

HC White Paper; Single Control Pane

When it comes to IT and its operations, 'Control Operations' is an umbrella term for multiple types of operations but which are separate from the 'User Operations'. Typically called the Control Plane and User Plane operations, Control Plane operations are what is 'other than usual User operations'.

Control would mean any of the following activity:

- User management lifecycle; adding, deleting users
- User access control; which users have access to which operations and on which resources.
- Provisioning new resources
- Upgrade / Downgrade resources
- Changes to security permissions
- Changes to any properties of the resources
- Any other API calls on the resources

In enterprise environments, it is almost always required to get a single audit trail of all the control activity. It is best if the control activity is received from a single place. For this purpose, the 'Control Panel' is the nice right technology tool.

Hosting Controller Control Panel; the platform that provides 'single control pane' to all control activity.

Hosting Controller provides out of the box integration with different types of applications like:

- Infrastructure applications like vmware and Hyper-V virtualization
- Microsoft Enterprise applications like MS Exchange, SharePoint and others
- Multiple web applications and web servers on Windows and Linux

In addition to this, it enables integration of any other applications running in the system. This overall exercise of integrating all existing applications in Hosting Controller can be called 'System Integration'.

Once the whole system is integrated into Hosting Controller, all possible 'Control Actions' on those applications are exposed as individual APIs.

IT departments and other developers, can access the APIs programmatically.

For all other users GUI based front-ends are provided that enable users to conduct their tasks through user friendly dashboards.

In all cases, the APIs are called for executing a final operation. The audit trail mechanism in Hosting Controller keeps a detailed log of who performed which task from where and when including others details like request and response payloads.

If users use GUI, they are always authenticated as they login using some security mechanism. The request passes through role based access control systems and if authorized, then is executed.

If users call APIs, each API access also passes through user authentication and the same role based access control mechanisms.

In all cases and all paths the audit trails are maintained.