Frequently Asked Questions
How to Use TargetSolutions' Application Programming Interface

Can TargetSolutions Integrate with Another Program We Use?

What you're looking for is a way for the TargetSolutions system to talk back and forth with another system. Maybe you want to keep your users' profiles updated with information stored in another system, or a new user to be created when one is created in your HR system, or completion records to be sent over to another system. To make one system talk to another, you need an API, which TargetSolutions provides.

Most importantly, you need to make sure that whatever system you want to integrate with also has an API, or a way to interact with other systems programmatically.

What Is an API?

APIs are used to allow communication between separate systems. Imagine a web site. You are able to interact with web sites to create an account, download a file or whatever you are there to do.

What an API does is take the human part out. It allows computer programs to interact with the services available on that website without the front-end. A developer can code up a program that says "I want a new user created in website A, each time a user is created in website B.' Now, you won't need to physically interact with website A to create users ever again.

What Are TargetSolutions' APIs Capable of Doing?

TargetSolutions has two types of APIs: TargetSolutions RESTful API and a Report API.

RESTful API is capable of the following:

- Create a new user
- Inactivate a user
- Modify user profile information
- Add and remove users from groups
- Add, remove and edit groups
- Manage supervisor rights
- Manage user Credentials

Report APIs allow you to programmatically extract data contained in the following canned reports accessible in the Generate Reports application:

- Completions
- Incomplete Assignments
- Credentials

How Do I Use TargetSolutions' APIs?

You will need to find a technical resource within your organization/city/county with the ability to build a program to integrate TargetSolutions' platform with software you are currently using.

It's worth mentioning that TargetSolutions' API was written using a protocol called REST, which is very common in the programming world. This standard was chosen because many of TargetSolutions' clients do not have technology resources available and developing a program that uses a RESTful API is something that can be outsourced to professional software services groups.

Why Can't TargetSolutions Work Directly with the Software Company I'm Trying to integrate with TargetSolutions?

APIs are basically a mechanism to translate data. For example, say TargetSolutions' system speaks German and

Software X speaks French. A developer on your end would write a program that takes information from Software X that is in French, translates it and sends it to us in German. TargetSolutions and Software X are not able to write the program because they speak different langauges. This would be a translation piece that is developed by technical people employed by your department.

What Level of Support Will TargetSolutions Provide My Developer?

TargetSolutions has a Developer Portal that contains technical documentation, developer FAQs, and a sandbox environment to test functions without effecting live data.

It is highly recommend that developers read the Getting Started page as a first step. The portal can be found online at http://developers.targetsolutions.com.

Also, TargetSolutions is able to answer questions about the capabilities of its API, but is not able to provide support in learning how to write to an API.

Here is some information about REST: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representational_state_transfer.

TargetSolutions' developers have found that Postman is a good tool for learning how to use APIs. You can find more information online at http://getpostman.com/.

How Much Does This Cost?

Access to TargetSolutions' APIs is included with the cost of the platform.