application programming interface (API). (1) set of functions, protocols, parameters, and objects of different formats, used to create software that interfaces with the features or data of an external system or service *(ISO/IEC/IEEE 26514:2022, Systems and software engineering -- Design and development of information for users, 3.1.6) Note:* APIs can take several forms. In general terms, an API is a set of clearly defined methods of communication among various components. An API specifies the information and methods that are needed to communicate with another application. Information for users of an API is of two main types: reference information, which contains information about all elements of the API) and developer guide (which explains how to use the API).

API. (1) application program interface *(ISO/IEC 10746-1:1998 Information technology -- Open Distributed Processing -- Reference model: Overview)* **(2)** application programming interface *(ISO/IEC 19770-2:2015 (corr 2017), Information technology -- Software asset management -- Part 2: Software identification tag, 3.2)*

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