Integration services

Getting a consistent view across each area of your business is essential. With too much information stored in individual systems, you effectively lock data into silos – meaning that staff are forced to move between multiple applications to get the information they want. With our integration tools, you can put an end to duplication and create one end-to-end solution that will strengthen your business and make it more effective.

Mobile devices	Production Software	Online Ordering Software	Ordering Applications	Payroll & HR
Shop floor data capture	Capacity planning	XML	Automated systems	Clocking in
Serial numbering	Finite scheduling	e-business	Point of Sale	Time & attendance
Bar code scanning	Shop floor automation	B2B / B2C	Trade counter	Bureau services
Hand-held devices		EDI	Bespoke software	

Dimensions Database API : Modules link together seamlessly, talking to each other in real-time for a complete – and live – view of all your operations and procedures. Straightforward, cost-effective integration between your core financials and existing third party packages.

Example integration with Access

- **Connect the accounts to third party sources (e.g. websites)**
- **Allow the upload/download of third party sources into the accounts (e.g. journals, project budgets)**
- **Allow data in one source to impact another (e.g. auto-creating a sales ledger account within the accounts when entered into CRM)**

Dimensions Database API

This integration tool provides straightforward integration between third party applications directly to the accounts database. Using this method, you don't need a detailed understanding of the underlying code and table structure to work with the API.

Transactions and records can be presented using the simplest file format (including Excel). Stored procedures and holding tables validate the data according to standard business rules, updating every relevant part of the system with minimum effort and maximum integrity.
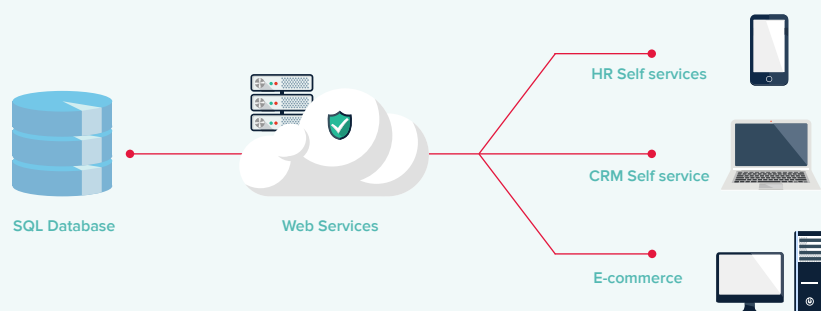
Why choose the Dimensions Database API?

This integration tool is ideal if you need cost-effective integration between your core financials and onpremise, third-party packages such as:

- **Mobile devices (shop floor data capture, serial numbering, bar code scanning, hand-helds)**
- **Production software (capacity planning, finite scheduling, shop floor automation)**
- **Ordering applications (automated systems, bespoke software, trade counter, Point of Sale)**
- **Payroll & HR (clocking-in, time & attendance, bureau services).**

Why choose the Dimensions Database API?

- **Flexible: integrates with any thirdparty software**
- **Simple: accepts all file formats, including flat files**
- **Safe: inbuilt checks validate every data item**
- **Easy to work with: no prior knowledge of stored procedures needed.**

HR Self services

CRM Self service

E-commerce

SQL Database

Web Services

Web services are a great way to connect your business with your customers, suppliers and other partners. Using the Dimensions Web Services API, you can link your accounts system with other cloud offerings, and take advantage of the cost and flexibility benefits this brings.

Dimensions Web Services API

The Dimensions Web Services API provides our developers with additional resources to further extend their ability to integrate different software packages. It allows systems to talk to each other because web services are programming-language and platform-independent so services and information can be automatically shared. This ease of integration is brought about because neither application needs to know how the other is implemented or any formatting of data. Web services help to create more efficient business processes because there should be no duplication of effort.

Why choose the Dimensions Web Services API?

When building a case for web services within your organisation, you need to look for the opportunities and solutions it offers. Many businesses have staff that operate remotely or are out of the office for long periods of time. In other cases it may pay to have an element of your software 'in the cloud' because of its elasticity and scalability due to the fact that you're only paying for what you use.

Here are just a few examples of the types of business that can benefit from web services.

Ecommerce organisations

While you may prefer the finance system to be operating on-premise, it's often more cost-effective to have the ecommerce solution in the cloud and integrated into the accounts package. This is possible with web services and avoids the expense of any increased customer footfall to the website

Wholesale and distribution organisations

If you receive a lot of orders to your web portal/website, this puts the IT infrastructure under a great deal of strain. By placing this element of the system in the cloud, web services can easily link into other on-premise solutions such as the accounting system.
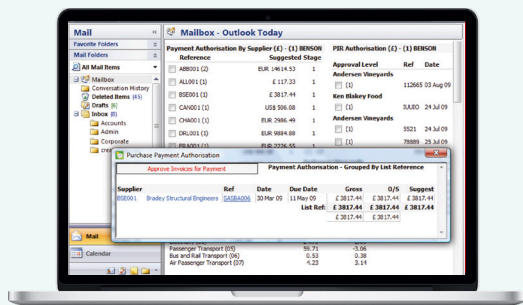
Manufacturing organisations

Many manufacturers have invested a great deal in their on-premise manufacturing solutions. However, with the Dimensions Web Services API, you're able to combine these onpremise solutions with cloud-based CRM, document management or HR solutions.

Multiple companies

By implementing web services once, each database can talk to the other. This means it's possible to open up conversations with, for example, two or more companies at the same time. It also means that your FD(s) can gain full visibility of the accounts systems across the companies – or any of your other integrated software solutions.

Key benefits:

- **Cost-effective: especially where many transactions take place cloudside (e.g. ecommerce software)**
- **Protects your investment: allows you to capitalise on software purchases already made**
- **Easy to use: requires no direct access to, or knowledge of, the Dimensions database**
- **Flexible: API's coding structure will interact with any web-compliant language**
- **Safe & secure: follows same stored procedures as Dimensions.**

Integration with Microsoft Outlook: secure, two way links enable users across your business to view and approve financial information (such as invoices) from the familiar Office interface.

Access Office Integration (AOI)

AOI is a form of integration specific to Access that allows you to view, edit and update data held within Dimensions without leaving the familiar environment of Microsoft Office. Using add-in technology, this function allows users to pull and push information between Access Dimensions and MS Office (Excel, Outlook and Word).

Seamless integration

This functionality is delivered as a single module and installed as a seamless part of your overall solution. Using this function, you can:

- **View/edit accounts data from Excel**
- **Upload/download to Excel**
- **Attach documents to accounts records**
- **Customise your Outlook Today screen to show accounts information (e.g. management reporting tasks)**
- **Approve transactions from within Outlook**
- **Apply filtering rules in Outlook**
- **Retrieve transactions using the 'Quick Find' search**
- **View graphical summaries via 'Smart Tag' links**
- **Carry out ad-hoc reporting via analytical data cubes.**

Ideal solution for non-accounts users

Using AOI, tasks such as attaching documents to records, approving accounts invoices and viewing ad-hoc reports can be carried out by users without any knowledge of the Dimensions system. (Users can also view this information via the fully integrated Access Document Management (ADM) system).

With this level of integration, tasks are not only quicker and easier to carry out, but bottlenecks are removed all around your business. For example, you could quickly set new margins and update all affected product lines with a single click. Moreover, information delivered this way does not need a full user license, meaning greater return on investment. delivered this way does not need a full user license, meaning greater return on investment.

Why choose AOI?

Understandably popular with FDs, AOI is perfect if you spend a lot of time working in Excel. It's also ideal if you want to extend the benefits of your accounting data to staff who rely on accounts information but do not need the complete solution.

Key benefits:

- **Save time: standard tasks reduced to a few clicks**
- **Improve accuracy: two-way data exchange eliminates re-keying**
- **Support the wider business: accounts information on-demand**
- **Cost-effective: no need for full user licences**
- **Secure: all transactions subject to audit trail and user permissions**
- **Flexible: we can write custom solutions to meet specific needs.**

Example applications	Data format	Integration	Modules	
Websites	XML (inc. currency rates)		Sales / Purchase / Nominal Ledger	Cashbook / Credit Control
Contact management	ODBC (Access / SQL / 3rd party)	Transaction Broker	Sales / Purchase Orders	CRM
Point of sale / trade counter	e-mail		Stock Control	Invoice Register
Hand-held devices	Text		Works Orders	Costing

Transaction Broker is the perfect way to achieve true business data connectivity. Link your business information with that of your customers, suppliers and other partners. No matter where the data comes from or what format it takes, it can be translated into Dimensions easily and accurately.

Transaction Broker

Transaction Broker is a mapping tool that takes third party data and inputs it into Access Dimensions. No matter where the data comes from, or what format it exists, it can be translated into Dimensions quickly and cost effectively. It sits between Dimensions and third-party data sources as a non-programming interface to the API, enabling the seamless flow of data from external software applications into the accounts.

Validation & security

Transaction Broker pools all third-party data sources for new transactions (or records) and, once available, collects and delivers them into Dimensions. Data is delivered into Dimensions as though it's been entered by hand but many times faster, saving significant time and effort.

For security, all transactions and records are validated before they enter your system – minimising the risks of duplicate or 'rogue' data entering your accounts and generating a full audit trail for future reference.

Transaction Broker is highly flexible, and it can be configured to read and broker transaction data from a huge range of business applications, including:

- **EPOS systems**
- **Websites**
- **Vertical-specific applications**
- **Any ODBC compliant database.**

Why choose Transaction Broker?

This tool is ideal if you are seeking to consolidate information onto a single database or require a cost-effective, low-maintenance approach to company-wide integration.

Key benefits:

- **Cost-effective: fast, easy integration for any transaction type**
- **Time-saving: no need to re-key records/transactions by hand**
- **Reduce errors: validation procedures flag rogue or duplicate data**
- **Flexible: can read virtually any ODBC compliant databases, including email applications**
- **Secure: transactions entering the accounts generate a full audit trail.**

COM API

The COM API allows you to create brand-new transaction screens that integrate fully with your standard Dimensions system. You can also enforce business rules through the use of in-built objects within the entry screen. You define the elements to be used, how they're to be displayed and the order in which they'll appear.

We create the form, 'calling in' the relevant Dimensions COM objects (such as tables and links) into the overall structure. The completed screen is then passed through the Dimensions Database API for data checking and compliance with your business rules. The brand-new custom transaction screen is then complete and ready to use.

Why choose the COM API?

This solution will enable you to accommodate a highly specific process into your daily workflow. For example, using the COM API, a manufacturer could have a sales order screen built around the sequence of steps needed to price the components of a 'made to measure' item. The COM API toolkit provides the following:

- **Methods (retrieve, create, save, delete)**
- **Properties (data dictionary, descriptions, every field from every record)**
- **Objects (look up selection lists, popular transaction types, customers/nominal accounts).**

Key benefits:

- **Simple: builds complex processes into the front end of standard accounts system**
- **Secure: updated screens passed through Dimensions Database API, validating data**
- **Increases productivity: lets you build your own business rules into the software**
- **Feature-rich: provides wide range of customisation options.**
- **Robust: take advantage of any updates to standard software, even with all the modifications installed**
- **Cost-effective: changes quick and easy to implement, even within limited timescale and budget.**

GUI API

The GUI API allows you to alter the appearance of transaction screens and records to create a consistent look and feel across your solution. Using the SDK's Graphical User Interface (GUI), the GUI allows your Access consultant to see instant information on file names, window formats and field names, and to create new code to provide the desired look and feel. The code is kept completely separate, yet from your viewpoint, forms an integral part of your Dimensions system.

Why chose the GUI API?

This function allows you to modify the appearance of your software so that it better reflects your way of working. It is both straightforward and cost effective to carry out. With the GUI API, we can modify the following:

- **Events (log on/off settings, screen open/close, field enter/close)**
- **Methods (add toolbar, create button, edit/hide/disable field, save, force navigation**
- **Properties (auto-launch custom application and log on from within Dimensions, auto-launch**
- **Dimensions and log on from within custom application, Log on returns user ID and provides ADO connection to grant permission as if the user were within Dimensions, log on returns WIN API hWnd reference to Dimensions – option to run invisibly in the background).**

Key benefits:

- **Feature-rich: many modification options to suit your needs**
- **Flexible: allows you to change the user interface while retaining its underlying structure**
- **Robust: take advantage of any updates to standard software, even with all the modifications installed**
- **Cost-effective: changes quick and easy to implement, even within**