

blackbaud DEVELOPERS' CONFERENCE

June 15-17, 2021

Top 3 Tips to Reducing Your Integrations Costs

MEDLEY TRACK SESSION

BRUCE QI

Session Host: Dave Evatt



Safe Harbor Statement

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Agenda

- 1. Introductions
- 2. Launchpad What We Do
- 3. Cost of Point-to-Point Integrations
- 4. Case Study: St John School
- Government Reporting Automation
- 5. Case Study: Salesforce
- Enterprise Integration Architecture
- **6. Pro Tip 1:** Widen Your Peripheral Vision
- 7. Pro Tip 2: Find Reusability
- **8. Pro Tip 3:** Out-of-the-Box Integrations Not Always Less Expensive
- 9. Paasport[™] Integration Platform
- 10. Q&A







Every organization experiences a similar challenge.

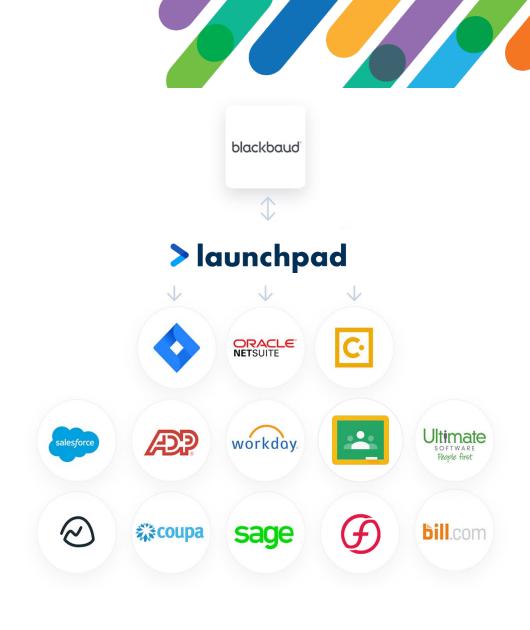
Software applications they have **invested** in need to work **automatically** in sync to realize the full value of their investment.

Integration work performed by inhouse developers often comes at the expense of **inconsistent** industry standard approach, and creates dependency on the individual IT resource's **availability to support**.

Automated processes across their systems are needed to reduce human error and potential impact to **critical operational efficiency**.

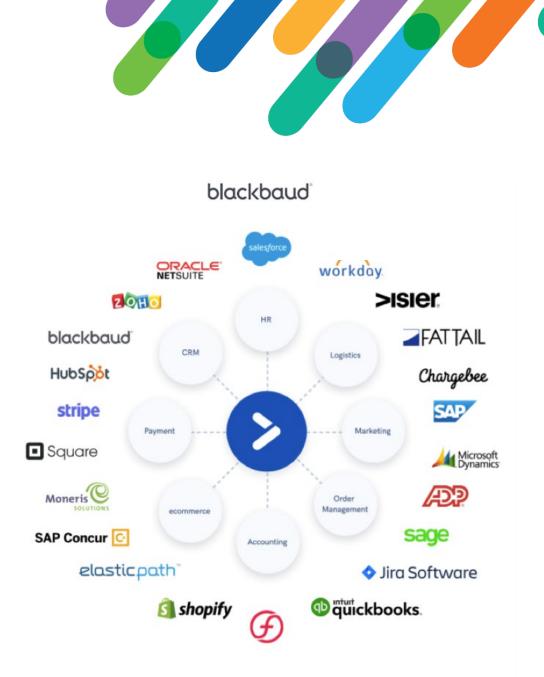
Blackbaud's One-Stop Integration Center

Low-cost implementation upfront Cloud-hosted Integration platform Full support & managed services Powerful integration engine that can scale to enterprise level complexity



Focus on your core. Operate your organizations. Automate your processes.

Leverage industry leading integration **experts** as a collaborative extension to their existing team.



Portfolio

CLIENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

















































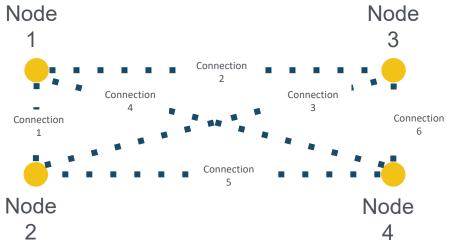




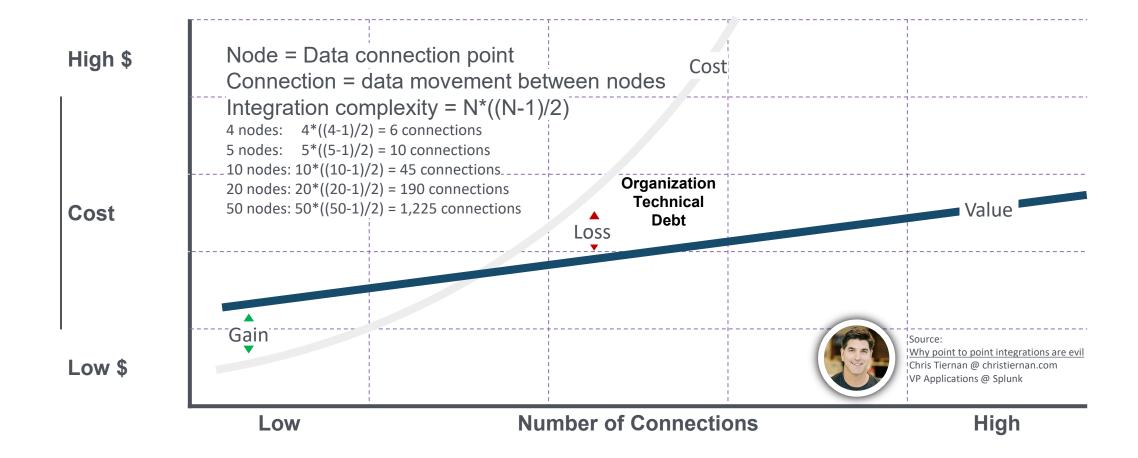


Cost of integrations: P2P network











The Challenge

St Johns School, as other schools in the Province, has a requirement to generate TRAX report from Blackbaud or other systems of records, and submit to the BC Ministry monthly.

- Critical directly related to government funding
- A temp workaround was created by inhouse resource
- Risks inconsistent reliability of the temp solution, the support was at the mercy of inhouse resource availability

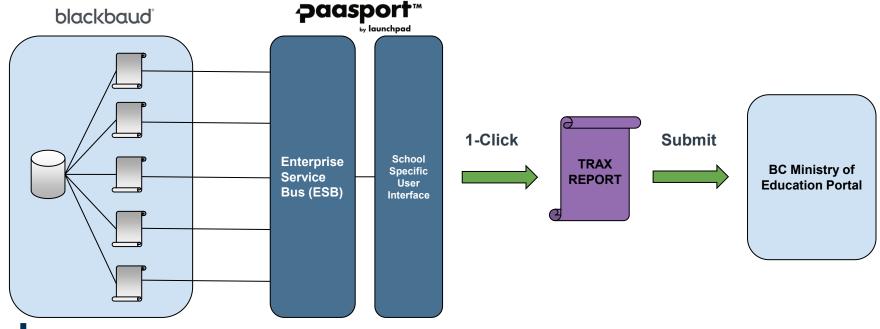
The Solution

- Automated easy 1-Click process to aggregate the data and generate the TRAX report for filing
- Reliable cloud hosted, industry standard best practice integration / automated approach
- Predictable 24/7 professional support, ongoing maintenance and upgrade of the solution
- Future proofing as the Ministry change standards, or school operational needs change, the solution can easily and quickly be updated to reflect the changes





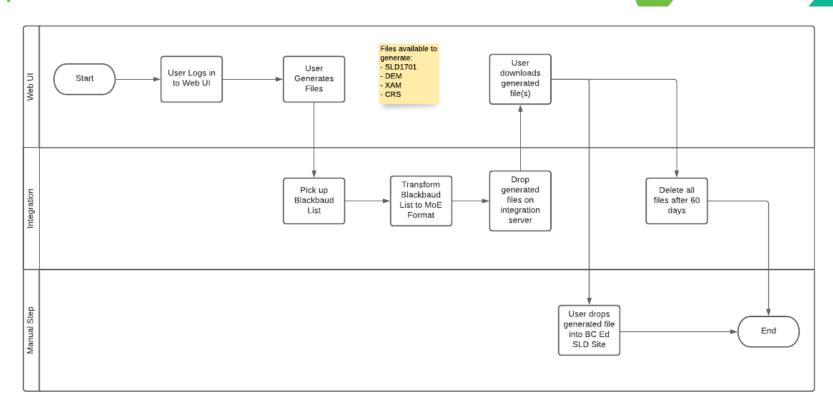
The Solution



Enterprise Service Bus Architecture



Enterprise Service Bus Architecture



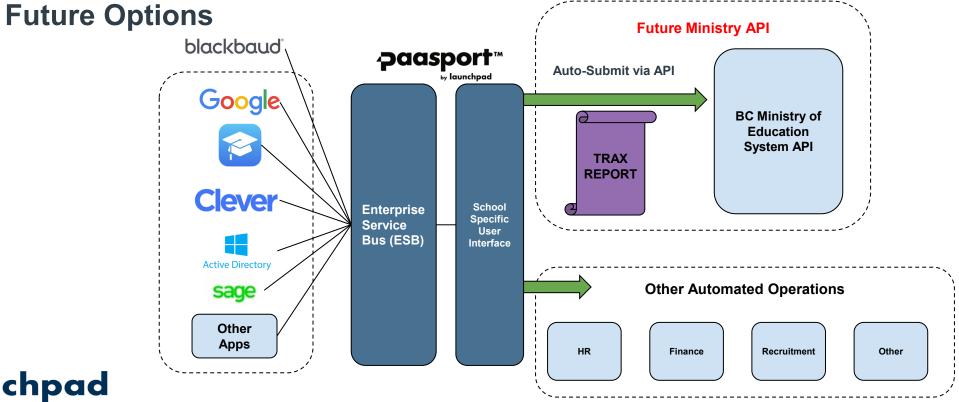
BLACKBAUD SOURCE DATA

- SLD1701 Student Data Collection form for Independent School and BC Global Education Program - Offshore Schools
- 2. DEM Part of TRAX System Demographic Data.
- 3. XAM Part of TRAX System Transaction dealing with a course that has an associated provincial exam taken by a student for which this exam is either required to be written or is optional
- 4. CRS Any transaction dealing with a course taken by a student for which no provincial exam ecist, or the exam is not required because it is an equivalent course completed outside of the BC school system.

BLACKBAUD APIs:

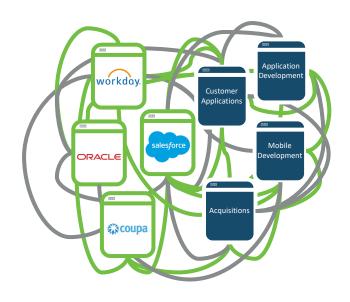
- 1. SKY API OAUTH 2.0 PROTOCOL (https://developer.blackbaud.com/skyapi/docs/authorization)
- BLACKBAUD SCHOOL APIS
 (https://developer.sky.blackbaud.com/docs/services/school/operations/V1LegacyListsByList_idG_et)

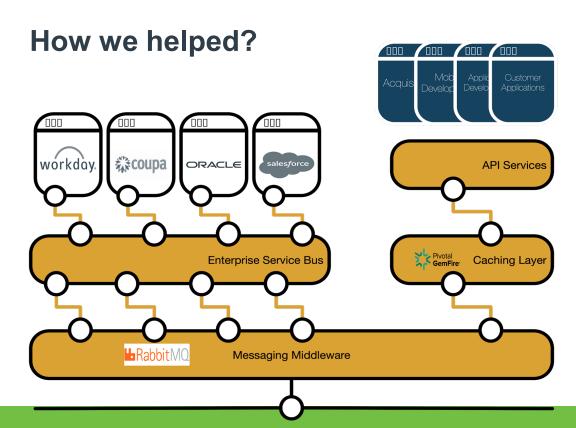






Where they were headed





Pro Tip 1: Widen your peripheral vision.

Often times, we see:

Organizations say we would like to integrate X and Y.

Like this:

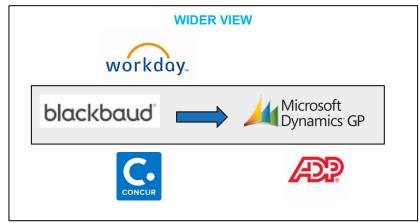




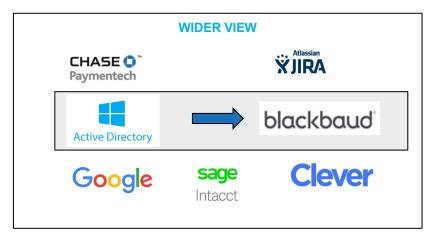


- That narrow view is understandable since the organization's immediate need is to solve a very specific pain point today.
- But if you take a moment to step back and widen your view, you'll see that app X and app Y aren't the only ones your organization is using.

Like this:



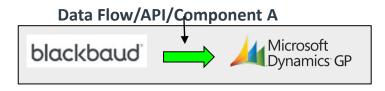
Or like this:

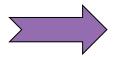


Pro Tip 2: Find Reusability.

Once your view is widened:

When building every connector, API, component, create a process to govern the reusability of these components that is relevant to that particular set of data flow or workflow. Or at the least create standardization in data.

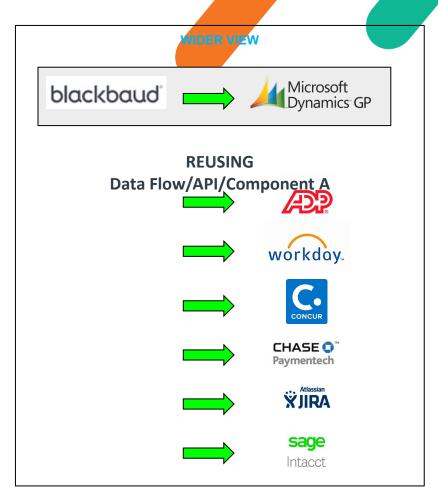




Achieved Through:

- Enterprise / full organization focused architecture
- Master Data Management (MDM)
- Internal API Library / Marketplace
- Data Quality Assurance

Gain Scalability Without Overpaying



Pro Tip 3: Out-of-the-Box integrations are **NOT** always less expensive.

How often are your applications implemented OOTB?

OOTB INTEGRATION CONNECTORS

- Preconfigured connections are often marketed as being affordable "out-ofthe-box" data integration solutions.
- The idea is that you're able to save money by purchasing a generic connection that requires little to no modification.

THE REALITY, OFTEN TIMES ARE:

- Even small to mid-sized organizations typically have enough complexity in their data systems and application workflows to customize their applications during implementation or usage over time.
- They often find out-of-the-box connectors aren't a valid integration solution as their systems are not that "OOTB".

THE RESULT, OFTEN:

 Depending on the nature and technology of the OOTB connector, often it either does not allow any customization, or customizations end up costing 3-4X the original cost.

300-400% POTENTIAL OVERRUN



IF YOU ARE GETTING AN OOTB INTEGRATION CONNECTOR

- Ensure your workflow and data flow is extremely targeted and scoped out well.
- Leverage Tips #1 and #2, identify a wider view of your organization's needs, and find reusability.
- Evaluate the OOTB connector on:
 - Exactly which data fields and workflows are supported in the package
 - What is the underlying architecture (ETL, ESB, EDI, etc?)
 - O Does it allow any customization?
 - If customizations are allowed, is it via user interface or at code level?
 - Who will do the customization? Vendor service team or your IT?



Thank you!