

API Wizard for Data Conversions

Executive summary:

The API Wizard Excel productivity platform for Oracle significantly shortens the timeline and cost of Oracle data conversions. These savings are realized by reducing design effort, reducing or eliminating conversion programming, simplifying and streamlining the testing process, and reducing and simplifying the final production conversion.

In this document we show how an API Wizard customer recently:

- Cut 57.2% of the technical time and effort from a data conversion project
- Saved \$44,900 and realized a 449% ROI over the 5 month use of API Wizard

API Wizard can be part of your organization's competitive advantage; delivering significant time and cost savings on Oracle projects.

API Wizard works in every module of the Oracle E-Business Suite.

Document Overview:

This document has 4 parts:

- High level benefits of using API Wizard in data conversions
- Brief overview of API Wizard's capabilities
- API Wizard's role in data conversion projects
- Benefit analysis of API Wizard as used in a specific data conversion project

API Wizard Benefits:

1. Reduces conversion timeline and cost
2. Reduces or eliminates technical effort associated with conversions
3. Improves conversion accuracy and user acceptance
4. Provides mechanism for user participation in data conversion activities

API Wizard Overview:

API Wizard combines the best of Oracle and Excel to speed up and streamline all kinds of Oracle data entry, data updating, data migration, reporting and development work.

For the first time, API Wizard provides an easy way to leverage Oracle's entire infrastructure of public APIs and open interfaces. API Wizard can also leverage private Oracle APIs and custom pl/sql APIs, too.

API Wizard's point-and-click authoring tool generates Excel based user interfaces for any Oracle data task through a GUI configuration process, without custom programming. API Wizard enables the rapid configuration of Excel loaders and reports that precisely match business requirements, with far less custom coding and technical effort than ever before possible.

API Wizard for Data Conversions:

Many different types of Oracle EBS projects require data conversions. Projects such as new implementations, rollouts to new business units, acquisitions, upgrade via re-implementation, etc. often have heavy data conversion components. Data conversions are critical path items, and are amongst the most costly parts of these projects.

API Wizard reduces conversion timelines by 50% or more, generating a significant savings to any project. API Wizard achieves this reduction by providing the dynamic mechanism for working with any Oracle API or open interface with little to no custom coding.

In addition to rapidly providing highly efficient Excel interfaces for any Oracle data uploading task, API Wizard's integrated Excel reporting functionality also plays a key role. API Wizard reporting provides a way for users to easily review data in Excel before it's loaded, and to

validate it in Excel after it's loaded. The ease of data review pre- and post-processing is convenient and efficient, and it improves conversion accuracy and user acceptance.

Typical data conversion activities:

1. Requirement definition (i.e. what should be converted)
2. Data mapping (how source data is mapped to target system)
3. Data translations and/or formatting (changes required to data before loading to target)
4. Conversion design (often requiring documentation and signoff)
 - a. Functional design
 - b. Technical design
5. Conversion programming
6. Data conversion (this iterates through multiple environments, typically Dev / QA / Prod)
7. Data validation (confirm that data is loaded properly)

API Wizard shortens the project timeline by dramatically reducing or eliminating steps 4 and 5, and by significantly reducing steps 6 and 7 for each of the project's conversion elements.

Savings analysis for recent customer conversion project:

A recent project included 16 data conversions.

A third-party implementation firm put together an effort estimate of 640 hours. Another third-party implementation firm, an API Wizard partner, put together an effort of estimate of 300 hours.

Our partner won the business and, using API Wizard, was able to reduce the conversion effort to 274 hours. Technical effort/time was reduced by 57.2%. Hard dollar savings on this project was \$44,900 after factoring in the cost of API Wizard.

- Original estimated effort: 640 hours * \$150/hour = \$96,000
- Actual effort: 274 hours * \$150/hour = \$41,100
- The customer paid \$10,000 for API Wizard
- Dollar savings for the customer: \$96,000 - \$41,100 - \$10,000 = \$44,900

Customer benefits

- Saved \$44,900, reduced the project effort by 57.2%, and enjoyed 449% ROI for the 5 month project use of API Wizard.
- Shortened the timeline for data migrations, allowing the project to meet an aggressive go-live schedule.

- API Wizard's Excel user interface enabled the customer's Oracle users to easily review certain data before and after loading. This increased data accuracy and user acceptance.
- Provided reusable templates for future data migrations.

Consulting partner benefits

- Faster work and API Wizard expertise enables consultants to provide more competitive bids and/or increase profit margins on these projects.
- API Wizard's low to no-programming method of using APIs and open interfaces enabled the consultant to easily configure Oracle data uploading and reporting solutions with far less technical effort than traditional programming. API Wizard's modular approach meant fewer errors, and the consultants didn't have to re-invent the wheel for every data conversion.
- As the same consulting team does more projects with API Wizard, they are building an API Wizard library. These API Wizard Excel loaders and reports can be used on future projects to make the next project even faster and drive higher savings.
- With less coding required, the project manager enjoyed new flexibility to transition tasks between resources.
- Data was able to be loaded, validated, and rolled back for iterative conversion changes without having to generate modified data or have multiple instance refreshes.
- With API Wizard, most times there is no code to migrate between instances. This also saved time and reduced errors.
- The consultants are seen as API Wizard experts by the customer. This can lead to other, new areas of T&M work after the project ends.

The data:

Time Savings using API Wizard for Data Conversions – recent customer example with \$50k + savings

Data	Description	Est Time Without API Wizard	Actual Time with API Wizard	Time Savings	API Wizard Savings in \$ @ 150/hr	How API Wizard was used
Items	100,000 items / 6 inventory orgs	60	24	36	\$ 5,400	Standard Oracle API used for loading data, no programming needed
Item categories	30,000 item category assignments / 6 orgs	40	16	24	\$ 3,600	Standard Oracle API used for loading data, no programming needed
Item cross references	40,000 item cross references	24	8	16	\$ 2,400	Standard Oracle API used for loading data, no programming needed
BOMs	50,000 BOM lines / 4 orgs	60	24	36	\$ 5,400	Standard Oracle API used for loading data, no programming needed
Inventory On-Hand Qty and average cost	30,000 initial balance and cost / 4 orgs	40	20	20	\$ 3,000	Material transactions interface, no programming needed
GL Account mappings	1000 GL account mappings	16	6	10	\$ 1,500	Custom schema mapping table, no programming needed
Customers	3000 customers / sites - Deduplication and formatting	80	40	40	\$ 6,000	Customer interface table. Created program for deduplication to clean up data before loading.
Vendors	5000 vendors / sites . Deduplication and formatting	80	40	40	\$ 6,000	Vendor interface table. Created program for deduplication to clean up data before loading.
Purchase orders	500 open purchase orders	40	16	24	\$ 3,600	Purchasing interface tables, no programming needed
Employees	2500 employees	24	8	16	\$ 2,400	Standard Oracle API used for loading data, no programming needed
Employee Contacts	1000 contacts	24	8	16	\$ 2,400	Standard Oracle API used for loading data, no programming needed
Contact relationships	1000 contact relationships	24	8	16	\$ 2,400	Standard Oracle API used for loading data, no programming needed
Salaries	2500 salaries	24	8	16	\$ 2,400	Standard Oracle API used for loading data, no programming needed
Employee extra information	2500 extra info records	24	8	16	\$ 2,400	Standard Oracle API used for loading data, no programming needed
Employee Assignments	2500 assignments	40	24	16	\$ 2,400	Standard Oracle API used for loading data, no programming needed
Performance reviews	2500 performance reviews	40	16	24	\$ 3,600	Standard Oracle API used for loading data, no programming needed
	Totals:	640	274	366	\$ 54,900	

API Wizard helps in other areas too:

While this document addresses the use of API Wizard in data conversion projects, API Wizard is also perfect for building Oracle EBS extensions for customers who aren't satisfied with standard Oracle forms or reporting options.

API Wizard's rapid creation of Excel loaders and reports is readily and profitably applied to solve people's day-to-day Oracle data processing challenges of all kinds across the Oracle E-Business Suite.

In these cases API Wizard frees up thousands of hours every year for our customer's IT teams and Oracle business users. Our customers typically enjoy a payback on investment measured in months and an increasing ROI over the first several years of API Wizard deployment.

With API Wizard, no one ever has to use standard, slow Oracle data processing methods ever again.

Conclusion:

The API Wizard Excel productivity platform for Oracle turbo charges consulting resources and provides key benefits to everyone involved in Oracle data projects.

Put API Wizard to work in your Oracle projects, big and small.

Benefits of using API Wizard in data conversions:

- Reduces conversion timeline and cost
- Reduces or eliminates technical effort associated with conversions
- Improves conversion accuracy and user acceptance
- Provides mechanism for user participation in data conversion activities



API Wizard: EVERY Module, ANY Process®

www.api-wizard.com

800-691-8714