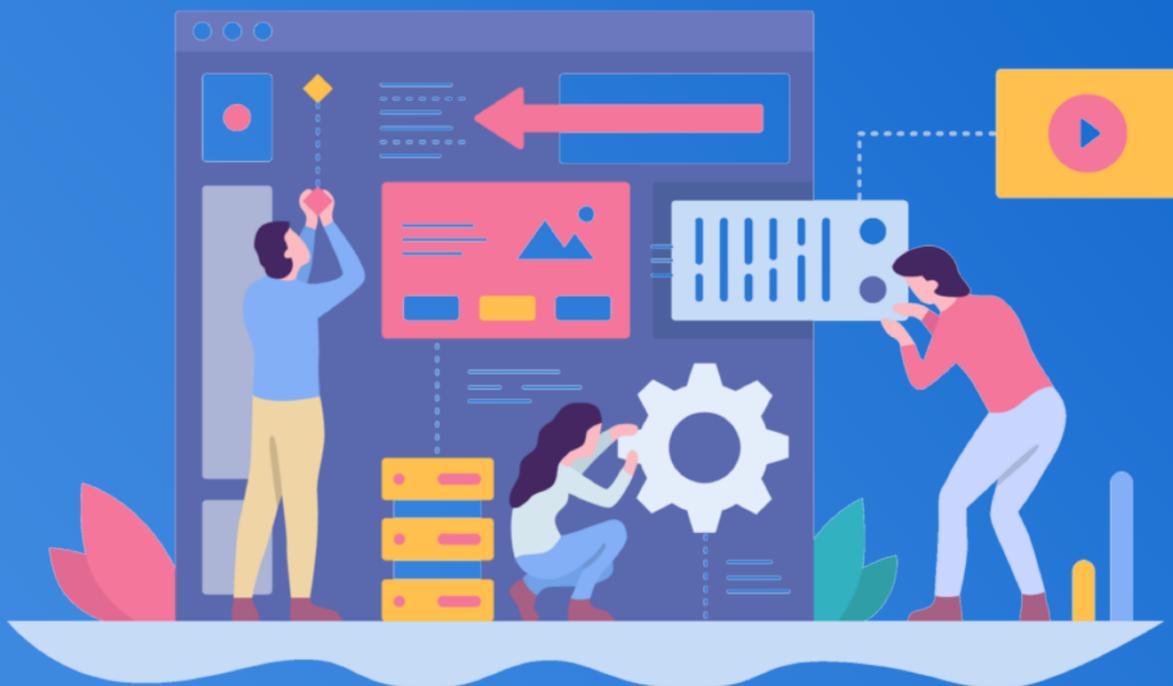


ECOMMERCE API INTEGRATION FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Everything you need to know



eCommerce API Integration for Your Business

Running a B2B eCommerce software for online retailers is always challenging because the industry is evolving at a steady pace. A richer abundance of solutions is offered to a growing number of online merchants, which results in the potential clientele of B2Bs becoming more diverse.

Thus, to be able to meet the needs of a larger number of clients, such services integrate with multiple platforms merchants use. As most of them created their online stores on various shopping platforms, being connected to them is a de facto must.

This white paper is aimed to inform B2B eCommerce SaaS vendors about the benefits of the integration of their solutions with multiple shopping platforms and marketplaces. You will find the following subtopics covered:

- ▶ What are shopping platforms and why to integrate with them
- ▶ What industries it works best for
- ▶ Which platforms to integrate with and why
- ▶ What it takes to integrate with them
- ▶ How real software vendors benefited from shopping platform integration



Contents

1. Shopping Platforms (eCommerce platforms)

What they are & Why to integrate with them 4

2. What Businesses Shopping Platform Integration Works Best For

Marketing automation software 5

Multi-channel commerce solutions 6

Mobile Commerce APP Development 6

Social commerce solutions 7

Repricing and price optimization software 7

Inventory, order and warehouse management systems 8

Localization solutions 9

Chatbots 9

Dropshipping automation software 10

Shipping management solutions 10

3. What Shopping Platforms to Integrate With and Why

Most popular shopping platforms 11

Less popular but widely used worldwide and on local markets 12

Integration with marketplaces 13

4. What It Takes to Integrate

API as a key to shopping cart databases 14

What integration costs 15

Challenges to overcome 15

5. Successful Shopping Platform Integration Implementation Examples

Webinterpret 16

Video 16

DataFeedWatch 17

6. API2Cart as a Reliable Shopping Platform Integration Option 18

What Businesses Shopping Platform Integration Works Best For

The list of industries that need shopping platform integration is very long. Below you will find business use cases that have proven to benefit from being connected to multiple eCommerce platforms on the example of our customers.

Marketing Automation

Marketing automation software help retailers win back customer attention, recover cart abandonment, boost sales with coupons or special offers, and keep customers updated on order statuses.

Marketing automation software greatly depends on integration with shopping platforms, as carrying out its key functions requires access to data on products and orders, customer contacts, coupons, etc., which are stored in stores' databases.

Info from e-stores powers the majority of internal processes marketing automation software runs. Without the eCommerce integration, such systems cannot send emails featuring new items, discounts and special prices to online stores' customers, notify them on order statuses, track cart abandoners and generate smart e-mail statistics.

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Multi-Channel Commerce Solutions

Multichannel software empowers merchants to provide a unified and consistent customer experience across multiple online sales channels. In particular, it allows to coordinate and control various business processes from inventory management and order fulfillment, to shipping management and synchronizing product listings from one centralized place.

Seamless integration with eCommerce platforms is of paramount importance for such systems. It enables them to get information on products, orders, shipments, inventory levels, etc., organize it into data feeds, and update across all channels.

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Mobile Commerce APP Development

Building a mobile store app requires syncing the app with a web store, which hardly can be done without integration with shopping platforms. It ensures that all product info, customers, and orders appear in both the app and the website.

eCommerce app builders depend on integration with shopping carts to ensure the mobile app is synchronized with the website.

Without the eCommerce integration, such solutions cannot convert webstores into mobile apps, sync product lists, prices, images, etc., sync orders in real-time, update tracking info and order statuses.

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Social Commerce Solutions

Selling products online works more effectively when supported by social commerce. Though being highly requested social commerce services cannot help online merchants without being able to access their store databases. Simply because this is required to get and synchronize products, categories, prices, and other information to reflect them on social pages.

Instead of elaborating separate unique integration modules for different shopping platforms used by their clients, they often seek for unified ways to integrate with multiple platforms at once. This way they save a considerable amount of precious time and human resources.

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Repricing and Price Optimization Software

Repricing and price optimization systems are widely used by online merchants that want to win on the eCommerce market. Shoppers are interested in purchasing best-quality items for the most reasonable prices.

To attract potential clients Looking for appealing prices e-retail businesses use repricing and price optimization systems. They monitor rival offers and show how they change over time to help merchants set the most optimal price in order to be more competitive in the market.

In view of the fact that merchants have their stores based on various eCommerce platforms, gathering data on product prices, categories, and features requires being integrated with multiple shopping platforms.

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Inventory, Order and Warehouse Management Systems

These 3 types of B2B services are in the peak of demand due to the bloom of eCommerce. A growing number of retail businesses evolve into bigger ones and eventually face the need to use additional software to make order management more flawless and effective.

Higher sales require a larger inventory, and this means that ordering, sorting, storing and stock re-filling becomes more complicated and expensive. Here the systems mentioned in the subtitle come in handy.

For all the operations offered by such services to be fulfilled, they need to have access to the databases of their clients' e-stores to get data on products, categories, customers, orders and tracking numbers. etc.

Retrieving, synchronizing, and using this information is impossible without smoothly developed shopping platform integration.

eCommerce Integration for Order and Inventory Software

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eCommerce Integration for WMS Solutions

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Localization Solutions

Localization is basically translating online store and adapting it to the local culture, which is the key step to successfully enter a foreign market. It includes translating and adapting every single piece of content: product names, descriptions, categories, graphics, currencies, time, date, etc.

When building localization software, you need to ensure it can accurately retrieve, process, and add this information. This involves developing dozens of connections, including those with shopping platforms that merchants run their stores on.

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Chatbots

Chatbots become a means of fostering better shopping experiences and reducing cart abandonment. For an online shop, a chatbot is like a salesperson who is ready to help the visitor with the product information, making the payment, tracking the status of delivery, guiding through a sale, and more.

To build such an eCommerce chatbot that will be able to run function mentioned above, it has to be integrated with the business ecosystem (shopping platforms in the first place) to access product catalogs, data on inventory levels and tracking numbers, etc. Also, it needs to be able to create orders, change stock levels, get lists of abandoned orders, etc. This implies building dozens of connections run their stores on.

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Dropshipping Automation Software

Dropshipping software functions are basically powered by connectivity with online stores. It gathers information on products, orders, categories, and inventory levels, organizes it into data feeds, transfers feeds to dropshipping systems, make updates on all distributors' storefronts, etc.

Dropshipping software greatly depends on integration with shopping platforms, as carrying out key functions requires an ability to access and sync order, customer and product info from different online stores.

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Shipping Management Software

Shipping is definitely a challenging aspect for any eCommerce business. Besides picking, packing, and transportation, it includes many other operations like order fulfillment, shipment tracking, managing stock levels, updating order statuses.

Shipping software greatly depends on integration with shopping platforms because it makes it possible for them to import orders from multiple sales channels, update tracking info and order statuses, create shipping labels, organize the data in detailed reports.

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And This Is Not the Limit!

The industries presented in this chapter are only a drop in the ocean of the businesses that could benefit from integration with shopping platforms. Jump to the next chapter to read about what platforms to integrate with and why.



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What Shopping Platforms to Integrate With and Why

As a business person, you want your investment to bring profits, and it is the same with shopping platform integration. It will anyway cost you time and money, but which platforms you chose to connect may determine the outcome. In this chapter, we are going to reveal three potentially profitable integration decision scenarios for your business.

Most Popular eCommerce Platforms

Integration with leading eCommerce platforms is a great opportunity to substantially enlarge the circle of potential clients. **Magento, WooCommerce, Shopify, PrestaShop, and OpenCart** together power millions of online stores, which makes a decent percentage of influence on the market.

Being integrated with these platforms means being able to serve clients having their e-shops based on any of them. Millions of e-retail business owners needing help with different vital operations as your potential customers make an excellent chance to get extra revenue.

On the other hand, most of your rivals are probably already integrated with some of the top shopping platforms, so having a few extra ones supported would be a good competitive advantage.



Less Popular but Widely Used Worldwide and on Local Markets

About as many stores as built on the five shopping platforms mentioned above are powered by other platforms. Some of them are leaders in particular countries while others do well globally.

For instance, **Gambio, Zen Cart and Hybris** are preferred by German-speaking and other European users, so integration with them would be beneficial for businesses working on or trying to expand to the European market.

If you want to increase the number of your clients in Australia or Canada, the integration with **Squarespace, Ecwid, and osCommerce** will help you to do it easily and in a short term.

Together, all the shopping platforms that fall into this category have no less than a million online stores built on them. Of course, this makes a slightly smaller clientele, but the prospect of having to offer what your rivals don't have is not a bad one.



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Integration with marketplaces

Also, don't forget about the integration with marketplaces as it can bring you a great number of possibilities.

Marketplace integration represents a win-win situation for all the parties involved. You can grow your business and gain access to a larger pool of customers, while your customers can save time when managing their eCommerce businesses and can see all their information in one place.

When it comes to marketplaces that you should focus on when seeking eCommerce integrations, four big names pop up: **Amazon, Etsy, eBay, and Walmart**. Each one of these giant marketplaces has its vast reach and are used by millions of sellers worldwide, reaching billions of people on the whole earth.

Perfect Choice

A combo, that is, being integrated with multiple shopping platforms and marketplaces, would double the pros. Apart from a larger market share, eCommerce integration works as a functionality expansion that can be applied to other business purposes.

It enables you to retrieve and use various e-store data to not only provide your clients with the services you are offering now, but also run new useful features that would be helpful for thousands of eCommerce businesses.



What It Takes to Integrate

API as a Key to Shopping Platforms Databases

To let eCommerce applications and B2B services use online store data, most shopping platforms expose their APIs. In their turn, businesses need to integrate with the APIs to get access to the store data mentioned.

For instance, if you are an inventory management provider, you need to be able to retrieve and synchronize information from your clients' online shops. Being connected to the shopping platforms that those clients have their stores created on and managed from enables them to do this. And APIs are the media between your system and the shopping platform databases. That is why shopping platform API integration is a necessary step to obtaining access to the client's store information needed.

APIs make it possible for you, as a business person, to retrieve and manipulate the necessary store data from shopping platform databases. They not only extend the functionality of your service but also expand business horizons by letting you run new features attractive to more clients worldwide.



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What an Integration Costs

Integration means having to deal with code, so you will have to find developers with sufficient expertise to write it thoroughly. A badly written integration may cost you thousands of extra requests a day and slow data interaction, not to mention incorrect or inaccurate data returned and dissatisfied clients as a 'bonus'.

Good work will take a long while, especially if you want your system to get connected to more than one shopping platform. And now think about the expenses. Not only those you will meet in the process of integration development, but also those related to the further maintenance of the ready and ongoing integration. New versions of eCommerce platforms are released every once in a while, so the upgrade routine is inevitable.

Calculating the Cost of eCommerce Integration

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Challenges to Overcome

All the issues described in the previous paragraph can be made into a list to make the issues that integrations entail clearly defined. The following challenges are meant:

- ▶ Finding a developer to elaborate a secure, seamless, and cost-effective integrations
- ▶ Time expenditures due to the long process of integration development and its further maintenance
- ▶ Thousands of dollars that needed to be paid for the developers for writing multiple integrations, maintaining and updating them

Successful eCommerce Integration Implementation Examples

Shopping platform integration has proven to be beneficial for thousands of businesses. A few of such real-life examples are described below.

Webinterpret

Webinterpret is a company that helps online merchants trade cross-border. To be able to power businesses to sell goods on international markets, the service needed to retrieve data on products, categories, prices, and orders from clients' stores.

This information would then be used to translate, localize and promote their e-shops on local search engines and marketplaces. Shopping platform API integration with multiple eCommerce platforms made it possible for the company to easily get and synchronize store data between customers' original online stores and their copies in the global market.

Veeqo

Veeqo is an inventory and order management solution. In order to be able to synchronize stock levels across all the client's sales channels, the company needed to get access to the databases of the platforms that their clients have their e-store built on.

Integration with shopping platforms enabled Veeqo to get information on products, orders and inventory levels from the eCommerce platforms. Once an item is sold out, the store owner does not have to worry about updating the number of products available because it is done automatically. The clients of the company can also avoid overselling by setting their minimum stock level and the quantity to re-order at that level.

DataFeedWatch

DataFeedWatch is a solution that creates and optimizes data feeds for different shopping channels and analyzes the performance of campaigns thus helping to exclude unprofitable products. Feed creation requires access to client's store data that is later to be organized into feeds.

Shopping platform integration made it possible for DataFeedWatch to gather data on products, categories, and prices from the platforms its clients have their stores based on and send detailed feeds to the shopping channels needed.

More success stories

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API2Cart as a Reliable Shopping Platform Integration Option

API2Cart is a service that makes it possible to connect your B2B eCommerce SaaS solution to 40+ shopping platforms and marketplaces via a unified API. With only one integration performed instead of multiple ones, you both save time, money and effort.

The service supports integration with the most popular shopping platforms on the market including Magento, Shopify, PrestaShop, WooCommerce, OpenCart, WooCommerce, Zen Cart, Gambio and others.

The tech team adds new versions of the platforms as they come out, and continues working on expanding the range of supported platforms. See the full list of integrations available by clicking on the button below.

[SUPPORTED PLATFORMS](#)

API2Cart offers 100+ API methods to let you operate and manipulate shopping platforms store data as you need it for your business. It ensures secure data transfer with the help of SSL certificate and 32~symbol API key. To make your integration process easier, the service provides detailed API documentation with code samples and interactive examples. Plus, full tech support will help you solve any issues 24/7.

[API Documentation](#)

[Supported API Methods](#)



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Make a step towards your business enhancement today! Integrate with multiple shopping platforms in the shortest term possible and get our guidance and full tech support that will help you succeed.

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Contact us

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EMAIL: manager@api2cart.com

PHONE: 1-800-224-0976 (USA&Canada Toll-Free)