

> CIMERA™ Integrations

Cimera offers comprehensive integration features allowing you to interface with external information systems or data silos.

There will be information silos that Cimera cannot, or should not, replace or subsume – systems that include some specialist functionality such as automated testing, software configuration management, or perhaps accounting. However, this information should still be made available through Cimera.

Additionally, when information is created, changed or deleted in Cimera, it may be necessary to reflect that change in an external system, or data silo, or to run an external process.

Cimera Integrations allows scheduled importing and reconciliation of information as well as the ability to export information and to trigger automated processes. This information sheet describes the different Integration options available within Cimera.

Reconciliation with an external data source

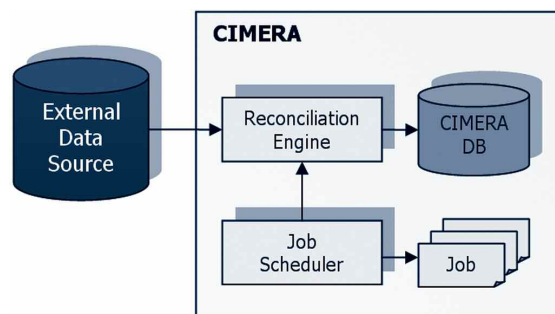
Cimera's Reconciliation Engine can connect to any external OLEDB/ODBC-compliant data source, extract information and then synchronise this with the information already held in Cimera. This can be used for one-off migrations of information into Cimera, or to aggregate regularly across a number of data sources providing a single, consolidated view.

Once the information is represented in Cimera, it can then be related to other information. In other words, information held in separate silos can be related.

Cimera's Job Scheduler can be configured to automatically run reconciliations at a particular frequency within certain hours and on certain

days of the week. Messaging Manager ensures that the job results are sent to nominated users on completion.

Information aggregated from external data sources would normally be read-only in Cimera, the external copy remaining the master.



Cimera only requires two items of information to be able to reconcile against an external data source:

- A standard database connection string. This tells Cimera what type of database to connect to, how to find it and any security credentials required to read it.
- A SQL statement that extracts the relevant records and transforms the external data source column names to Cimera field names.

If complicated transformation is required then this should be performed separately and the output from that transformation can then be reconciled against Cimera.

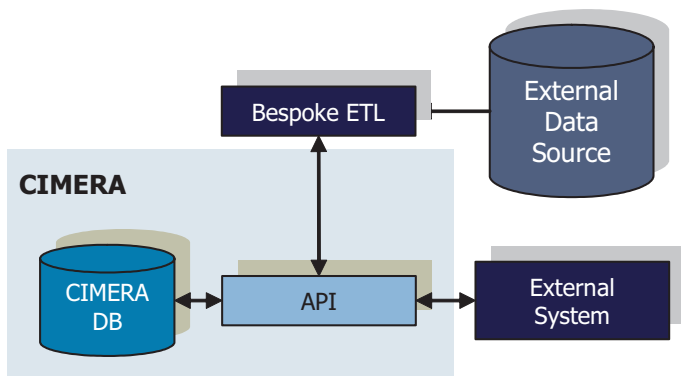
With Cimera Integrations you can:

- Migrate data into Cimera from other databases, spreadsheets and text files.
- Keep data in Cimera in step with data held in other systems.
- Run external processes when events occur within Cimera.
- Call Cimera directly through its API (Application Programming Interface).
- Add custom behaviour to Cimera.

Example applications:

- Keep Cimera up to date with copies of the problems held in your production helpdesk.
- When a baseline is created in the SCM tool, have a corresponding entry created in Cimera.
- When an item of software is related to a computer in Cimera, automatically send an SMS package to install the software.
- When a new build is created in Cimera, automatically add the build into the automated testing tool's list.

Using the Cimera API to integrate with Cimera



When straightforward reconciliation does not meet the integration needs, the Cimera API can be used. This may be required for one of the following reasons:

Non-standard reconciliation required

For example, where a single entry in an external data source maps to multiple items in Cimera. Alternatively there may be multiple related entries in the data source that must be reflected into Cimera.

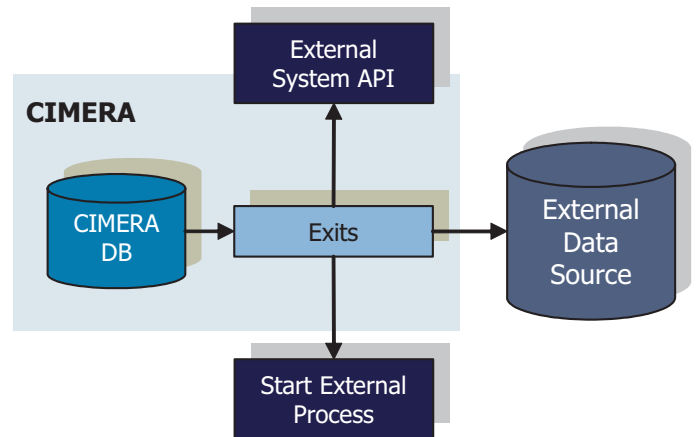
Update after external event

Cimera may need to be updated in response to an event that occurs in an external system. For example when a new baseline is created in the SCM (Software Configuration Management) tool, the baseline also needs to be created in Cimera so that problems and deployments can be related to it.

Bespoke user interface

A bespoke Cimera user interface can be developed and used instead of the standard generic GUI. Perhaps the Cimera back-end is to be supplemented by a domain-specific user interface to create an application that purely deals with Asset Management. Or a web application wants to use the power of Cimera for managing its information on the server.

Using Cimera exits to interact with the outside world



An exit is an opportunity to have the Cimera server call user-developed code. This could be used to modify Cimera's behaviour, implement user validation or site standards, or interface with the outside world so that when something happens in Cimera a corresponding external event occurs.

The Cimera server processes requests received from the client (or API). Cimera has two associated exit points:

Pre-processing exit

The pre-processing exit is called before requests are actioned and gives the opportunity to examine the requests, to amend if required and, ultimately, to deny.

Post-processing exit

The post-processing exit is called after Cimera has processed the requests. This exit point enables post-action logging and other actions to be taken. For example, to replicate amended items in an external data source, interact in some way with an external system or run an external process.

Exits are written in a .net language such as C# or VB.net.

To find out more about how Cimera technology can help your business, call us today on +44 (0)8456 447 554 or email info@propelsystems.com.