



WHITE PAPER

Beyond Legacy

How Modern iPaaS Redefines
Enterprise Orchestration

RESHMA RADIA, ENTERPRISE ARCHITECT

Contents

Introduction	3
How Workato Makes the Difference	4
How Workato Solves Key Challenges	5
CHALLENGE: Planning for Non-Functional Requirements and Scalability For Changing Business Demands	6
CHALLENGE: Connecting to Mainframe and Older Legacy Systems	8
CHALLENGE: Upgrading and Maintenance of Current Platforms	9
CHALLENGE: Long requirements to deployment phase	10
CHALLENGES: High cost in finding resources to develop new use cases	11
CHALLENGE: Lack of Governance and Agility	12
CHALLENGE: Multiple products to achieve a solution to develop complex flows and processes	13
Workato's Enterprise Grade Features	14

Introduction

Legacy ESB systems were designed for a different era—one defined by tightly coupled architectures, on-premise infrastructure, and long delivery cycles. But today's business landscape demands speed, agility, and cloud-native scale. The challenge many organizations face is how to move forward without being held back by the complexity and rigidity of these legacy platforms.

While some vendors attempt to modernize by retrofitting old architectures, Workato offers a fundamentally different path. As a seven-time Leader in the Gartner® Magic Quadrant™ for iPaaS, Workato was built from the ground up for the cloud, enabling organizations to embrace modern orchestration without disruption.

This paper explores how Workato bridges legacy and modern systems—empowering enterprises with intelligent, scalable, and secure orchestration across their entire IT and business landscape. The sections that follow outline the key advantages of adopting a cloud-native orchestration platform and how Workato enables faster outcomes, simplified operations, and enterprise-grade performance at scale.

Workato has been recognized as a Leader with the furthest in vision placement in the Gartner® Magic Quadrant™ for Integration Platform as a Service, Worldwide.

Named a Leader for seven consecutive years for our Ability to Execute and our Completeness of Vision.



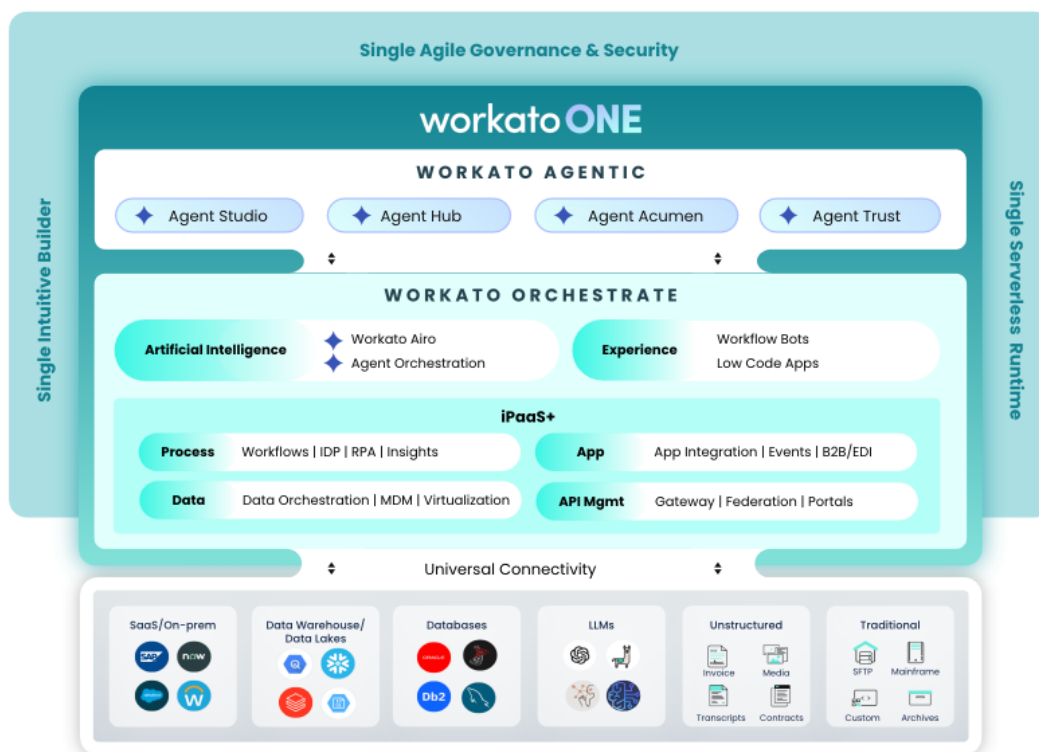
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(Gartner, [Magic Quadrant for Integration Platform as a Service], [Andrew Humphreys, Andrew Comes, Keith Guttridge, Allan Wilkins], [May 19, 2025])

How Workato Makes the Difference

Workato delivers speed, power, and scale by enabling seamless, intuitive integrations and automations that drive rapid, scalable, and secure enterprise solutions. Workato's cloud-native platform connects disparate systems, orchestrates business processes, and automates workflows using AI-powered capabilities, serverless architecture, auto-scaling, and strong governance controls. This empowers teams to move quickly, execute projects efficiently, and optimize costs while maintaining high productivity.

The Workato Enterprise Orchestration Platform



Workato's Enterprise Orchestration Platform offers a single place to orchestrate your data, applications, processes, experiences and AI agents.

By simplifying complex integration challenges, Workato enables organizations to accelerate both tactical and strategic digital transformation efforts with ease.

When connecting to older legacy systems, organizations are often limited by the capabilities of those systems. Some may offer APIs or standard interfaces, while others may provide little to no built-in connectivity.

Some organizations attempt to build their own orchestration platforms using custom code to integrate legacy systems. However, modern solutions like Workato offer pre-built components that accelerate development and reduce complexity. This not only speeds up time-to-value but also eliminates the long-term costs and maintenance challenges associated with homegrown solutions that require specialized skill sets to support.

How Workato Solves Key Challenges

As enterprises advance their modernization initiatives, they face a set of critical challenges that directly influence integration strategy and platform choice. In the following section, we'll examine these challenges in depth, contrasting how legacy ESBs like Tibco and webMethods attempt to address them, and how Workato offers a more agile, scalable, and future-ready alternative through a head-to-head comparison.

Benefits of iPaaS Modernization



Flexible and
Scalable Software



Low-cost
Integration



Enterprise-grade Security
and Data Compliance



Diminished Integration
Redundancy



High
Volume



Real-Time
Integration

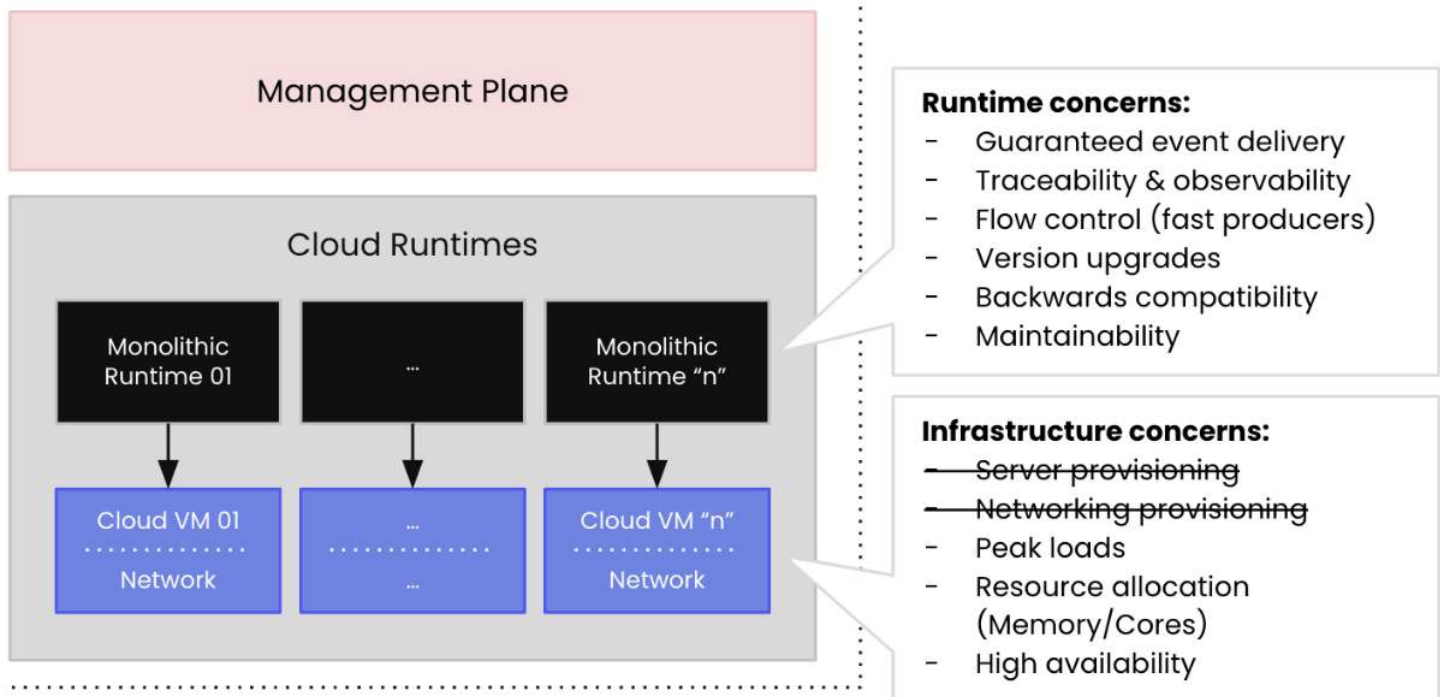
The following section outlines these challenges, contrasts how legacy integration solutions like webMethods and Tibco address them, and highlights how Workato's modern approach offers a distinct advantage.

CHALLENGE:

Planning for Non-Functional Requirements and Scalability For Changing Business Demands

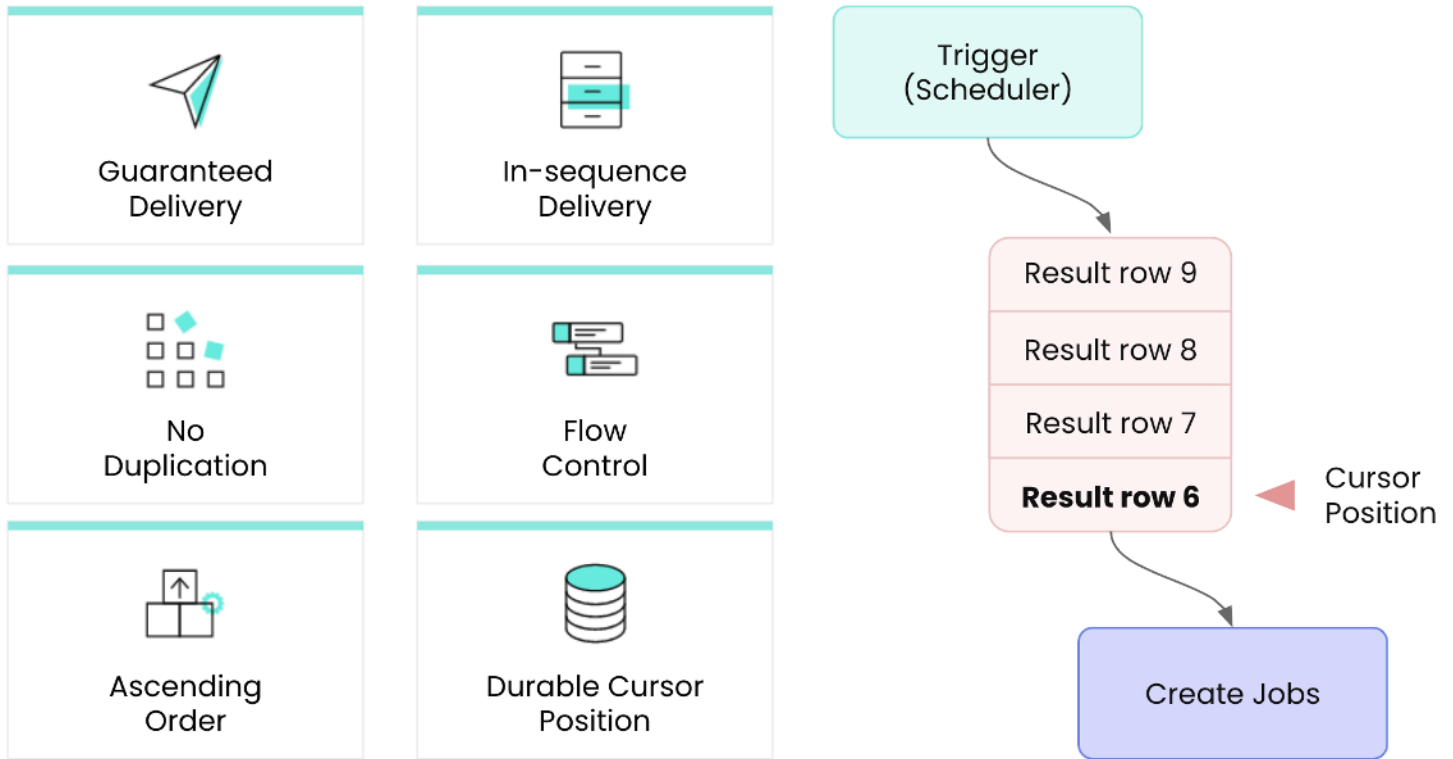
webMethods/Tibco: While platforms like Tibco and webMethods have transitioned to the cloud, many still retain their original monolithic architecture from their on-premises origins. As a result, although infrastructure management may be reduced, organizations are still responsible for implementing critical non-functional requirements such as guaranteed delivery, traceability, and flow control. Additionally, scaling these platforms to handle peak loads or shifting business demands often requires significant planning and added costs.

iPaaS: Cloud Optimized



The Workato Difference: Workato is cloud native which means it was born in the cloud with a microservices architecture rather than a cloud-optimized platform. It behaves like a Serverless Integration and Automation Platform rather than a legacyESB platform. The following capabilities are built into a single platform, giving the user **out-of-the-box auto scalability**, without the need to design, build, and customize similar component capabilities:

- Guaranteed delivery
- Message persistency
- Error handling
- Transaction retries
- In-sequence delivery
- Deduplication



Workato's microservices architecture enables maximum scalability for enterprises, whilst minimizing upgrade downtime.

Benefits of a Cloud Native Platform:

- Allows for enterprise-level scalability, reducing optimization costs as the enterprise needs scale.
- Out-of-the-box guaranteed delivery, deduplication, in-sequence delivery, and flow control remove the need for developers to architect and design these components into the process.
- Increases the productivity of builders
- increases the number of builders
- Reduces the likelihood of production issue

Ultimately this capability drives lower TCO of the platform ops team.

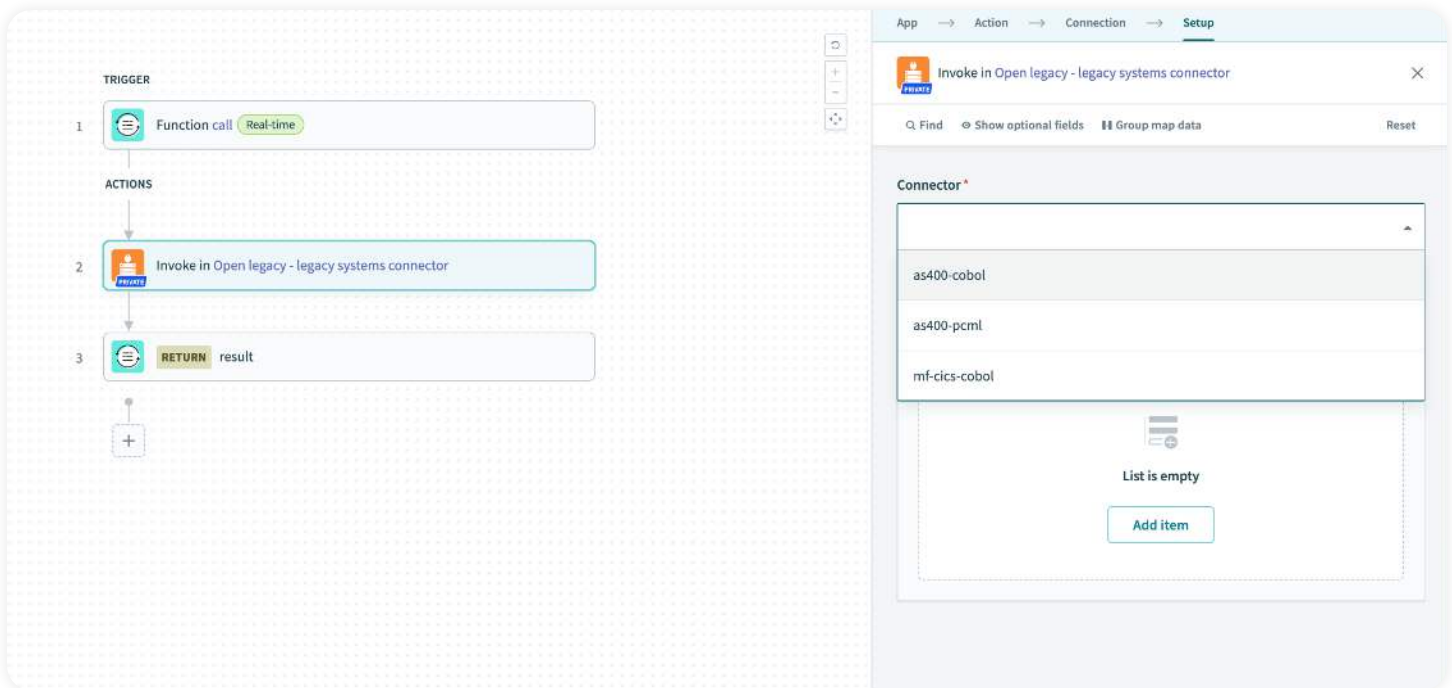
CHALLENGE:

Connecting to Mainframe and Older Legacy Systems

webMethods/Tibco: Both webMethods and Tibco provide specialized software suites to connect to legacy systems. While Tibco has Mainframe RED as an add-on application to their core integration platform, webMethods provides a solution called Entire X which enables legacy system connectivity with their core integration platform.

The Workato Difference: Workato seamlessly integrates with legacy systems such as COBOL, AS/400, and DB2, ensuring these critical applications remain central to an organization's key business processes. Through its partnership with OpenLegacy, Workato offers customers enhanced flexibility by enabling metadata retrieval directly within the platform.

The OpenLegacy Workato Connector facilitates direct connections to on-premises legacy systems. Using an intuitive click-and-configure interface, organizations can provide their program files and specify the metadata they wish to retrieve. The resulting metadata will then inform the design of the Workato recipe logic, which is tailored to meet the specific business requirements of the organization.

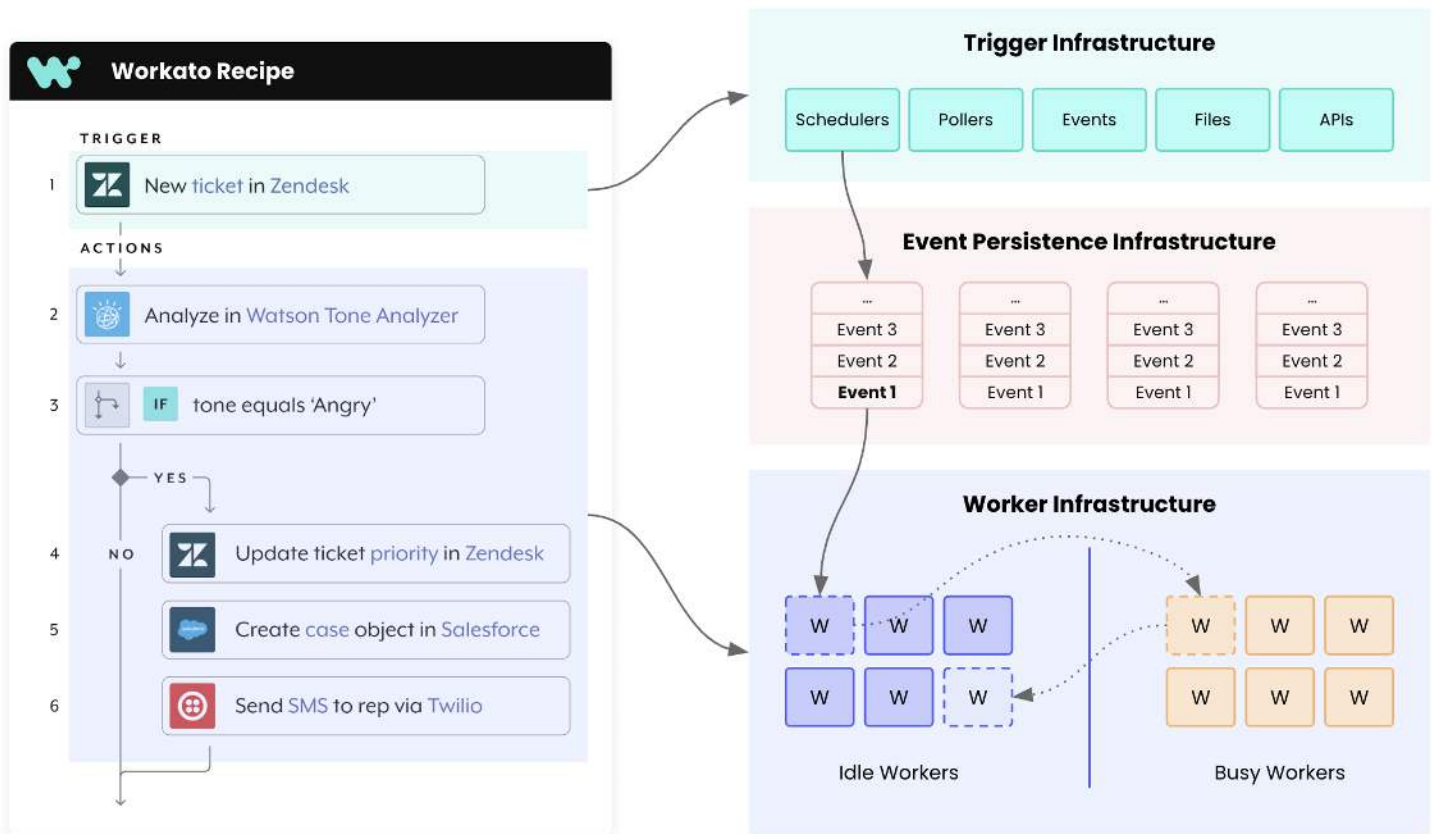


CHALLENGE:

Upgrading and Maintenance of Current Platforms

webMethods/Tibco: The application is built on top of the runtime. This creates a tightly coupled model between the two. The result is when the runtime changes (major releases), the application may need re-architecting, regression testing, and/or redevelopment. In a large enterprise, these costs could reach millions per year to account for resources, infrastructure, and operational costs.

The Workato Difference: Workato's design time and runtime are separated for flexibility. The modern iPaaS should be able to perform major and minor upgrades without the need to refactor or regression test current integrations with zero downtime. The user should still be able to process business processes and ensure they are operational while upgrades are being performed. Furthermore, the iPaaS should have auto-scaling container infrastructures dedicated to triggers. The triggers should be constantly listening to events to meet the integration's load and needs on demand at runtime.



Workato's microservices architecture enables maximum scalability, whilst minimizing upgrade downtime. Over 500 upgrades were delivered in the last 12 months.

Workato has a dedicated container infrastructure to register recipe triggers (equivalent to listeners to capture an event).

It then persists that event into Workato's proprietary internal event persistence infrastructure which is very granular and performant.

Workato deploys a queue per recipe, per environment, per workspace, and per customer making it a unique feature and extremely granular.

Benefits of decoupled runtime and design time:

- Significant cost and time saving vs legacy upgrade requirements
- Business continuity of zero downtime
- Ability to future-proof implementations
- Significant performance capabilities allow for faster processing
- TCO savings from operating model simplicity

CHALLENGE:

Long requirements to deployment phase

webMethods/Tibco: Due to the complexity of the products, both webMethods and Tibco typically have a longer start-to-finish timeline. They usually require more setup and configurations. For large-scale integrations, these timelines can range from 12-18 months, even with an agile delivery model.

The Workato Difference: Workato is a cloud-native integration platform purpose-built for speed, scalability, and power. Its modern architecture and intuitive development environment enable rapid solution delivery and significantly shorten the time to go live—empowering teams to move fast and scale with confidence.

Benefits of Speed, Power, and Scalability:

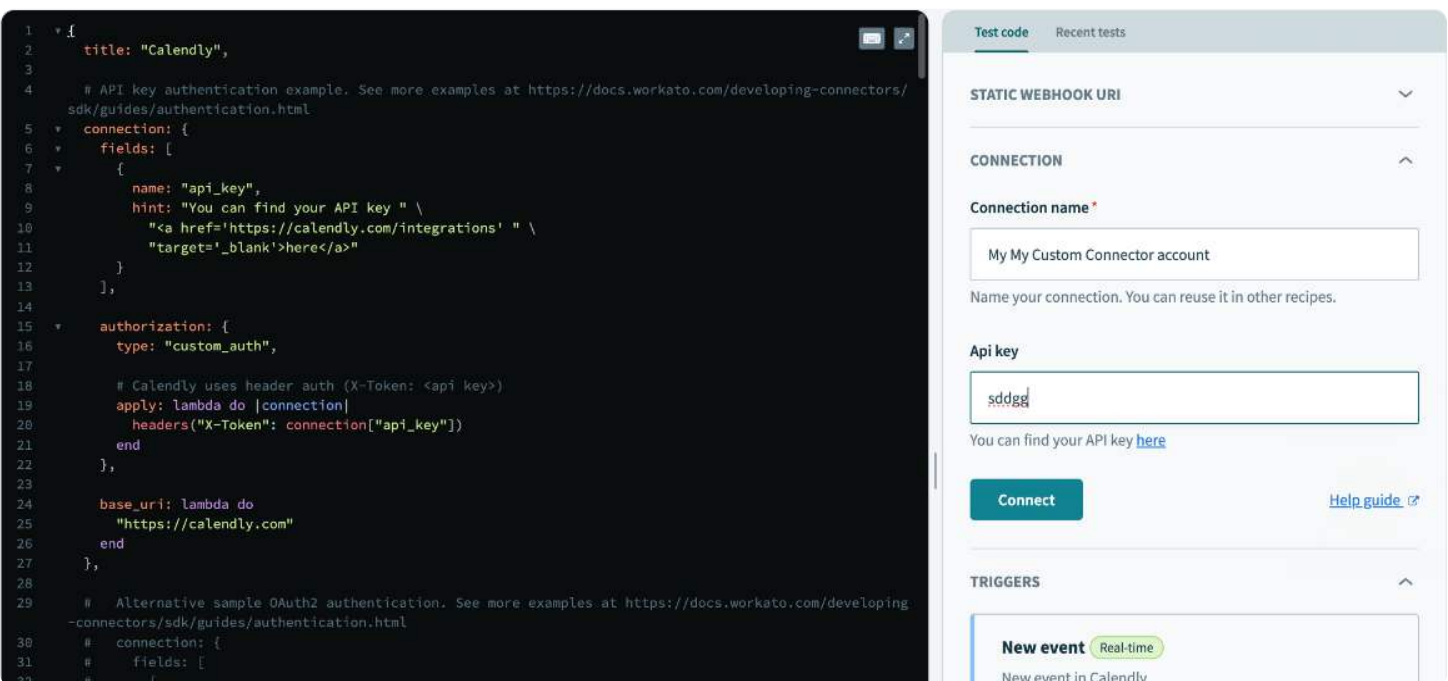
- Fast requirements to deployment in production
- Enables reduced operational costs
- Greater stability in integration/automation delivery

CHALLENGES:

High cost in finding resources to develop new use cases

webMethods/Tibco: Both webmethods and Tibco require a team of developers with specialized skills in their respective toolsets. One will have to hire staff or retain consultants resulting in slow ROI.

The Workato Difference:: Workato provides a platform for development, runtime, dashboards, externalized configurations, deployments, and workspaces in the cloud including API management. Workato is a low-code/no-code platform such that non-technical users can be onboarded and enabled to create business processes. 45% of Workato users are from a non-technical background. In addition, Workato has over 1500 pre-built connectors and a Connector and Recipe Co-Pilot making building custom connectors and recipes accessible to any skill set.



Workato's SDK co-pilot enables organizations to build connectors in minutes, removing the technical overhead and dependency on vendor resources.

Benefits of Diverse Skillsets:

- Existing developers can become productive in Workato within days
- Non-technical developers can also deliver simple/medium complexity processes greatly increasing the pool of productive builders.
- Accelerates the time to business benefits

CHALLENGE:**Lack of Governance and Agility**

webMethods/Tibco: Many vendors lean towards a centralized or federated delivery model. The centralized model is probably the most popular, especially among midsize and “buy-oriented” large organizations. The basic principles are quite simple: Recognizing the complexity of the challenge, organizations decide to centralize the responsibility of enterprise automation to optimize the technology portfolio and build up critical mass in terms of skills. The challenges here occur as this type of delivery model leaves room for organizational bottlenecks, long time to value, and focuses mainly on enterprise needs. In the end, the main issue of the centralized model is its intrinsic lack of agility. It works fine when it comes to addressing end-to-end, enterprise-wide, enterprise automation requirements, but it’s not the ideal approach to support local, let alone individual, needs, which are often time-constrained and aren’t necessarily hyper-complex.

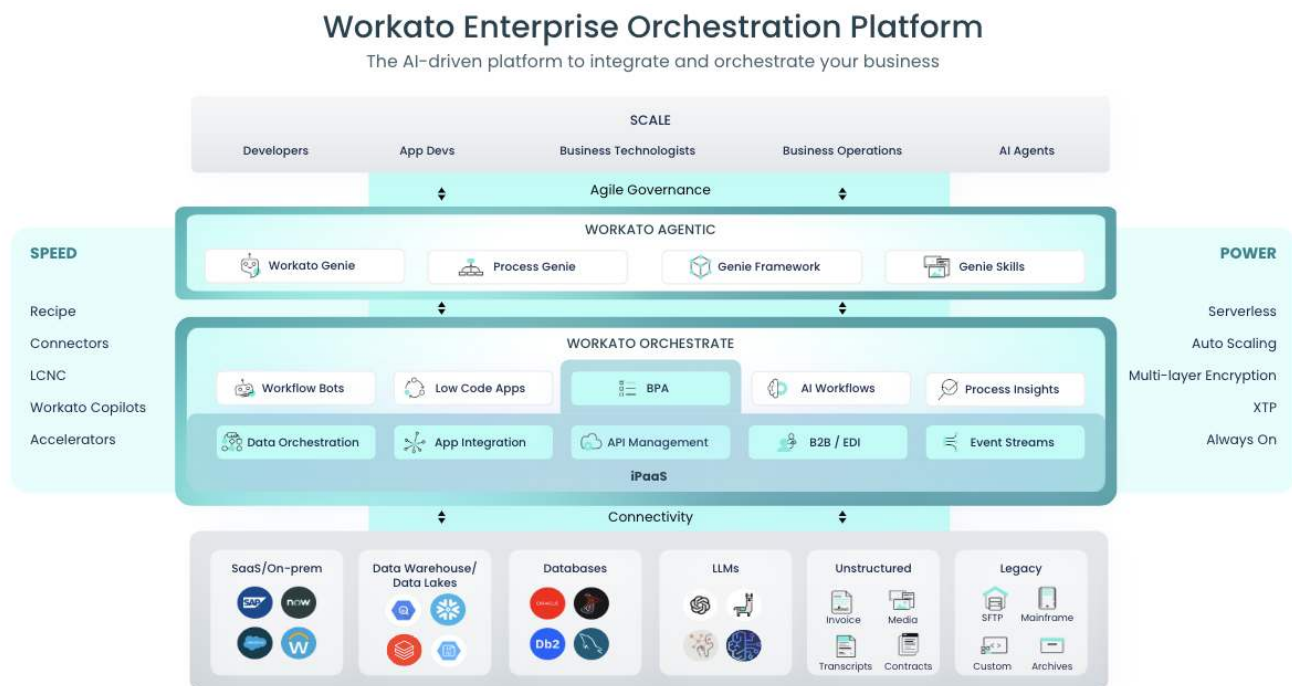
The Workato Difference: Workato utilizes a flexible delivery model. For example, an organization may begin its Workato journey with a single workspace managed centrally by IT. As integration needs evolve, they can adopt Workato’s **Environments feature** to support better separation of concerns, and eventually scale using Workato’s Governance framework for broader governance and operational oversight. While Workato advocates for the **decentralized, democratized model**—given its ability to support rapid development across multiple parallel initiatives—this approach is entirely optional and can be adopted based on the organization’s maturity and requirements.

CHALLENGE:

Multiple products to achieve a solution to develop complex flows and processes

webMethods/Tibco: Both webMethods and Tibco require multiple tools to manage end-to-end business process use cases such as multiple logins needed for APIs, observability, and operations. Developers may need to install an IDE to develop on-prem flows as well. This adds to the complexity of managing several logins and user access across environments.

The Workato Difference: Workato Orchestrate focuses on automating and managing complex workflows and processes across multiple systems. It ensures that various tasks and processes are executed in a specific sequence and according to predefined rules. Workato's solution focuses on getting data out of systems and doing something with that data. However, it also comprehensively seams together the people (workflows), processes, automation, observability, and integration all in one unified platform. Workato also provides an Agentic platform including Workato Genie and copilots for every component to deliver efficient processes quickly and efficiently.



Benefits of Workato Orchestrate:

- Allows organizations to provide seamless operations and efficient management of their IT infrastructure
- Orchestration provides a strategic approach to solving problems which in turn enables CIOs and IT Leaders within the organization to solve for a variety of scenarios to provide the most business value.
- Adding an agentic platform increases operational efficiency, enhances productivity by leveraging, and improves user experience both internally and externally.
- The platform's ability to provide end-to-end visibility and control across complex, multi-system workflows enables real-time responsiveness to changing business conditions.
- Agility is essential for maintaining competitive advantage in a fast-paced market.

Workato's Enterprise Grade Features

As we've explored, Workato delivers a powerful foundation for modernizing enterprise orchestration—combining speed, scalability, and flexibility in a single, cloud-native platform. It empowers organizations to break free from legacy constraints and embrace a more agile integration approach.

But unlocking true enterprise agility requires more than just a shift in tools. The real transformation begins when integration is governed, secured, and operationalized at scale—when the platform becomes not just a solution, but a strategic enabler. And that's where the real work—and opportunity—begins.

Workato- The Modern Day iPaaS Solution

When talking about modern-day integration patterns like the above, an iPaaS solution that fulfills these needs but also future-proofing solutions and business processes is required. Workato has been recognized as a Leader with the furthest in vision placement in the Gartner® Magic Quadrant™ for Integration Platform as a Service (iPaaS), Worldwide. Named a Leader for seven consecutive years for our Ability to Execute and our Completeness of Vision.

Workato features a modern-day approach to integrating old systems with a new fast-paced agile architecture. Whilst many vendors are trying to upgrade their current solutions to match new modern-day needs, the elephant in the room still needs to be addressed: *How do we move to a new way of integrating whilst being restrained by old legacy systems with limited integration capabilities and patterns that are difficult to unpick?*

The Path Forward

Modernizing your integration approach is no longer optional—it's the foundation for agility and growth in today's enterprise IT landscape. With cloud-native, decoupled iPaaS solutions like Workato, you can break free from the limits of legacy and realize real business agility without disruption. Talk to one of our integration experts today, and stay tuned—there's much more to explore in the future of enterprise integration.

Take the first steps

[Learn How Modern iPaaS is Evolving to Enterprise Orchestration](#)

[Why the path forward is Cloud-Native vs. Cloud-Optimized](#)

[The Role of APIs in Enterprise Automation](#)

[Download the 2025 iPaaS Buying Guide](#)

Start planning for your future

Talk to our experts or see a live demo to discover how Workato enables fast pivots—and real competitive advantage.

workato

[Schedule a Demo](#)