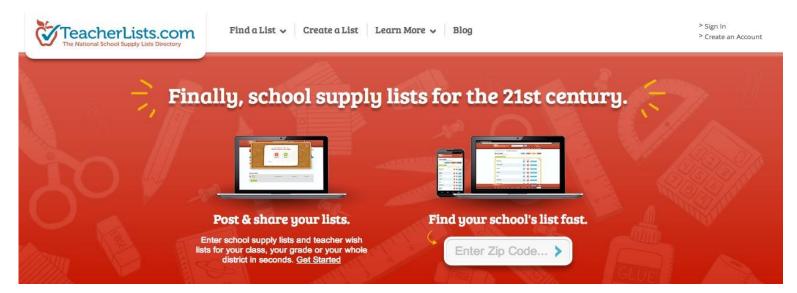# How Teacherlists.com Used SlashDB to Add a Data API to Their Website in Record Time

TeacherLists.com (a subsidiary of School Family Media, Inc.) is a free service that makes it easier for teachers to create and share their back-to-school supply lists and classroom wish lists.

They had an opportunity to close a deal with a major online retailer; however, to do so they would need to implement robust access to their own databases via an API.

> "When it comes to speed of implementation and support, you will have a very hard time matching SlashDB."
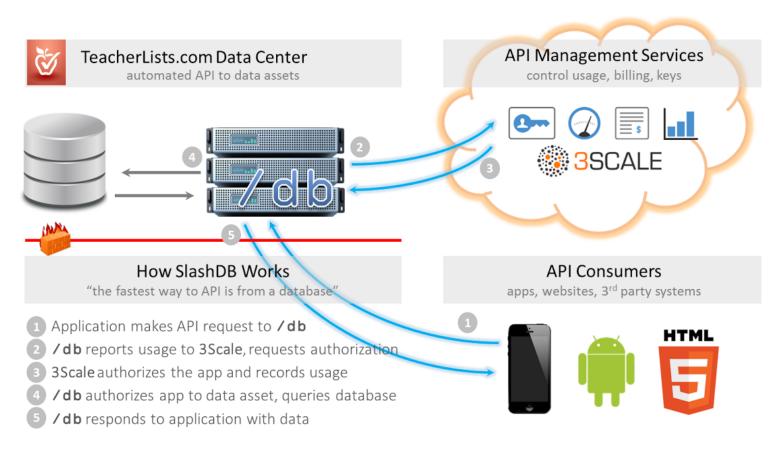>
> TeacherLists.com
> Project Lead

"Our company needed an API quickly. Cost was a factor but speed of implementation and reliability were the primary concerns." After getting project plans from a number of development firms, TeacherLists realized the time necessary for a custom-built API would be a road block for clients who were already interested in their data.

TeacherLists.com Data Center
automated API to data assets

API Management Services
control usage, billing, keys

3SCALE

How SlashDB Works
"the fastest way to API is from a database"

API Consumers
apps, websites, 3rd party systems

1. Application makes API request to **/db**
2. **/db** reports usage to **3Scale**, requests authorization
3. **3Scale** authorizes the app and records usage
4. **/db** authorizes app to data asset, queries database
5. **/db** responds to application with data

By integrating seamlessly with 3SCALE's API management services, SlashDB provided everything TeacherLists needed to complete the project very quickly and affordably, allowing them to launch a robust, secure API on top of their database assets.

After choosing SlashDB, the implementation process was "very smooth" and TeacherLists was able to quickly set up an API — much faster then any other custom built options. Now their entire schema — except for the tables they explicitly filtered out — is accessible via REST calls across a number of formats. When new calls are needed, they "can easily add API calls without touching code."

When compared to building a custom API SlashDB's speed to implementation "is obvious but the monthly fees mean there is no significant expense up-front. Plus, with the support plan, we were able to get tweaks included that may have been an added expense with a traditional API solution."

SlashDB

"**We have a professional API that took very little time to implement and we were able to start promoting that almost immediately**. We wrote a proof-of-concept application to show the capabilities and we were able to start that about 2 days after we pulled the trigger for the SlashDB install."

SLASHDB FEATURES

Data Discovery
- Preserves complex object relationships
- Intuitive URL scheme
- Configurable traversal depth
- No SQL code required

SQL Pass-Thru
- Supports any valid SQL query
- Maps query parameters

1-Click Data Formats
- XML (with XSD)
- CSV
- JSON
- HTML

Support for Microsoft Excel
- No VBA code required

Supports leading RDBMS
- Oracle
- Microsoft SQL Server
- IBM DB2
- Sybase
- MySQL, and more

Scalability
- Stateless design
- Usable with MapReduce and relational algebra
- Caching
- Available as a virtual appliance

Works with Everything
- Java, C#, C++
- Python, PERL, VB/VBA
- Clojure, Scala, F#
- JavaScript, PHP, ASP.Net, etc.

**Try SlashDB Today via a Free Trial
Available on Amazon Web Services
or On-Premises**

SlashDB has applications in both enterprise and web environments:

- **Enterprise Data Management**, as an alternative or supplement to data warehousing and ETL
- **Data Gateway** for authorized web/mobile applications to enterprise databases
- **Overcoming data silos** by enabling self-service data search and reporting for non-technical staff
- **Data asset monetization** by providing an on-demand alternative to static file distribution.

To learn more about these use cases, system's features, or to schedule a demo please visit our website us at:

www.SlashDB.com

or contact us at:

VT Enterprise LLC
2 Lyon Court
Jersey City, NJ 07305
Tel. +1 (201) 540-9883