



Vordel API Server v7.1

Release Announcement

September, 2012

Vordel is pleased to announce the General Availability of Vordel API Server v7.1.

Vordel API Server 7.1 can be downloaded from the Downloads page on the Vordel Extranet portal: <https://extranet.vordel.com/>

For more information please refer to the Release Notes or contact your Account Manager.

Delivery Platform for Web, Cloud & Mobile APIs

Vordel API Server provides an API delivery platform to enable standardized operational support for Cloud-based services, mobile computing and mash-up web applications. To support this capability, API Server 7.1 introduces support for API Keys, and enhancements to the existing capabilities for HTTP routing and OAuth 2.0.

Support for API Keys

Vordel API Server 7.1 adds support for API Key authentication for HTTP requests including REST APIs. Two types of API Key are supported:

- Simple keys consisting only of an API Key.
- Amazon AWS style keys, consisting of both an API Key and a Secret Key that are used together to securely authenticate the client using HMAC signatures.

The Vordel API Manager web UI (a rename of the Client Application Registry in Vordel API Server 7.0) is used at run-time to define client applications and generate API Keys and Secret Keys.

A new filter – Authenticate API Key – is provided to enable policies to use API Key authentication.

Routing by HTTP path and verb

Vordel API Server 7.1 enables routing to policies based on the virtualized HTTP path and verb. This enhancement enables requests to the same HTTP path but using different HTTP verbs to be routed to different policies.

OAuth 2.0 Enhancements

Vordel API Server 7.1 provides a number of minor enhancements to the OAuth 2.0 support – refer to the Release Note for specific details.



API Server as a Platform

Vordel API Server provides a platform to develop and deploy multiple, partitioned API solutions running on shared, and increasingly virtualized, infrastructure. To support this platform capability, API Server 7.1 provides a number of new capabilities.

Traffic Monitor: Support for JMS and FTP

Vordel API Server 7.1 provides support for the message-level monitoring of inbound and outbound JMS and FTP traffic in Traffic Monitor. Prior to 7.1, traffic monitoring had been limited to HTTP traffic.

Vordel Analytics

Custom Reporting – Vordel API Server 7.1 includes a significant enhancement to Vordel Analytics – a custom reporting capability to provide flexible reporting to suit all needs. Primary features are the ability to view any available metric available for the target type, grouping of metrics, and filtering of metrics.

Immediate generation of PDF reports – Vordel Analytics now allows a user to immediately and easily generate a PDF copy of the on-screen report and save it to local disk.

Management of API Server Administration Users

Management of the API Server administration users, and their assigned roles, has been moved from Policy Studio to Vordel Manager as this is an API Server management task.

KPS Authentication Repository

Vordel API Server 7.1 provides a new KPS-based authentication repository for authenticating users of the virtualized APIs and Services using a username / password. Users are stored in the KPS enabling dynamic management of users – an advantage over the existing configuration-based user store that requires a re-deployment for changes to be applied.

Appliance Software Updates

Vordel API Server 7.1 includes enhancements to simplify checking for and applying software patches for the physical and virtual appliances:

- Perform periodic automatic checks for software patches. The status of the appliance software patch level is displayed on the Webmin landing page and emailed to administrators.
- New software patches for both the Oracle Enterprise Linux operating system and the Vordel API Server can be downloaded and installed using Webmin.

Performing these tasks using Webmin, the web-based appliance administration tool, eliminates the need to use the *yum* command directly on the Oracle Enterprise Linux operating system of the appliance.



New Certifications

Vordel API Server 7.1 provides new certifications:

- Oracle 11gR2 releases – Oracle Access Management 11gR2, Oracle Secure Token Service 11gR2 and Oracle Entitlements Server 11gR2.
- Apache Qpid integration via the JMS API.
- Contivo Analyst 5.2.

Licensing

Vordel API Server 7.1 re-introduces licensing and requires a valid license file at start up. Two types of license are available – a perpetual license and a time-limited license. Existing customers should contact Vordel Support to obtain a license.

If no license file is provided then Vordel API Server 7.1 will start with restricted capability:

- Concurrent threads limited to 16.
- Listens on the requested port only if the network address is “localhost” – otherwise uses an ephemeral port that is printed on the console log.

QuickStart Tutorial

Vordel API Server 7.1 introduces the QuickStart tutorial – a web-based overview with sample APIs – that provides a “hands-on” approach to introduce new users the API Servers. The QuickStart tutorial, with the unlicensed restricted capability, allows the Vordel API Server to be made freely available to unlicensed users to try it.

Rename of SOAPbox to API Tester

With this release, SOAPbox has been renamed to API Tester for better alignment with both the naming of the Vordel API Server and the “API first” approach that enterprises are adopting.

Further Information

Short video demo of the Vordel API Server: <http://www.vordel.com/products/index.html>

Whitepaper on Next Generation API Delivery Platform examining how the application architecture is changing to enable the rapid delivery of business services via APIs: <http://resources.vordel.com/index.php/next-generation-api-delivery-platform-whitepaper/>

Whitepaper describing Reference Architectures for delivering Enterprise APIs for Web & Mobile: <http://resources.vordel.com/index.php/enterprise-api-management/>

Webinar on architecting your delivery platform for the API Economy, guest speaker Randy Heffner, Vice President and Principal Analyst with Forrester Research, Inc.: <http://resources.vordel.com/index.php/architecting-your-delivery-platform-for-the-api-economy/>