

## Tedious Administration Tasks

### *Automate Administration Tasks with EFT's Application Programming Interface*

An organization's IT staff is responsible for making sure the company has the computer hardware, software, and network infrastructure necessary to do business. In addition to installing and maintaining the hardware, software, and network components, they must also perform mundane administration tasks, including creating and provisioning user accounts, exporting data from a database for use on other systems or in reports, onboarding external partners, and disabling accounts for users that no longer need access. Most of these administration tasks are repetitive, tedious, time consuming, and often performed at a command line. The more of these tasks that can be automated, the more time the administrator has to monitor the network; install, implement, and monitor security programs; and of course, respond to end-user issues.



Globalscape's Enhanced File Transfer™ (EFT™) platform provides an Application Programming Interface (API) that allows administrators to create scripts to automate these tasks.

### What is the Value of an API?

An API exposes certain functionality while hiding other, proprietary parts of the code. Software companies often make their API public so that other systems can integrate with their software, and customers can “tweak” their system via the API to customize it for their use. Creating this “value-added” functionality saves the company money, because they don't have to purchase yet another system to serve that need, and saves the IT staff time by automating manual processes.

### Globalscape® EFT's API

The EFT platform provides methods and properties in the API to perform almost every task that is available in the administration interface. EFT's API can be used to make an administrator's workload much easier by:

- Scripting repetitive tasks
- Using a Web services interface to initiate EFT workflows

- Automating one-time or recurring tasks (User account provisioning, automatic creation of event rules, and the creation of EFT Sites are the most common uses of EFT's API.)
- Exporting data from EFT for advanced reporting, such as a user account's associated access permissions
- Creating user accounts in EFT when onboarding a trading partner on other provisioning systems
- Exporting/importing all of EFT's configuration details

Globalscape's Professional Services team has created utilities that use the API to allow for merging, splitting, or cloning existing EFT configurations. For example, the utilities can be used to promote a given set of accounts and event rules from a development system to a test system and then to production.

## Is the API Secure?

The EFT platform has robust security features built in to protect your system. The API functionality is not a permission assigned to just any user. When an administrator creates a delegated administration account, he has the option of granting programmatic access via the API. It is not granted by default. The API is unavailable if the account does not have that permission and if certain variables are not in place, including an IP address specified for remote administration, a valid SSL certificate, and certain files that must be installed on the remote system. Additionally, all administrator actions are logged in the database for reporting so you'll know which administrator account accessed EFT and what was changed.

## Scripting Isn't for Everyone

A script is useful and powerful in the right hands, but script authoring isn't for novice users. For those administrators who are not comfortable working at a command line, EFT has "custom commands" and advanced workflows that invoke the methods and properties of the API in a graphical user interface (GUI). These custom commands and workflows can execute programs, scripts, or batch files automatically when triggered by an event or on a schedule. Administrators can easily create sophisticated automation and integration workflows in a drag-and-drop interface without the need for code, scripting, or complicated batch files.

For both "power users" who are very comfortable at a command line and those who prefer working in a GUI, EFT's API is a powerful tool that keeps your IT engine running smoothly.

For details of EFT's API, refer to [http://help.globalscape.com/help/globalscape\\_api/](http://help.globalscape.com/help/globalscape_api/).

For more information about the EFT platform, refer to <http://www.globalscape.com/mft/>.