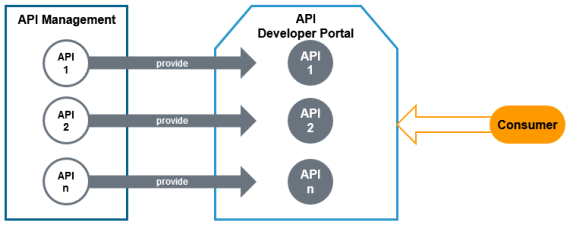
Understanding the Approval Process

With API Management, you can specify whether users can call a private API directly or whether they need to obtain permission. While you define and manage the settings of your APIs in API Management, your customers have access to your APIs via the Developer Portal.



Portal visitors who wish to use a private API must first register for it. If approval is required for the plan, the user wants to subscribe to, he has to wait for an API Management user with approval authorization to answer his request. In this tutorial, we explain the approval process and its options.

> As users with different authorizations are required for the approval process, this is not a "do it yourself" tutorial.

During this tutorial you will learn

- how to request approval for private APIs via the API Developer Portal
- how the approval process works within API Management
- how to consume private APIs via the API Developer Portal

> All content in a lighter font color refers to the story of the tutorial.

Start the Tutorial

On this Page:

- A Short Introduction to API Management Concepts

Related Pages:

- Tutorial 1: Managing a Public API - Step by Step
- Tutorial 2: Managing a Private API - Step by Step

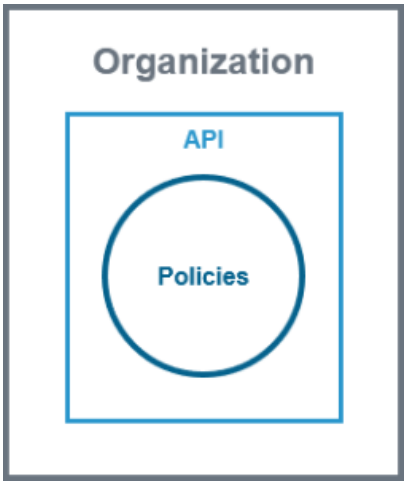
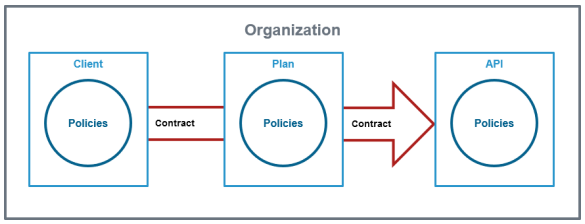
Related Documentation:

- APIs
- Contracts
  - Handling Approval Requests
- Developer Portal

A Short Introduction to API Management Concepts

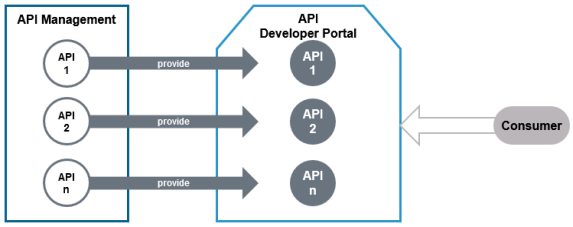
The main elements of API Management are grouped within an **Organization**, which is the "container" for all other elements such as **Clients**, **Plans** and **APIs**. APIs represent real backend APIs (Application Programming Interfaces). API Management provides a way to turn unmanaged (raw) back-end APIs into **managed** APIs by attaching policies to them.

Every managed API can be published as **public** API or p**rivate** API:

Public APIs...	Private APIs...
... reside in an organization. ... can contain policy definitions. ... are accessible to everyone.	... reside in an organization. ... can contain policy definitions. ... can only consumed by a client via a contract and a plan. Plans and clients can also contain policies.
	

- Policies are rules or units of work applied when the API is accessed.

APIs are created within **API Management**. They are provided via the **API Developer Portal** from where consumers of the API have access to them.



For more information on the concepts of API Management, refer to The Concepts of API Management.