Modernizing Integration in a Rapidly Evolving Financial Landscape

WSO2Con 2025

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Hibret Bank

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I. About Ethiopia

About Ethiopia

✓ One of the world's oldest civilizations

✓ Never colonized during the Scramble for Africa

✓ Birthplace of coffee

✓ Unique alphabet and calendar

120 M+

80+ ethnic groups and languages

80+ ethnic groups and languages

II. About Hibret Bank ...

About Hibret Bank

- ✓ Established in 1998

- ✓ 500+ branches, 9000+ employees and more than 3 million customers

- ✓ 200K+ active mobile banking users

- ✓ Among the first bank to launch Internet, SMS, and Agency Banking in Ethiopia

- ✓ Core banking upgraded fully by internal team

- ✓ Developed HIBIR Mobile Banking in-house

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III. Liberalization & Rising Competition …

▸ Safaricom entered market in 2022

▸ Foreign banks allowed to operate (2024)

▸ Telcos (Telebirr, M-PESA) offering financial services

▸ Rise of fintechs: Chapa, ArifPay, SantimPay

▸ Increased pressure on local banks to modernize and integrate with Mobile Money operators and fintechs

IV. Operational Challenges Before WSO2

▶ Custom point-to-point integrations

▶ Multiple tech stacks (Java, Python, Node.js)

▶ No standardization, governance, or reuse

▶ High dependency on individual developers

▶ Time-consuming onboarding and maintenance

▶ Limited visibility and weak error handling

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V. Why We Chose WSO2

- ▸ Open source, modular, and secure
- ▸ Support for SOAP, REST, XML, JSON
- ▸ On-premise deployment support
- ▸ Built-in support for CI/CD and DevOps
- ▸ Strong governance and monitoring features
- ▸ Enterprise-ready with flexible architecture

VI. Implementation Architecture
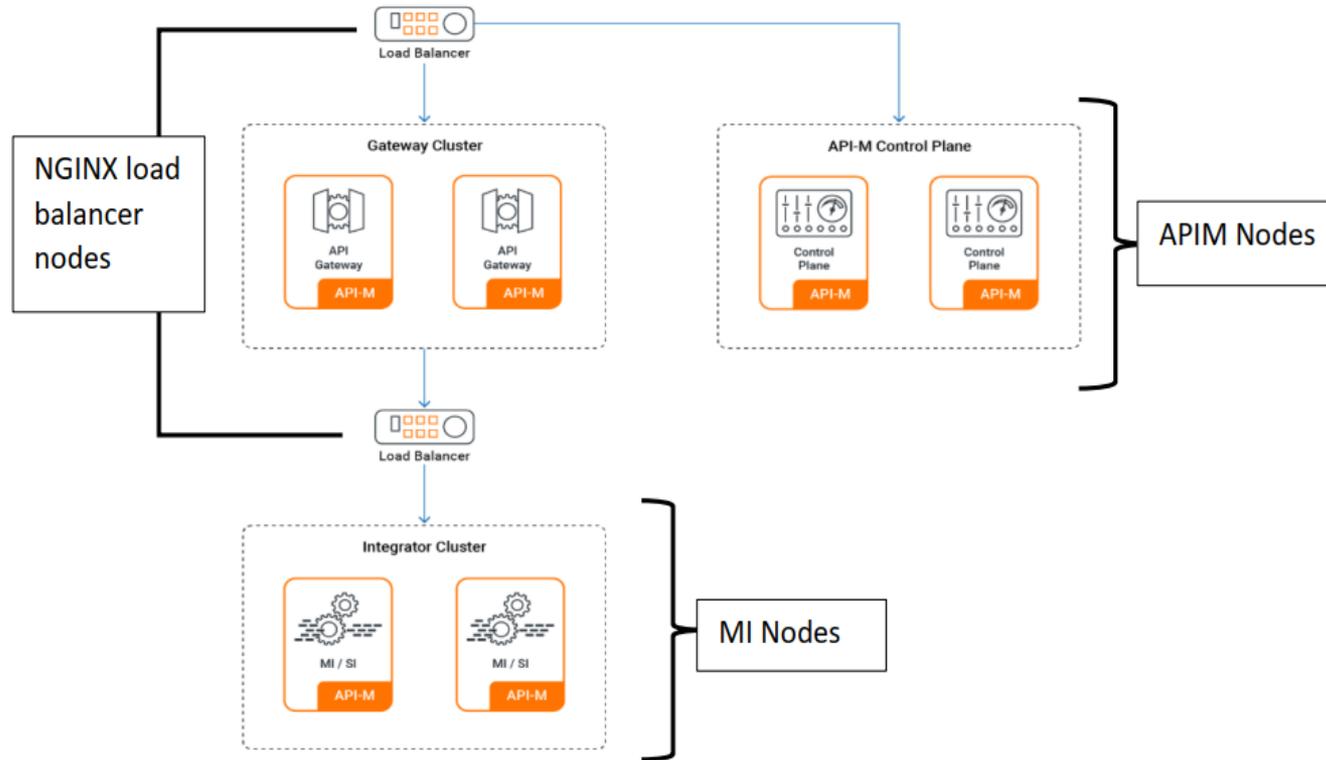
VII. Use Cases Enabled by WSO2

- MPESA B2C and C2B transaction
- ETHQR – Interoperable QR Payment
- Telebirr-based KYC endpoint
- IPS – Instance Payment System Integration
- Airtime Top-up via Telebirr
- Fayda – National Digital ID Integration

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VIII. Benefits Realized

▸ Faster onboarding of fintechs and partners

▸ Standardize and reusable flows

▸ Consistent security and access control

▸ Centralized **monitoring, logging, and altering**

▸ Improved scalability

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IX. Future plans

‣ Launch Open Banking API for Fintech innovation

‣ Expose core banking services via secure wrappers

‣ Implement Event-Driven integration using Kafka or RabbitMQ

‣ Integrate machine learning for fraud and anomaly detection

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Thank you

▸ Thank you for listening.
  I'd like to express my gratitude to **Hasanthi** and **Viggnah** from WSO2 for their support in this journey.

▸ Our experience shows that **modern integration platforms** aren't just for mature economies, they're vital for **fast-evolving markets like Ethiopia** too.

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