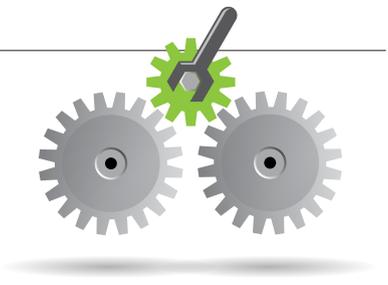


Open Mobile API for App Developers:

Speeds Time to Market and Reduces Development Overhead while Ensuring Advanced Security for Sensitive Applications



The emergence of smartphones and tablets has had a transformational effect on the creation and delivery of mobile services, resulting in millions of apps from multiple sectors finding their way into the devices and lives of users worldwide. However it has also opened users, and the network, to a proliferation of security threats.



For this reason, the Secure Element (SE) plays a vital role in securing the future delivery of mobile services and the continued growth in the market for mobile devices. A secure component within the connected mobile device, a SE can come in three main form factors: a UICC, an embedded SE (eSE) and a microSD card. The SE provides the application, the network and the user with the appropriate level of security and identity management to assure the safe delivery of a particular service. As a well-established, globally implemented technology, it offers proven interoperability across devices and operating systems (OS); the UICC/SIM/USIM, which is the

commonest form of SE, is the most widely distributed secure application delivery platform in the world. Connecting the application to the SE within the device is the only way to guarantee the highest levels of security for connected mobile devices in an IP world. The SIMalliance Open Mobile API (OMAPI) Specification standardises this process. It allows OEMs to benefit from the increased ease by which application developers can utilise the SE for secure authentication, storage and/or execution of sensitive applications. It delivers resulting security advantages to OEM platforms, allowing them to be enriched by a host of additional secure applications.

The OMAPI Specification:

- Has been developed with input from the entire mobile ecosystem and is the globally recognised standard, which enables mobile applications, across sectors, to connect with all SEs on a device. It is mandated by GSMA on NFC-UICC devices and as a result is already implemented in nearly 250 models of Android (NFC) smartphone. It is also mandated on devices by EMVCo for contactless mobile payments.
- Provides an established interface and increasingly powerful functionality and enables fast development and easy delivery for app developers of highly secure business and consumer mobile applications across all SE form factors and multiple market sectors.
- Benefits from certification programmes that are available within several standardisation bodies, including the Global Certification Forum, GlobalPlatform and PTCRB. This ensures that the specification is implemented correctly and consistently across devices.
- In conjunction with GlobalPlatform's SE Access Control, provides a complete framework to ensure secure communication between mobile applications and SEs, in accordance with the industry's security requirements.
- Is available for free download, alongside a corresponding test specification and test suite, from the SIMalliance website – www.simalliance.org

Why Should Application Developers Utilise the OMAPI Specification?

- The OMAPI Specification enables application developers to easily utilise a SE within a device; this opens up extensive security and usability benefits, which can provide competitive advantages to secure mobile applications and services.
- Application developers who utilise the OMAPI Specification will benefit from reduced application development costs, and improved time-to-market and time-to-revenue. This is because the OMAPI Specification eliminates the need to reengineer applications for different SEs, devices and OS, by delivering a single, consistent specification and interface. Through its Service Layer, the OMAPI Specification also makes APIs available for specialised value-added purposes, such as authentication, cryptography, secure storage and discovery (look up for SE) functions.

The OMAPI Specification is available for free download from SIMalliance:

→ <http://simalliance.org/handset/handset-technical-releases/>