



IBM EDI Services

Highlights

Helps maximize business efficiency through reduced processing time and lowered costs

Allows the exchange of virtually any information in electronic form

Facilitates data interchange via the Internet or VAN

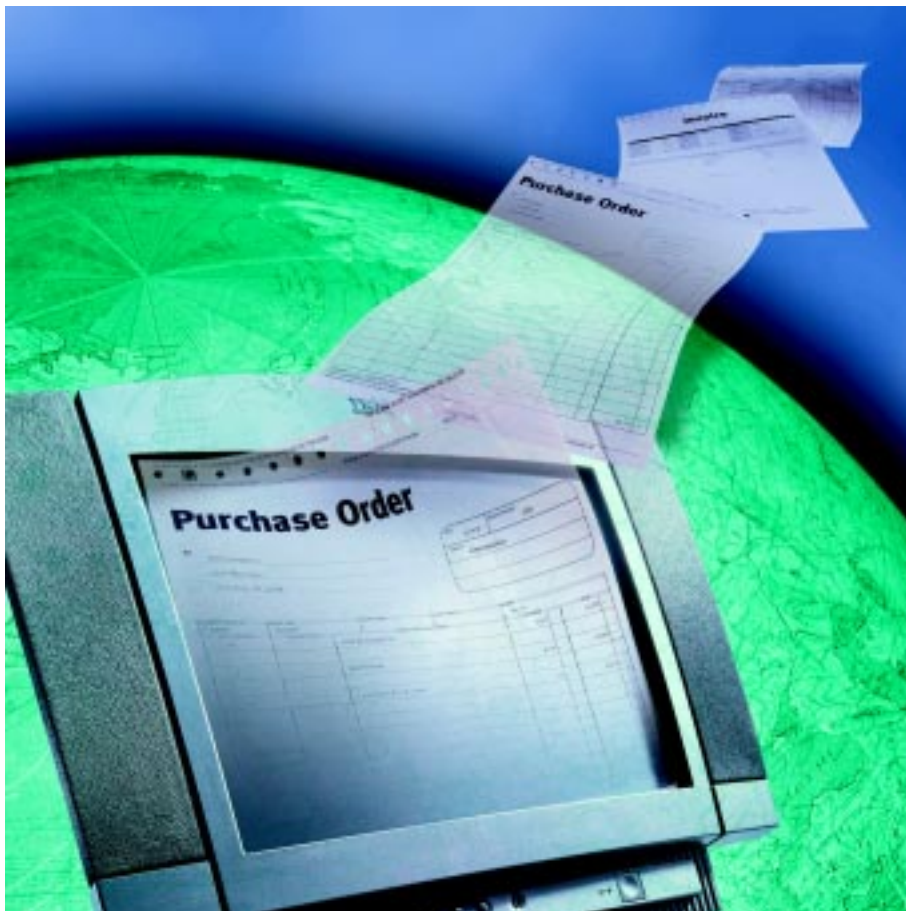
Helps prevent unauthorized data access with built-in security features

Provides a solid foundation for implementing e-business

Enabling e-business transactions between EDI trading partners

In today's competitive business environment, organizations use electronic data interchange (EDI) to increase productivity and improve the flow of business information. Many companies are using EDI as a key component of their electronic commerce (e-commerce) initiatives. Using the Internet, with its lower barriers of entry, in combination with traditional value-added network (VAN) EDI offerings, companies are extending their reach to 100 percent of their trading partners. These electronic business (e-business) strategies can translate into a competitive advantage.

IBM EDI Services, a managed electronic transaction service from IBM Global Services, is a worldwide market share leader in delivering e-business documents, such as purchase orders and bills of lading, between trading partners. EDI Services provides the products, services and training to transact business electronically, helping to increase efficiency, eliminate paper waste and reduce costs.



EDI Services provides you with:

- mailbox capabilities: Information Exchange
- Internet capabilities: Web application environment, forms exchange and Web data transfer
- translation capabilities: in-network translation and DataInterchange software products
- communications clients and open access methods: the Expedite communication software, including TCP/IP, FTP, asynchronous and bisynchronous access
- consulting, implementation and outsourcing services.

Mailbox capabilities for maximum flexibility

Information Exchange, the mailbox component, is the heart of EDI Services. With Information Exchange, you can send and retrieve information of virtually any size in electronic form from standard format EDI transactions to free-format documents such as memos, letters and order status inquiries. Information Exchange receives transactions and documents from trading partners on the network, routes them to the recipients' mailboxes and stores them until retrieved. You can send and receive information at your convenience, without worrying about timing and scheduling constraints.

With this mailbox component you can:

- implement an EDI program with large and small trading partners who have different kinds of computer systems, including your MQSeries and X.400 trading partners
- help control your communications costs and capital expenditures
- exchange spreadsheets, documents, files and e-mail
- use value-added features such as administration services accessed via the Web or online, distribution lists, archiving, event-driven EDI, acknowledgments and error recovery.

Internet capabilities for extended reach

The Web application environment component helps you extend your e-business strategy by providing the means to enable EDI on the Web for your non-EDI trading partners. This service leverages a dedicated Lotus® Domino™-based Web server that enables rapid development for site creation. In conjunction with other tools provided by the service, Domino enables customization of sample forms and applications, saving you time and money on development costs.

With this Web application environment component:

- your trading partners, who are already Web-enabled, use a Web browser so they can avoid purchasing additional communication software or train users on new technology
- EDI translation occurs within the network so your trading partners don't have to install EDI translation software or acquire mapping skills.

The forms exchange component provides entry-level EDI capability, allowing trading partners to reach hubs. Forms exchange translates purchase orders or other forms that are available on a shared Web site into EDI transactions and routes them to the designated hub's Information Exchange mailbox. This means you can leverage your existing investment while adding a new way to reach your trading partners.

With this forms exchange component you can:

- use a Web browser to view or print forms, such as purchase orders, from our Web site
- send and receive documents from a shared IBM®-owned and-operated Web site, increasing ease of use and decreasing startup time to participate in EDI.

The Web data transfer component provides file transfer capability via the Internet for your trading partners using a standard Web browser.

With the Web data transfer component you can:

- send and receive virtually any type of file — EDI, non-EDI, binary or text
- manage and check the status of files sent and received.

Translation capabilities for efficient data exchange

EDI Services offers translation software and services that provide more than just the ability to convert data to and from EDI standard formats. Translation capabilities are available either as standalone software or as an in-network service.

The DataInterchange software, available for MVS® and MVS/CICS®, translates proprietary and nonstandard transaction and document formats into EDI-standard formats. In addition, DataInterchange can map transactions created by SAP™ applications, and the DataInterchange client provides a program interface. Midrange and PC translators are available from IBM Business Partners.

DataInterchange provides:

- comprehensive management reporting and tracking system
- direct program interface for applications
- GUI client interface.

In-network translation provides you with an alternative to running translator software on your system. The service provides initial EDI transaction mapping, trading partner setup and VAN connectivity, in addition to ongoing EDI message translation.

Communications clients and open access for seamless information transfer

The Expedite family of software provides communications and user interfaces to the mailbox component. These programs process free-format files, e-mail messages and EDI-standard files. They run on most major platforms and leverage many value-added features of the Information Exchange mailbox component.

You can access EDI Services using several open communication protocols:

TCP/IP Gateway enables the mailbox component to look like an FTP server. If you are a TCP/IP user, you can send and receive EDI transactions through our security-rich network or the Internet.

Expedite/Async allows you to access the Information Exchange component from software products that support the popular asynchronous file transfer protocols: xmodem, ymodem, zmodem and the ANSI CLEAR file transfer procedure.

Expedite/Direct allows remote job entry (RJE) workstation users to communicate with the mailbox component using bisynchronous protocol.

Outsourcing and implementation services

EDI outsourcing and project assistance services allow you to leverage your existing EDI investment while taking advantage of our EDI skills, resources and services. By turning all or part of your EDI infrastructure over to IBM, you can focus on your core business.

EDI Services provides a solid foundation on which to build an e-business strategy. Because our technology is based on open standards, it allows you to leverage your existing systems and helps eliminate the possibility of technological obsolescence. By leveraging IBM's expertise in infrastructure, applications and support, you can implement a strategic e-business solution.

IBM EDI Services at a glance

Components

- Mailbox features (Information Exchange) with access via IBM Managed Data Network Services or the Internet
 - Internet capabilities (Web application environment, forms exchange, Web data transfer)
 - Translation capabilities (DataInterchange, third-party translation software or in-network translation)
 - Client and access communications (the Expedite family of software or open access methods)
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Optional features

- EDI outsourcing
 - IBM implementation assistance
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EDI data standards supported

- ANSI ASC X12, including binary segments
 - UN/EDI
 - UN/EDIFACT
 - UCS
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Multiple levels of security

- Password to access the service
 - Profiles to define, categorize or limit the use of the service facilities
 - Multiple authority levels for general users and service administrators
 - SSL, firewalls and certificates for Internet access
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Interconnection to other services

- Connects to major EDI VANs worldwide and supports the ANSI X12 12.56 mailbag and Interchange Delivery Notice (TA3) for improved control of data delivery between VANs
 - IBM Universal Messaging, X.400, IBM MQSeries Services and the e-commerce component of IBM Content Hosting Services
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Best of all worlds

IBM uses proven technology to deliver fast, reliable, security-rich network services to you. EDI Services enables you to transact e-business seamlessly with your trading partners within a managed environment that saves you time and money. This powerful and flexible service allows users on different systems around the world to trade information with each other efficiently.

Our managed network services and leading-edge technology make it easy for you to enjoy the benefits of a connected world.

Global thinking, local linking

When it comes to worldwide connectivity, IBM Global Services provides comprehensive remote access or wide area network connectivity with one of the industry's broadest ranges of global coverage and local support. You can easily connect to the IBM Global Network through more than 1,300 worldwide points of presence in more than 50 countries with local language help desks. A single connection can support multiple applications as well as EDI Services, so that you can expand the scope of your IT needs as your company grows.

Easy. Convenient. Customer-focused. Now you have a way to extend and strengthen the collaborative efforts of your teams located almost anywhere.

Engineered for reliability

There when you need it. This commitment is supported by a worldwide network engineered to provide world-class service and reliable transport of your business information. We've built in high levels of redundancy, including duplication of key network components like control centers and transmission links. Monitored around-the-clock with the latest in management tools, the IBM Global Network is designed to deliver fast, reliable connections through a security-rich computing environment.

A single source — a multitude of services

IBM Global Services delivers the network reliability, technical knowledge and security-enhanced applications to help meet the evolving needs of not only your business, but your customers' and suppliers' businesses as well. We understand and respond to your specific network and application requirements and provide geographic coverage with local customer support worldwide.

In addition to IBM EDI Services, our extensive portfolio of managed network services includes:

- connectivity through managed data network services
- content management through managed Internet and intranet services
- commerce through managed electronic transaction services
- collaboration through managed messaging and collaborative services
- customization through network outsourcing services.

For more information

To learn more about IBM EDI Services or other managed network services, contact us today at:

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