

Rev Up The Developer Community

Volvo Cars' strategic shift to API management and a self-serve developer community marks a pivotal moment in its digital evolution. This case showcases how embracing technological innovation not only streamlines operations but also accelerates growth and prepares for future challenges in the ever-evolving automotive industry.

INTRODUCTION

Volvo Cars set an ambitious goal for 2020: to connect over 700,000 new car-consumer-device experiences annually. This objective placed immense pressure on digitalization and the seamless integration of Volvo Cars's diverse systems to meet growing business demands. Peter Blomqvist, Product Owner at the Integration Center of Enablement (ICoE), articulated this vision: "Our mission is to streamline digitalization at Volvo Cars, empowering our developers to integrate with unprecedented synergy, speed, and stability."

CHALLENGE

Volvo Cars's legacy systems, characterized by complex, point-to-point integrations, were increasingly seen as a bottleneck. This centralized service approach was becoming unsustainable in an enterprise scaling up with thousands of developers and a growing number of applications. The primary challenge? To establish an integration landscape that was not only agile and user-friendly but also respectful of Volvo Cars's long-standing application network.

SOLUTION

Volvo's response was a transformative shift from centralized integration to fostering a dynamic, self-serve developer community. This shift involved several key initiatives:

Developing for Diversity and Scale: Targeting compatibility with over six application platform operating systems and three cloud platforms, Volvo Cars aimed to support its 2,000 developers and 1,700 applications.

From Central Delivery to a Community Model: The ICoE led the transition, focusing on making assets within the application network discoverable, manageable, and secure.

An API-First Strategy: Volvo implemented a comprehensive suite of tools and practices for API management in hybrid multi-cloud environments, including:

- A globally deployed gateway for API management.
- An API-led reference architecture.
- An API lifecycle, complete with development guidelines, CI/CD build pipelines, and CLI tools.
- The API Academy, offering intensive onsite training sessions and a wealth of e-learning resources.
- A global developer portal for discovering and reusing APIs created within Volvo Cars.

RESULTS

The implementation of API management has been a game-changer for Volvo Cars, steering the company towards achieving 30% tech reuse, 70% service reuse, and 50% method reuse. The self-serve developer community has enabled an up to tenfold increase in integration delivery speed, laying a robust foundation for an exceptional connected driver experience.

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OUTCOMES

Collaborative Innovation

Enhanced synergy among developers through easier discovery, reuse, and sharing of information assets.

Streamlining Progress

Accelerated development of new services and applications, reducing time and costs.

Ease of Access

Simplified API publication processes, supported by an admin portal and CLI tools.

Rapid Response

Efficient and rapid deployment of updated versions via ICoE's build pipelines.

Fortified Insight

Improved security, throttling, and real-time analytics for API developers.

30% **TECH REUSE**

50% **METHOD REUSE**

70% **SERVICE REUSE**



Peter Blomqvist
Product Owner ICoE at Volvo Cars