

B2B Connector

Plug-and-Play E-Commerce

B2B Connector is a plug-and-play device which gets business data exchange between organizations up and running quickly, reliably and securely. It puts various B2B standards into a box to make it a 'one device supporting different messaging formats'.

eXtensible Markup Language (ebXML), Universal Business Language (UBL) and Applicability Statement 2 (AS2) are mature standards for B2B business information exchange. Various commercial and open-source implementations are already available, but they require enormous amount of programming effort to develop applications. In addition, the administration work is cumbersome. Cost thus is the major barrier for many small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) to adopt international standards to meet their customer's B2B demand.

B2B Connector is an affordable device that supports various B2B standards. All essential software required for B2B information exchange including Hermes¹ and other supporting software are pre-installed in B2B Connector. The box does not require any programming effort for an organization to exchange business information with its business partners of any size that adopt international standards like ebXML, UBL and AS2.



Deployment Scenario using B2B Connector



- 1 The corporate user extracts business data from its database, in the form of MS-Excel, and places the file to the specified location of B2B Connector.
- 2 B2B Connector scans for new files for delivery, packages them into the configured message format, and sends to the recipient instructed.
- 3 The recipient receives the message and the MS-Excel is extracted, and placed in the specified location, awaiting the recipient to pick up and process further.
- 4 Another business partner, who operates its business on a message gateway server, has delivered an XML file to B2B Connector. B2B Connector receives the message and extracts the document, from the message in a format it can understand, into the location specified by the machine owner.

¹Awards won by Hermes include Best Infrastructure Building and Communication Application of Linux Business Award 2005; Certificates of Merit at the 6th HKCS IT Excellence Award and Asia Pacific ICT Awards 2004

Features of B2B Connector

Exchange document effortlessly

Business documents are retrieved and delivered from the pre-specified folder/directory to the recipient with a click.

Support multiple message protocols, ebMS or AS2

No matter which message protocol being used by different business partners to conduct B2B, any documents can be delivered in the same way with the desired carrier configured in the admin page.

Conduct document exchange with business partners from a single machine

B2B Connector is designed to work with multiple recipients. It can exchange documents with different companies, with their own set of configuration. One may require a message receipt for every document while the other may want to encrypt everything during the exchange. All these requirements can be set up easily on a single machine.

Access system configuration and audit log from the web browser

No driver or software when configuring the device - system setup or activity review can be done in a web browser.

Notification for message delivered, be it successful or failed

Delivery reliability should be taken for granted. B2B Connector can provide email notifications or send an http request to a particular URL, for each processed document.

Support digital signature and authentication

Every document sent out can be digitally signed by an electronic certificate. Business partners can be assured of the identity of the sender.

No trespassing, only documents from trusted counterparts will be processed

The document exchange process can be further secured by enforcing document encryption. Public key provided by the business partners can be imported into B2B Connector. Only those who possess the public key can decrypt the encrypted document with their private key.

Maximize performance reliability with system update and backup

System backup and restore features ensure performance reliability.

Track system activities to monitor the usage

Has the system been booted over the weekend? Has the administrator changed the password but forgot to notify the users? All activities are available for review from the audit log.

Create solutions

B2B Connector can function as a bridge. Applications can easily be built to extract business data from the backend systems. B2B Connector converts data to the formats for different business partners' systems to understand and transmits them automatically.

Minimum System Requirements

- Fixed IP address
- Client computer with a standard web browser (for configuration and administration)
- Digital certificate in PKCS12 standard format (for encryption and digital signatures)
- Client computer with smb or windows shares functionality

Contact CECID

Room 415, Chow Yei Ching Building, Department of Computer Science
The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2241 5387 • Fax: (852) 2547 4611
E-mail: info@cecid.hku.hk • Website: <http://www.cecid.hku.hk>



© 2006 CECID. All Rights Reserved.

B2B Connector

Plug-and-Play E-Commerce

