Common API Platform

Overall Health
Program Vision: Reduce integration cost, time, and effort by simplifying the way schools and central units exchange data between our systems.
Program Director: Mitchell Rogers, Program Manager: Erin Gregory

Strategic Objectives Health

- SO1 Simplify Data Exchange Architecture
  - The Common API Platform Project (CAPP) has successfully launched and is working toward completing the foundational work planned for FY18 Q1. The team is currently structured into 7 workstreams: Mulesoft Platform, API Backlog, Person API, Course API, Collabria Platform, Change Management, and Project Operations. We have set goals for Project Increment 1 (SI1) that ensure our sprints are focused on the right work that will lead to achievement of our annual and project-level goals. We must fill the technical expertise roles (Mulesoft Application Architect, DevOps Technical Lead) in order to stabilize the Mulesoft Platform, institute the necessary training for platform adoption, and create the infrastructure that will meet our customer service level expectations.

- SO2 Reduce cost of exchanging data between our systems
  - The effort required for the Cloud Migration is starting to impact the operational resources that were originally allocated to the project. Managing across operational capacity challenges will continue to be a risk if we cannot make guarantees or commitments about individual allocations. Mulesoft Application Architect position is now most important role to fill in order to meet FY18 objectives. This position requires Mulesoft expertise, which may be difficult to find in the market.

- SO3 Improve the consistency of projects delivering data exchange solutions

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Program Highlights

- The Common API Platform Project (CAPP) has successfully launched and is working toward completing the foundational work planned for FY18 Q1. The team is currently structured into 7 workstreams: Mulesoft Platform, API Backlog, Person API, Course API, Collabria Platform, Change Management, and Project Operations. We have set goals for Project Increment 1 (SI1) that ensure our sprints are focused on the right work that will lead to achievement of our annual and project-level goals. We must fill the technical expertise roles (Mulesoft Application Architect, DevOps Technical Lead) in order to stabilize the Mulesoft Platform, institute the necessary training for platform adoption, and create the infrastructure that will meet our customer service level expectations.

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Quarterly Goals

1. Collabria Platform: Create/Design a standard operating Model for APIs
2. Mulesoft Platform: Finish defining and documenting
3. Mulesoft Platform SLAs
4. Mulesoft Platform: Deliver a platform/service maturity roadmap
5. Person API: Onboard a 2nd customer to the Harvard Public API
6. Course API: Deploy the Course API MVP to STAGE
7. API Backlog: Create API Backlog entries from pilot schools/departments
8. Change Management: Define the Mulesoft outreach approach

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Issues & Risks

1. Issue: Mulesoft Expertise
   - Impact: Our team lacks enough Mulesoft-specific expertise to effectively onboard new developers to the platform. This gap is on the critical path to success for the project, so we need a depth of expertise in order to roll-out the Mulesoft platform more broadly.
   - Proposed Mitigation: Hire a consultant for the Mulesoft Application Architect role who already has Mulesoft experience and can be a consistent, on-site resource for the team. This person will ideally provide best practices and coaching, in addition to their technical responsibilities.

2. Issue: Mulesoft Operational Support
   - Impact: We do not have a dedicated resource to support the Mulesoft platform and associated infrastructure. A crucial SLA to have system-critical APIs running on the Mulesoft platform is to have 24x7 support with committed operational maintenance and trouble-shooting expertise.
   - Proposed Mitigation: 1) The Mulesoft Application Architect will work closely with the IT5 team to make sure we have someone on the project who can serve as backup, if necessary. 2) Continue working with EMS-directed IT5 DevOps resources as needed, particularly once we have customers indicating a specific need for increased SLAs.

3. Issue: Cross-Org Prioritization
   - Impact: With the focus on Cloud Migration, our ability to collaborate with and leverage resources from outside the Project team is hindered. Our model relies on “external” contribution to better understand what APIs our consumers need, and we are already experiencing difficulty in getting attention to this effort.
   - Proposed Mitigation: 1) Exhibit as much flexibility as possible in scheduling time that works for our stakeholders. As we run into roadblocks, communicate with Steering/Executive committees about either the change in timeline or in scope to work with these teams, or a narrowed scope.

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Timeline

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Program Metrics

- # of APIs: 3
- # of Consuming Applications: 1

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Cost Breakdowns

- Planned Total Cost: $37,370,000
- Planned YTD: $27,600,000
- % Planned YTD: 8%
- Actual YTD: $270,000
- % Actual YTD: 8%
- Capital Resources: $39,000,000
- Licenses: $190,000
- Hosting: $30,000
- Consulting/Misc: $25,000

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% of Budget

- Capital Resources: 80%
- Licenses: 10%
- Hosting: 0%
- Consulting/Misc: 0%

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% of Timeline

- Capital Resources: 80%
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- Hosting: 0%
- Consulting/Misc: 0%