



Partner Services is the discussion topic for this presentation.

Business logic services provide the capability to implement and integrate business functions into sequences of operation that implement business processes. These services allow existing applications and data to be re-used, new business logic to be added, and services of third party systems to be fully utilized.

<u>Partner Services</u> – This layer of services provides support for traditional B2B partner integration solutions

•Community: Allows for the management of the trading community for both the hub manager as well as providing partner self-management functions

•**Document**: Enables the support for business protocols such as RosettaNet and AS1/AS2 as well as state management for public process conversations

•**Protocol**: Provides transport level services including authentication, document routing and other edge services for automated document interchange



WebSphere Business Integration Connect and WebSphere Data Interchange are the two primary products which provide Partner Integration Services – additionally other B2B solution architectures are possible with other IBM BI products as well (and these will be covered within the presentation)



B2B has moved through a series of generations – the initial development of EDI gave rise quickly to VANs to manage trading partner relationships. A value-added network (VAN) is a private network provider (sometimes called a turnkey communications line) that is hired by a company to facilitate electronic data interchange (EDI) or provide other network services. Before the arrival of the Internet, some companies hired value-added networks to move data from their company to other companies.



A value-added network (VAN) is a private network provider (sometimes called a turnkey communications line) that is hired by a company to facilitate electronic data interchange (EDI) or provide other network services. Before the arrival of the World Wide Web, some companies hired value-added networks to move data from their company to other companies. With the arrival of the World Wide Web, many companies found it more cost-efficient to move their data over the Internet instead of paying the minimum monthly fees and per-character charges found in typical VAN contracts. In response, contemporary value-added network providers now focus on offering EDI translation, <u>encryption</u>, secure e-mail, management reporting, and other extra services for their customers.



With the arrival of the Internet, many companies found it more cost-efficient to move their data over the Internet instead of paying the minimum monthly fees and per-character charges found in typical VAN contracts. In response, contemporary value-added network providers now focus on offering EDI translation, encryption, secure e-mail, management reporting, and other extra services for their customers. It should be noted that in the wake of the Internet-based solutions, the VAN/traditional EDI vendors have enabled Internet integration and have slashed prices for VAN integration to be competitive. Bit VANs are not going away for the near to mid term.





EDI provides a standard communication data format that... EDI provides Speed, Improves Accuracy, Reduces Cost, Has flexibility, Improves process



EDI Formatting is the exchange of business documents in a commonly agreed format that comply with EDI standards such as ANSI X12 or EDIFACT. EDI standards are basically data standards that provide the syntax and semantics of the data being exchanged. For example Data Elements, Data Segments and the Data Message all need to be meet guidelines in the subsections above.



Here is an example of an EDI document, how it would look if it were printed on Purchase Order form and how it would be sent if it were an EDI document. Notice that there are two additional segments to envelope the transaction.



The traditional EDI architecture includes the business application(s), an EDI translator and a Value Added Network (or VAN) to provide communications with the trading partner community. This method reduces cycle times, provides a level of automation and integration and reduces errors associated with rekeying of information.

The business integration architecture incorporates the EDI component within the message broker to provide a more seamless and flexible flow of information between the trading community and the business applications.



The purpose of the EDIINT specification is to ensure interoperability between EDI user agents that invoke a commonly expected security feature.

Electronic Data Interchange over the Internet (EDI-INT) is an Internet standard, defining a common transport method for sending EDI messages over the Internet. EDI-INT enables EDI transactions through SMTP email with enhanced encryption and security through S/MIME. This document is also NOT limited to strict EDI use, but applies to any electronic commerce application where business data needs to be exchanged over the Internet in a secure manner.



This slide will step you through the process of a round-trip EDIINT document.



EDIINT places ordinary X12 messages in an s/mime envelope. The s/mime guarantees confidentiality and non-repudiation of the transaction source. S/mime communicates digital signatures, encryption parameters, certificates and keys. Secret keys are generated for each message, RSA encrypted and exchanged in-band as part of the EDIINT exchange. EDIINT includes specification of message disposition notification (MDN) to provide for receipt and notification of appropriate message decryption and authenticity verification. EDIINT explicitly supports a variety of data transport protocols: SMTP, FTP and HTTP.



- 1. Currently, all trading partners are using the VAN to transfer EDI documents. The WebSphere Data Interchange software translates the EDI data into a human readable email message as well as writing information into a file and into a database. There are over 100,000 lines of WebSphere Data Interchange scripts that perform various tasks, but these scripts were written over a decade and none of the WebSphere Data Interchange scripting authors are available.
- 2. While some trading partners want to move off of the VAN and use EDIINT software, others might still require or demand using the VAN. Some expense can be saved on the receiving end since the VAN is not responsible for as many features, such as security.
- 3. Eventually, all trading partners move off of the VAN, and send encrypted documents using the Internet. The Internet is shown as a cloud in the slides.



B2B integration is moving from a Message-Centric Batch approach of moving business data to a Process-Centric approach. The slide above shows the differences between these integration solutions – in a nutshell, we are moving away from a document exchange solution to a conversational approach for interacting with partners – much of the reason for this is to increase the efficiency and preciseness of B2B interactions.



So what is "Partner Services"? If we look at it from a software point of view, there are two primary components:

WebSphere Business Integration Connect primary function is to handle the Communication and Community Management function of integrating with your trading partners. It manages the transport protocols, such as HTTP and FTP, etc. It also manages the Message protocols such as EDIINT AS1, AS2. And it provides for some basic validation and translation (XML Stylesheets) and routing to the appropriate next process.

Note that I show the next process is WDI for translation, the data actually could be routed to the ESB or directly to an application using MQ, HTTP or file structures

The other component is WebSphere Data Interchange. Its primary function is to provide data transformations between the file formats used by the trading partner (EDI, XML, Flatfile) and the formats provided by the internal environment. It also provides for some specific value added functions such as Fucntional Acknowledgement generation and reconciliation, data content validation and substituion, and routing.

Note that I show the next process is the ESB for disposition, response data (another transaction or Functional acknowledgement) actually could be routed to back to WBIC for sending to trading parnters, or directly to an application using MQ, file structures.



This provides for community integration services and is the key differentiator of the WBI Connect solution architecture.



<u>Partner Services</u> – This layer of services provides support for traditional B2B partner integration solutions

•Community: Allows for the management of the trading community

•**Document**: Enables the support for business protocols and document standards

•Protocol: Provides transport level services



You may remember the "delivery" component from the architecture schematic. This is the component responsible for TRP to partners as well as to EAI.

Supports multiple transports to partners: HTTP/S, FTP, SFTP, SMTP Supports multiple transports to EAI: HTTP/S, JMS

Interoperability

•Within the enterprise

•Outside the enterprise: facilitated by compliance with industry standards

Retries

•HTTP-level transport retries

•RN-level and business level process retries based on trading partner agreements (as part of document services)

Message queuing

•Messages that cannot be delivered are queued for delivery at a later time

•Queuing and retry parameters are all configurable



IBM has recognised that community integration is not achieved out of the box. It requires considerable expertise in planning and support to build, run and manage an integrated community of trading partners. IBM has recognised that the likely participants in the new generation of B2B environments have different requirements.

Accordingly, WebSphere BI Connect is available in three editions.

•Express is designed for small to medium-sized businesses that want to integrate with a very small number of partners as quickly, simply and affordably as possible. The number of partners could be as many as five under a single license. Typically, the Express customer needs to connect to a large and important trading partner at that partner's request, while maybe not possessing a great amount of in-house IT expertise.

•Advanced Edition is designed for companies that need to connect to a growing number of trading partners, with a potentially high number of trading partner connection definitions or a large number of transactions. Trading communities are fluid, thus the number of connections maintained by a company will fluctuate. Advanced Edition provides the flexibility to connect to all trading partners as required. It supports multiple partners, transports and multiple data formats

•Enterprise Edition is ideal for large enterprises building a hub where any number of partner connections may be required. As such, it permits unlimited connection definitions.

Community Management operations are enabled via the Console component which administers the hub instance. In addition to providing visibility into hub operations, partners can log into the Community Console to view specific information related to the relationship with the Community Hub operations e.g. their partner profile, partner-specific interactions (inbound and outbound) with the hub) etc.



You may remember the "delivery" component from the architecture schematic. This is the component responsible for TRP to partners as well as to EAI.

Supports multiple transports to partners: HTTP/S, FTP, SFTP, SMTP Supports multiple transports to EAI: HTTP/S, JMS

Interoperability

•Within the enterprise: with WebSphere BI (Interchange) Server as well as with WebSphere Data Interchange •Outside the enterprise: facilitated by compliance with industry standards. We intend for both our AS2 and RN capabilities to be certified

Retries •HTTP-level transport retries •RN-level process retries based on trading partner agreements

Message queuing

•Messages that cannot be delivered are queued for delivery at a later time

•Queuing and retry parameters are all configurable





The delivery component also performs validation

•Structure and Syntax

•XML schema for RN PIPS will be available as a download

•Data

•Can be validated based on preloaded XSD as part

Appropriate people can be notified validation exceptions via e-mail as well as other exception conditions



We're using PKI and industry-standard encryption and security tools to safeguard the transmission of all data. As new technologies emerge in core WAS (e.g. WS-Security, WS-Federation) as part of the code refactoring, these features will be directly supported within WebSphere BI Connect as well.

IBM Software Group WebSphere software	IBM
WebSphere Business Integration Connect – Technical Features Extensible Architecture	
Pluggable Protocols and Packagers	
Provide interface to create and 'plug-in' protocols	
Documented for Customers, Services and Partners	
Establish Business Partner Program	
WBI Connect to leverage framework for supported protocols	
RNIF 1.0 / 2.0 AS1 / AS2 cXML Others	
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User Exits Protocols and Packagers:

One of the challenges we are currently faced with in WBI Connect (and frankly any b2b product faces), is supporting the countless protocols that our customers/prospects need. While we will have some core protocols we'll want to build into the product, we have many others that are just not practical for IBM to development. This is very similar to the Adapter model. With the User Exits: Protocols & Packagers, we will provide the ability for customers, services and Partners to develop and seamlessly plug-in Protocols they need.

Of course, to ensure customers and partners can truly leverage the power of the user exits, we will provide complete documentation.













This slide lists the three major configuration topologies – however many other solution architectures can be supported as well due to loosely coupled architecture of the product.



As a result of the loosely coupled component architecture of WebSphere BI Connect – this diagram shows a possible configuration for a deployment solution. Additionally Reverse Proxy, Intrusion Detection Solutions, Network Load Dispatching can be in front of the Target as well and are directly supported as part of the overall topology. There is a technical brief on security topology which goes into more depth on this area.



Data Translation application: WDI operates on multiple platforms including Windows 2000, AIX, OS/390 and z/OS.

Data Mapping Tool: WDI Client operates on Windows platforms including WIN 98, 2000 and NT.



WebSphere Data Interchange provides Any-to-Any data transformation. The DI Client interface includes a new Create Map Wizard and new mapping screens to support Any-to-Any mapping.



Data Translation application: WDI operates on multiple platforms including Windows 2000, AIX, OS/390 and z/OS.

Data Mapping Tool: WDI Client operates on Windows platforms including WIN 98, 2000 and NT.


An improved WDI Client provides support for target based mapping. The new Create Map Wizard also provides setup support for new Data Transformation maps.

IBM Software Group WebSphere so	ftware
Functional Highlights	
<section-header> 4. Multi-process (multi-threaded) capability. 4. Support for concurrent users and applications. 4. Support for concurrent users and applications. 4. Support for concurrent users and applications. 4. Support of concurrent users and spatial values. 4. Support of</section-header>	 Mapping support includes: Any-to-any mapping Any-to-any mapping Herals/constants Accumulators, arithmetic and logical operations Qualified loop and element mapping Herarchical loop mapping User defined translation and validation tables Bolean logic Deferred Mapping, Special Logic (DIMAPSWITCH, DI MAPCHAIS) Specific; One to many (shared); Multiple versions digration – Between Standards & Systems EDI Reporting and Auditing Arading partner relationships including Arading partner relationships including Bast communication exchange Sue question ests used Austommunication exchange Austommunication status Exception information SPA P/3 certified Anagement (statistical) reporting
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In terms of integrating with EDI solution offerings (including WDI) the above diagram shows the basic document flow into and out of the EDI transformation engine. In the use of WebSphere BI Connect with non-WDI EDI transformation offerings which may already be installed at a customer site (e.g. Sterling Gentran, GXS Application Integrator or Inovis Harbinger), the technology could interface to WebSphere BI Connect either via JMS/MQ or via Files.





WebSphere BI Connect Express V4.2 is designed to provide the same core functional capability of the Advanced and Enterprise products, but without the extensive scalability and features required for a community manager. As a result, WebSphere BI Connect Express provides a simple, browser based gateway with a very small footprint and low price. WebSphere BI Connect Express was designed for the company which is required to provide it's trading partner(s) with B2B capability, but has little to no IT expertise in house.

In short, WebSphere BI Connect – Express is a small, easy to install, easy to use, costeffective B2B connectivity tool. It uses AS2 standards for transmitting documents securely over the internet and will be Drummond certified at release.





IBM Software Group WebSphere software	IBM
Secure Message Routing	
Supports HTTP/S transport for SSL server and client authentication	
AS2 packaging for secure Internet connectivity	
Supports document signing / verifying	
Supports document encryption / decryption	
Supports document compression	
Stores and transmits any document format, e.g.:	
XML (OAG, proprietary, etc.)	
> EDI	
Text Files	
Binary, etc.	
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WebSphere BI Connect Express uses a file-based transport scheme and directory structure to support document exchanges.

IBM Software Group WebSphe	ere software	IBM
WBI Connect – Express Partner Capabi	ilities	
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Legend:		
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IBM Software Group WebSphere software	IBM
WBI Connect – Express Partner Summary	
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WebSphere Business Integration Connect (Business Integration Connect) 4.2.1 Advanced and Enterprise supports a number of transport protocols for document exchange between Business Integration Connect and internal application integration, including JMS, HTTP, and file system. XML, flat file, EDI, binary and RosettaNet are examples of document types exchanged between Business Integration Connect and internal applications. UTF-8 encoding, at the transport level, is used both inbound and outbound document exchange.

WebSphere BI Connect Adv/Ent can support all protocols e.g. FTP, SMTP, RN, SOAP (whereas WebSphere BI Connect Express supports only HTTP, HTTPS and AS2). WebSphere BI Connect (both Advanced/Enterprise as well as Express) can interact with other solutions as well – and this will be a logical configuration for many partner interactions.



Business requirements are changing and the technology is morphing as well. Managing Networks of trading partners is far more challenging and more related to the "Business Management" acumen of our Enterprises than ever before, as opposed to being only and IT challenge of connectivity and reporting. It is key to stay current on the developments in this space esp. with respect to Web Services and Standards.

Trading partner agreements are defined in much more detailed, broader terms. They may be constituted by multiple data exchange formats, such as EDI, or specified File Formats (FTP, as an example), or the trading partner agreement may include process related standards exchange, like adherence to NEMI (National Electronics manufacturing Institute) PDX messages or OAG BOD process content. Regardless the details, a B2B relationship now encompasses a more complete set of issues relating to the Community Integration. These factors enable the WebSphere BI Connect approach to offer a comprehensive solution for the problem set faced by our customers.

Solve complex problems easily – for example, compliance to service level agreements is a powerful analytic tool, which is necessary in a B2B platform. Captured in a disciplined, and routine manner, capturing compliance to acknowledgement turn-around, business volume statistics and the like can enrich the relationships established electronically.

Lastly – start simple – focus on the problem and don't "boil the ocean" – if you provide a solution to the problem – you have won half of the battle. By addressing B2B requirements as a set of compelling events, you be successful in driving a solution oriented approach for B2B solution architecture. With the WebSphere BI Connect technology, customers can scale from a small trading community consisting of 3-5 partners to a complete trading community consisting of tens, hundreds and thousands of trading partners.



The Patterns for e-business layered asset model

The Patterns for e-business approach enables architects to implement successful e-business solutions through the re-use of components and solution elements from proven successful experiences. The Patterns approach is based on a set of layered assets that can be exploited by any existing development methodology. These layered assets are structured in a way that each level of detail builds on the last. These assets include:

• Business patterns that identify the interaction between users, businesses, and data.

• Integration patterns that tie multiple Business patterns together when a solution cannot be provided based on a single Business pattern.

• Composite patterns that represent commonly occurring combinations of Business patterns and Integration patterns.

• Application patterns that provide a conceptual layout describing how the application components and data within a Business pattern or Integration pattern interact.

• Runtime patterns that define the logical middleware structure supporting an Application pattern. Runtime patterns depict the major middleware nodes, their roles, and the interfaces between these nodes.

• Product mappings that identify proven and tested software implementations for each Runtime pattern.

• Best-practice guidelines for design, development, deployment, and management of e-business applications.



There are may ways to describe interactions between trading partners, form a public process, or multiple distinct public processes to basic data exchange. Each public process integrates into the private business process creating a layer of abstraction between trading partners. What is necessary to understand in this slide is that the Public Process should provide a loose coupling from the Private Processes and Applications. This provides better access controls into the organization while maintaining standards across industries.

The "golden rule" of business-to-business integration is, the less you know about the business partner's private processes and the implementation details of their applications, the better off you are. This loose coupling enables organizations to evolve their applications without affecting business partner's applications.



In the Shared Process Flow there are several approaches that have been successful for Extending the Enterprise with Public Processes, from simple Document Exchange to Managed Public and Private Processes. Examples: RosettaNet

These five patterns are shown in the diagram.

IBM Software Group WebSphere software					IBN
Extended Enterprise (B2B) Business Driver Patterns	ment ange	Exposed Application	Exposed Business Services	Managed Public Processes	Managed Public and Private Processes
Business Drivers	Document Exchange	Expo Appli	Exposed Business	Mana Publi	Mana and P
Improve the organizational efficiency.	 ✓ 	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Reduce the latency of business events.	✓	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
partners.	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
applications.		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
business services.			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
partners.				\checkmark	\checkmark
partner-shared business process flows					\checkmark
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Business Drivers also play a key role into the Extended Enterprise Pattern. Business decisions are usually found through the use of score cards that enable efficiency throughout the value chain, the higher the score the more efficient the process. This may cut trading partners from doing business with a particular business. As seen in the chart above simple Document Exchange improves the organizational efficiency since all organizations still have some form of manual process, through mail or fax. There is still a driver to get partners on an electronic form of exchange of documents. When we look at Managed Public/Private process companies can now have visibility into processes for time to perform types of events supporting more real-time access to services. This can be a considerable cost savings for businesses.

Additional information on patterns can be found in the Redbook below:

Patterns: Broker Interactions for Intra- and Inter-enterprise

Revised: April 26, 2004 ISBN: 0738498890 292 pages – http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246075.html



The most common pattern is Exposed Direct Connection Pattern. Large organizations often require their business partners to exchange messages electronically. For example, they may mandate the use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transaction sets over a particular Value Added Network (VAN) for certain interactions such as placing an order. In this pattern a direct connection can establish that same EDI transaction to a trading partner. Many companies use this pattern for EDI over the Internet.



The Managed Public Process pattern handles different business protocols with different business partners and maps long running external transactions to internal business processes and workflow.

The primary business driver for choosing this Extended Enterprise pattern is to enable business partner systems to gain direct access to specific business services. These services when invoked may in turn trigger multiple tasks on many backend applications. In other words, business requirements cannot be met by simple integration with a single backend application, as is the case with the Exposed Application application pattern.

More information can be found at the following sites.

Patterns: Broker Interactions for Intra- and Inter-enterprise

Revised: April 26, 2004 ISBN: 0738498890 292 pages – http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246075.html

http://www-106.ibm.com/developerworks/patterns/b2bi/select-application-topology.html



Requirements/Constraints is the logical place to start in terms of designing a B2B solution architecture. It is likely that the B2B component may not arise separately but become part of a larger integration effort. Nonetheless, it is important to appropriately segment the overall project in terms of definable project efforts with a containable scope.

The project definition should provide a relatively succinct statement of high level objectives reconciled with a an understanding of the current B2B solution architecture. The objectives will include investment drivers, key features/functions as well as support objectives. It should also be clear in defining dependencies – as an example, a company that is currently implementing or upgrading an R/3 installation will impose many dependencies on a B2B solution architecture that needs to integrate with the ERP systems.

Requirement definition should concentrate on answering the "what" and stay away from the "how" and should provide the initial use cases. The identification of the community partners and their environments/requirements needs to be called out here – interestingly, this is often overlooked as part of the process. The key trading partner should have an active role in this process as well. The requirements will be pivotal in developing test cases. Lastly, prioritization is key and needs to be assessed as well with reference to resource and scope considerations within time and budget.

Constraints need to be addressed and conscientiously documented to determine those things that cannot be changed within the scope/lifetime of the project

The architect needs to be actively involved in review/gathering of requirements and assessment of project scope as well as constraint identification and assessment.



This solution architecture shows a hybrid solution – the customer has decided to embark on a leading edge initiative for SOA and anticipates the partner community will want to integrate on a services oriented basis – however the reality is that the world still consists of EDI and XML interactions requiring the use of WBI Connect (as well as their existing WDI solution for EDI transformation).



Business requirements are changing and the technology is morphing as well. Managing Networks of trading partners is far more challenging and more related to the "Business Management" acumen of our Enterprises than ever before, as opposed to being only and IT challenge of connectivity and reporting. It is key to stay current on the developments in this space esp. with respect to Web Services and Standards and it is key to IBM's ODOE.

IBM offers a number of solutions for partner integration. In most cases, the lead solution is WebSphere BI Connect. WebSphere BI Connect offers a comprehensive solution for the problem set faced by our customers. It provides a solution to solve complex problems easily – for example, compliance to service level agreements is a powerful analytic tool, which is necessary in a B2B platform. Captured in a disciplined, and routine manner, capturing compliance to acknowledgement turn-around, business volume statistics and the like can enrich the relationships established electronically. Combined with an outstanding foundation architecture providing high scalabilities, support for a wide range of transport protocols (with more coming soon) and a deep integration with the rest of the IBM portfolio, WebSphere BI Connect is on target to be the leading community integration solution.



This slide lists the basic resources for further research.



This slide lists the classes available for IBM sales and technical personnel.