

EDI for Microsoft Dynamics® AX : A New Paradigm for Trading Partners

Moving Beyond Insufficient Transactions to Strategic Interactions that Promote Commerce



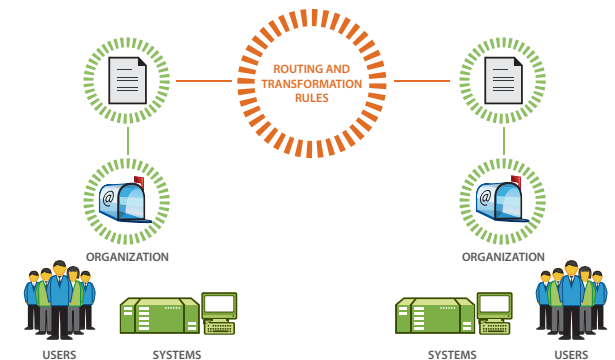
Maximize the Benefits of Microsoft Dynamics AX

Microsoft Dynamics AX (Dynamics AX) users realize significant benefits from a robust enterprise resource planning (ERP) system with expansive features and customizable modules. Organizations that leverage Dynamics AX can manage multiple business processes from a single platform. The flexibility of Dynamics AX also allows businesses to partner with best-in-class, third party applications. One such technology solution is B2BMailbox, a managed file transfer application and EDI solution in the cloud.

What Does B2BMailbox Do?

B2BMailbox is more than just an EDI solution for moving data back and forth. The managed file solution instantaneously routes, translates, aggregates and de-aggregates data on a single platform in the cloud, enabling retailers to seamlessly exchange information with trading partners to drive both functional processes and actionable intelligence.

B2BMailbox recognizes the custom file format preferences for a business and its trading partners across a variety of documents. When a file is sent within the solution, it is instantaneously recognized and repackaged as an invoice, purchase order, sales order, or shipment in the preferred file format of



the receiving organization. The solution enables companies to:

- Process orders electronically and share external data with internal systems (e.g. Dynamics AX)
- Leverage a vendor portal with a recognized user interface, simplifying the management of invoices, purchase orders, shipments and more across trading partners
- Send and receive files via various transports (http/s, s/ftp/s, AS2)
- Route files between organizations
- Encrypt, decrypt, compress and decompress files
- Access management tools for controlling/auditing the file movement process

The ability to not only share data between trading partners but also immediately leverage and act upon information on a single cloud-based technology platform is a critical competitive advantage for companies. Not only does it improve the velocity of commerce and reduce costly technology modifications, it drives improved intelligence, customer service and profits.

Vendor Portal for Trading Partners

A notably beneficial feature of B2BMailbox is the vendor portal for creating communities and defining the relationships between companies and their vendors, suppliers and partners. The vendor portal includes an easy to use, modern user interface. It allows trading partners to exchange invoices and purchase orders with customers and set up notification preferences (e.g., via SMS text message, email, or within B2BMailbox) to receive alerts when these documents are received within their B2BMailbox account. When a purchase order has been received, a company can log in to its account and take any of the following actions:

- Acknowledge receipt of the purchase order
- Ship the entire purchase order (all line items ship with the quantities in order)
- Ship specific lines of a purchase order
- Ship a smaller amount than requested at a per line level
- Cancel a purchase order

From this point, a company can also create an invoice based on the purchase order to send back to the customer. As with purchase orders, a customer can notify a vendor when the invoice has been paid.

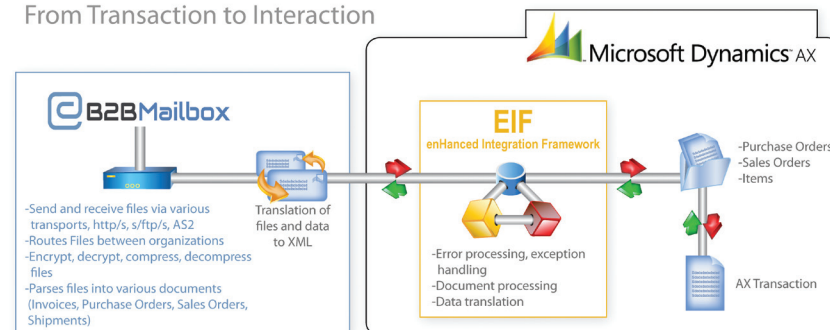
The Preferred EDI Application for Dynamics AX

At its core, EDI is simply a data standard; however, there are still hundreds of ways to code this type of information. Every business alters EDI documents differently to fit with their processes and systems. So, in that regard, it is difficult to standardize the EDI process between organizations – there is no out-of-the-box solution that just works. Every transaction with vendors/trading partners has to be customized.

The situation can become more complex when you throw another system in the mix, in this case, Dynamics AX. To give Dynamics AX users competitive advantage, enVista has developed a proprietary integration component, allowing B2BMailbox to seamlessly interface with Dynamics AX. enVista's

EDI to AX

From Transaction to Interaction



"enHanced Integration Framework" (EIF) was designed to circumvent any integration issues between Dynamics AX and external systems. EIF provides the flexibility to configure, execute and manage custom integrations and has the capability to facilitate error processing and exception handling.

Traditional EDI services for Dynamics AX operate outside of the framework of the ERP system. In other words, there is not a tight integration with AX logic and processes. While this eliminates the need for hiring a developer and incurring additional maintenance costs, it also makes it harder to address and integrate a company's specific business processes with the chosen EDI service. B2BMailbox can be managed within AX, which allows enVista to adapt the solution to a client's business needs. We have taken great care to limit the amount of customizations to standard Dynamics AX objects so that future upgrades will be minimally impacted.

Summary: EDI for the Digital Age

In the era of digital communication, companies must keep pace by investing in IT infrastructure that supports their business goals and improves operational efficiency. By itself, EDI is not all that remarkable. However, as the speed of business has increased, companies need to be able to quickly exchange data, files and information with trading partners. B2B Mailbox is the preferred EDI solution for Dynamics AX users that need to access and exchange information with partners within a single system.

B2BMailbox is a managed file transfer solution that instantaneously routes, translates, aggregates and de-aggregates data on a single platform in the cloud.

Contact us today to learn more.