

## Meeting Report – OSB-Trail System Engineering Working Group

**Date:** March 25, 2025

**Time:** 3:00 PM CET

**Facilitator :** [@Pascal42](#) - **Presenters:** [@Marius Conjeaud](#), Carlos



Topics Covered

### 1. Introduction - Pascal

- Third meeting of the OSB Trail System Engineering group.
- Reminder of community resources (Slack, wiki, discussions).
- Reiterated goal: knowledge sharing, best practices, network building.
- **Review of Previous Session**
  - Focus on deployment patterns and monitoring from the last session.
  - Migration scripts discussed, with feedback from users (e.g., Marius tested scripts with the Neo4j sandbox).
  - Community concerns discussed around standardization, configurability, and migration processes.

### 2. Main Topic: APIs in OSB

- **Overview done by Marius:**
  - API sits between the Neo4j graph database and the front end.
  - RESTful, JSON-based APIs callable from Python, R, SAS, Word, etc.
  - Supported via Swagger interface for testing and documentation.
- **Use Cases presented by Carlos:**
  - Examples shown for accessing library data (e.g., control terminology) and study data (e.g., design, SOA).
  - Demonstrated how to use APIs for version control, audit trails, and data export.
  - Emphasis on standards control and auditability within study design.
- **Authorization and Roles:**
  - Explained OSB user roles (study/library reader/writer, admin).
  - API access is permission-based and requires authentication.
- **Consumer API**
  - A new, simplified API layer meant for external tools (e.g., Word add-ins, EDC integration).
  - Current features are limited but expanding.
  - Preferred API for third-party integrations due to future stability and versioning.
- **Limitations and Improvements**
  - Known performance issues with some endpoints.
  - Planned API versioning for consumer API.
  - Consumer API will help decouple front-end-specific needs from external user needs.



### Community Discussion & Feedback

- **Helm Charts vs Terraform for Deployment:**
  - Proposal from BI-X (Boehringer) to develop for Helm chart deployment. The initiative is welcomed; compatible with OSB goals.
- **Migration Process:**
  - Clarifications given around migration scripts, database initialization, MDR folders.
  - Best practices for safe migration testing discussed (e.g., using mock databases, idempotency).
  - Importance of backing up production databases before migration.



## Action Items

### 1. **Next Meeting Focus:**

- Topic: **Testing, Initial Loading, and Migrations**
- Include a deep dive on DB migration workflows, testing strategy, and tooling.
- Consider addressing Helm deployment options if time permits.

### 2. **Enhancement Requests:**

- Improve Swagger documentation clarity for business rules.
- Add API version flags and pointers to simplify future migrations.



## Next Meeting

- **Date:** Monday, April 28, 2025
- **Time:** 3:00 PM CET
- **Topic:** Testing & Migration
- **Location:** Online