

ZoneBilling API (ZAB API)

The ZoneBilling API should be utilized as the end point for integrations necessary for ZoneBilling Implementations. This should be used instead of the native NetSuite SOAP-based NetSuite Connectors.

You can learn more about the [ZoneBilling API in our technical documentation](#).

Benefits of the ZAB API

The ZAB API provides several benefits not available via middleware SOAP-based NetSuite connectors. This is not a comprehensive list, but covers the highlights of why a customer should choose the ZAB API (included with the ZAB bundle) over a NetSuite connector that is packaged with some middleware applications:

- ✓ **Create Bulk Usage Data** - The ZAB API allows the customer to send large amounts of usage data to NetSuite. The API automatically parses large files and can initiate ZAB automation processes. Efficiencies are greatly increased with the ZAB API.
- ✓ **Retrieve ZAB API Exports** - The ZAB API allows the customer to leverage ZAB API exports to retrieve and filter results based on saved searches. ZAB API allows for easy retrieval of subsets of data that harness the power of native NetSuite saved searches (joins, formulas, formatting, etc.).
- ✓ **ZAB Automations** - The ZAB API gives the ability to add ZAB automations during the creation of ZAB or Native NetSuite records.
- ✓ **File Retrieval** - The ZAB API allows the customer to retrieve a transaction's PDF or HTML file, record file attachments, or a cabinet file. These files may be retrieved uncompressed or as an archive in many different formats.

- ✓ Record Transformation – The ZAB API allows the customer to transform record types from one to another. For example: transforming a Customer to a Sales Order. While this may be done in the native NetSuite SOAP API, typically middleware applications do not provide a method to do this.
- ✓ Custom external keys – The ZAB API gives the developer greater flexibility when referencing ID values from external systems. These fields may be referenced on record fields in NetSuite rather than the external ID property of a record. The ZAB API external ID functionality applies to sublist records as well as header records.
- ✓ Interaction with Sublists and Subrecords – The ZAB API allows for upserting multiple contacts, addresses, and other subrecords/sublists during record creation which cannot be done via native NetSuite SOAP.
- ✓ Consolidated Operations – The ZAB API allows multiple operations to be performed in one message request. This allows for a much more scalable integration.
- ✓ New Product Features & Enhancements – Use of the ZAB API allows the customer to leverage new product features or enhancements as they are added in the future.

Other Notes

- ✓ Interactions with REST APIs require much less text in the message and are considered to be much faster than older SOAP-based messaging. Additionally, the ZAB API allows for many operations to be performed at once, further reducing network traffic for each operation.
- ✓ The ZAB API is a REST endpoint rather than a SOAP endpoint, and is also housed in NetSuite (no external application is required). Many applications use REST as the communication protocol, and it's considered to be the current industry standard.
- ✓ Since the connection is a standard http REST endpoint, most (if not all) middleware applications will have a native connector that may be used to interact with the ZAB API.

Implementation Considerations

- ✔ While both the Zone and the Customer team should be conceptually focused on how the integration connections will be made and how data is anticipated to be sent and received, it is recommended that the build out of the integration begins after some initial configuration of ZoneBilling has been set up and validated for accuracy. This helps prevent rework of the integration or receiving errors that may be due to dependencies that have not yet been fully set up.
- ✔ Generally speaking, it is recommended that the integration build be started after the configuration phase—during training and enablement—but before the UAT phase of the implementation.
- ✔ If an integration is going to be included in the initial launch of ZoneBilling for the Customer, the integration should be utilized during UAT so that data flow can be validated before moving to production.

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