Solving EDI with IBM Sterling B2B Integrator

IBM helps you meet your EDI requirements

Benefits

- Attains higher operational productivity
- Shortens order-to-cash and procure-to-pay cycles
- Elevates customer service levels
- Makes doing business with you easier
- Captures global opportunities
- Complies with mandates

Businesses in the global economy continue to pursue greater operational efficiency through process automation, better supply chain integration and improved visibility. These strategies produce bottom line improvements, such as shorter order-to-cash and procure-to-pay cycles, and better forecasting and inventory management. They also drive growth through better customer service and both supply chain and market segment intelligence.

IBM® Sterling B2B Integrator provides a rich portfolio of components that enable businesses to meet EDI requirements, readily integrate business processes, automate trading partner onboarding and management, and take full advantage of both existing IT assets and new IT investments.

Attain higher operational productivity

If you can reduce re-keying and entry errors, you'll reduce your costs. Sterling B2B Integrator for helps your organization streamline and automate routine tasks, thereby reducing redundant data entry and costly errors.

Shorten order-to-cash and procure-to-pay cycles

Shorter cycles lead to improved cash flow and more working capital. You'll lower order management costs and reduce invoice processing costs. You'll also stem the "savings leakage" that results from penalties, duplicate payments and overpayments. Ultimately, you'll gain greater negotiation leverage through prompt payments, turn preferred-trading agreements into volume discounts and rebates, and make more timely use of available cash. Sterling B2B Integrator helps enable you to achieve these goals through integration and automation for less paperwork, closed-loop electronic order-to-cash methods, improved reporting and visibility, and easier compliance enforcement.

Elevate customer service levels

Sterling B2B Integrator helps you to improve customer service levels through enhanced inventory management, greater availability, more accurate demand forecasts, more timely replenishment and collaborative production schedules.

Make doing business with you easier

Sterling B2B Integrator helps sellers accommodate a variety of buyer requirements, including multiple data standards, communication protocols and sales channels.

Capture global opportunities

Competition in the global marketplace requires global sourcing and global supplier bases. But global operations are complicated by differences in time zones, languages and technology. For both large players and small manufacturers, non-electronic means of business communications have proven inadequate to address these challenges. One of the best ways to bridge the communication gap is to enforce better EDI compliance across your entire value chain. Sterling B2B Integrator is a single package that enables compliance with a wide variety of international electronic communications standards, ranging from EDI to XML to proprietary data formats.

Comply with mandates

Sterling B2B Integrator helps you meet customer, industry and government mandates on time. As a unified solution for EDI, it saves you wasted integration effort.
It supports the multiple document definitions and standards used by different industries. And it enables you to meet governmental regulations that require electronic transactions in both EDI and XML standards.

Capability	Description	
Translation	• Supported translation formats: – EDI (ANSI X.12, UCS X.12, UN EDIFACT, ODETTE, TRADACOMS, Japanese Center for Information of Industry (CII), VDA, GENCOD, WINS, and others) – Positional – Variable-delimited (including comma-separated values) – XML translation (XML Encoder, XML Schema, XSLT transformations, XPath Expression Builder)	• EDI document compliance checking (both inbound and outbound) • "Any-to-any" translation among EDI, XML, ODBC and user-defined application formats • Internationalization (multiple languages) • Localization (multiple regional data formats) • ANSI X.12 (A1) transactions for HIPAA
Mapping	• Map Editor for visual mapping of: – EDI documents – Positional documents – Variable-length-delimited documents – CII documents – SQL documents – XML documents	• Dynamic and extended mapping with advanced logic • Map conversion to new standard versions • Online access to up-to-date EDI standards
Trading partner management	• Trading partner profile creation, maintenance and change management • Community management application • Trading partner onboarding through Partner Wizard	
Security	• Comprehensive role-based security • Perimeter server • XML Digital Signature support • PGP Profile Manager	• Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) • Single sign-on • Digital certificates

Integration and adapters	• Multi-purpose data transformation engine • Traditional EDI: X12, EDIFACT, CII,TRADACOMS, and Verband der Automobilindustrie (VDA) • XML standards: OAGi, CIDX, PIDX, and RosettaNet • Internet standards for B2B data exchange: RosettaNet RNIF, ebXML, and 1SYNC • XSLT service to transform XML documents adapters • Enterprise applications: SAP (BAPI, IDOC, and Netweaver), Oracle, PeopleSoft, Connect:Direct®, Connect:Enterprise®, Gentran:Server®, GXS, IBM WebSphere Transformation Extender • EAI messaging platforms: IBM WebSphere MQ, Oracle AQ, BEA Tuxedo, TIBCO Rendezvous, Vitria Businessware, WebMethods Enterprise, Microsoft MSMQ, JMS Queue and Topic • Technology: JDBC, LDAP, command line, file system, EJB, RMI, SNMP trap, JCA CCI, IM (Instant Messaging)
Business process management	• Graphical process modeling tool • Business process execution engine • Prioritized, scheduled and specialized processing based on trading partner relationship, time sensitivity and/or document type • Reliable EDI document delivery with data routing and data separation • View, edit and resend EDI data
Communications	• Communications protocols, SSH, S/FTP/S, OFTP, HTTP and HTTP/S, SMTP and Connect:Direct • Connectivity to major VANs (Value Added Networks) • Robust and flexible scripting language to construct intricate communications dialogs • Store-and-forward mailbox services • Advanced file transfer • Support for AS1, AS2 and AS3 technology • Support for Web services (SOAP)
Auditing, tracking and archiving	• Auditing on incoming and outgoing transactions, groups and interchanges • Dashboard interface • Reports: – EDI Outbound Acknowledgement Report – EDI Translation Detail Report – Translation Service Report – Community Management Report – Traffic and Traffic Summary reports – Authentication and Authorization reports • A variety of simple and advanced searches • Event viewer • Tracking: – Document processing (comprehensive EDI/XML document flow tracking) – Continuous EDI/XML transaction life-cycle tracking – Queue priority statistics tracking – Trading partner status tracking – Database access activity and database usage tracking • Archiving (scheduled and manual) and purging • System logs and archive log • Community-activity monitoring • Batch processing monitoring
Alert notification and exception management	• Automatic event notifications via e-mail, pager or user-defined delivery mechanism • Detailed error reporting and status reporting with user-defined error messages • Diagnostic tools for checking during systems start-up and at periodic points • Manual handling option for flagged exceptions

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Software Group
Route 100
Somers, NY 10589
USA

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