge not to cause problems such as license violations, process blockages or performance issues, that may result from inappropriate use of the APIs.

Support for how to use APIs is not covered by most IFS support agreements. For example, a customer will not be able to receive help from the IFS support centre if they have questions about how to use a particular API function. Customers that wish to get help to understand correct usage of APIs may purchase such services separately.

API Types and Access

Functionality and data is made available through different types of APIs (for different purposes) which may be accessed in different ways. The different types of APIs should only be accessed in the ways described below.

API type	Access via	Typical usage(s)
oData APIs (projections) oData v4 endpoint exposing entity sets and actions	Any HTTPs client IFS Connect	Extending on the outside (add-on development, custom UI development, automating with RPA, …) System integration Automation (using Workflow Designer) within IFS Cloud
oData APIs (entities)* oData v4 endpoint exposing a single entity set with CRUD actions	Trusted HTTPs client that is part of a trusted system**. Not for direct access by end users nor from end user devices	IFS Cloud configuration tools (e.g. Workflow Designer) Extending on the outside System integration Master data management
Information Sources (BI access views) **Database views**	Indirectly via APIs Database logon	Reporting, transfer data to data warehouse
Events Outbound messages	IFS Connect	Send notifications System integration Initiate automation with IFS Cloud

*) Since the use of data entities is more restricted (e.g. trusted systems only) and comes with a lower API class than projections, the recommendation is to always use projections as a first preference, and data entities only when there is no projection that supports the specific scenario.

**) A software system that has a governed, validated and secure integration to IFS Cloud.

API Classes and Expectations

The API class is used to indicate expectations regarding the level of responsibility IFS intends to take for an API over time.

The following API classes are defined:

API class	Description/expectation
Premium	Visible in API explorer. Technical specifications (OpenAPI v3, v2) and technical documentation provided We intend to provide comprehensive documentation on the appropriate use of the API. We strive to maintain compatibility across releases and to provide early warning as well as guidance to customers should changes, such as moving to a new version of an API, be needed. We consider keeping new and old versions of an API in parallel for at least one release in the event breaking changes are needed.
Standard	Visible in API explorer. Technical specifications (OpenAPI v3, v2) and technical documentation provided. We intend to provide a list of breaking API changes in conjunction with service and release updates.
StandardEntity	Visible in API explorer but requires activation by system administrator before they can be used. Technical specifications (OpenAPI v3, v2) and technical documentation provided. Only allowed usage is for configuration tools within IFS Cloud and for system-2-system integration with other trusted system(s). We intend to provide a list of breaking API changes in conjunction with service and release updates. Defects reported will be assigned priority 3 and addressed in a future release update. Customer is responsible for consequences of inappropriate use of APIs and shall assure that individuals using StandardEntity class APIs have sufficient understanding of IFS Cloud to use them appropriately.

For all API classes our policy is to not make any breaking changes to APIs in service updates. Any exceptions (e.g. if a breaking change is critical to fix a security vulnerability) are documented with the release information for the service update. Information about any breaking API changes in a release is included with the release documentation at the point of Early Access (EA).

The expectations set forth for the respective API classes is applicable to APIs in the core layer of the Layered Application Architecture (LAA) only—APIs in other layers, as well as core layer APIs that have been customized or configured, are the full responsibility of the customer.

Please note that an API, regardless of class, can also be marked as **Deprecated**. A deprecated API is planned to be removed in a future release. You are advised to change to use a different API.