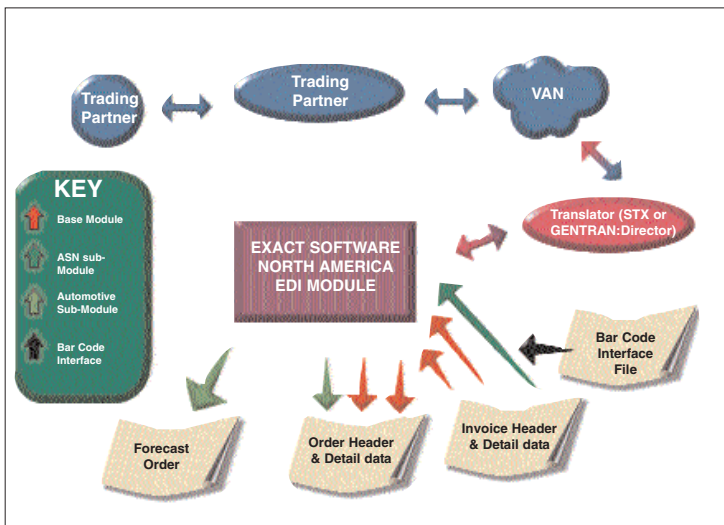


AMONG THE MOST PERVASIVE AND IMPACTING CHANGES HAS BEEN THE GROWTH OF ELECTRONIC COMMERCE (EC). INNOVATIONS SUCH AS ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI), ON-LINE BANKING, AND WEB-BASED COMMERCE HAVE CHANGED THE WAY BUSINESS INFORMATION MOVES THROUGH THE SUPPLY CHAIN, THUS MAKING THE NEED FOR ADVANCED "EC-FRIENDLY" BUSINESS SOFTWARE A MUST.



Business practices have gone through a revolution in the past twenty years. Computerization and communication advances have remapped the global commercial landscape, providing industry with new and exciting opportunities for growth and expansion.

As part of a suite of cutting-edge software modules, Progression's EDI module is a powerful, flexible system which provides an ever-expanding set of integration options to meet both today's business needs as well as the industry demands of tomorrow. For a detailed analysis of EDI, refer to the EDI White Paper. This document is available from Exact Software North America.

### THE PROGRESSION EDI MODULE

Progression's EDI Module is actually a group of packages, each designed to meet specific Trading Partner requirements. The major components of the EDI Module include the following:

- **The Base Module** is the main "engine" of the EDI system. It contains the basic logic necessary to do both inbound and outbound documents. It also provides the access to the Cross Reference files, which contain the data that tailors the EDI system to your company's needs. The base module includes the ability to receive purchase orders (known as 850's or 875's) and transmit invoices (810's or 880's). More will be said about the Base Module below.
- **The Translator** is a third-party software package which provides several necessary functions. First, it handles all of the communications with the various Value Added

Networks (VAN), such as Sterling Commerce, GEIS (GE), and Advantis or direct-connect Trading Partners, such as Wal-Mart, Ford and Chrysler.

Secondly, it validates the inbound and outbound file structures to verify their compliance with the ANSI guidelines.

Thirdly, for inbound documents, the translator can automatically generate a Functional Acknowledgement (FA or 997) which will be sent back to the Trading Partner indicating receipt of the document.

Finally, the translator will convert the 850/875 sent by a Trading Partner to a usable file format known as a "flatfile" that can be integrated into Progression. It will also give the ability to take the raw EDI data and print it out to a user-friendly format.

After the order has been processed in Progression's Order Entry module, an invoice can be created that can be then converted into raw EDI data.

The invoice can then be manipulated via a screen entry mechanism before being sent to the Trading Partner.

Exact Software North America currently supports the translator GENTRAN: Director for Windows by Sterling Commerce, Inc. Other translators can be used at the discretion of the user. However, this will require the user to complete their own mapping of EDI documents.

- **The Sub-Modules** are optional packages which handle specific needs beyond what is included in the Base Module. Refer to the Sub-Module specific Fact Sheets for a detailed explanation of each Sub-Module's functionality
- **The "Trading Partner"** is a collection of files which handle the needs of all EDI documents for a given company with which the Progression user must do business with. For integrated documents, this will include files used by the translator to print, view, enter and translate EDI documents, as well as "Formats" used by Progression to drive the conversion of the data from Progression to the translator's file layout. Non-integrated documents will include all the translator files necessary to either print or enter the document.

Exact Software North America has an impressive list of Trading Partners already mapped. However, if a new trading partner is needed, arrangements can be made to have Exact Software North America add the new Trading Partner to its library at a nominal cost and in a reasonable timeframe.

### THE PROGRESSION EDI BASE MODULE IN DETAIL

The Base Module not only supports the two most commonly used documents, the inbound order and the outbound invoice, but it also forms the foundation upon which all the sub-modules are built. As such, it is a required part of any integrated EDI installation.

A major part of the Base Module includes the Cross-Reference File Maintenance programs. These files not only convert data to and from the Trading Partner's identification codes, but also help configure the EDI Module to your specific needs. Two of the Cross-Reference programs are the Trading Partner Cross-Reference and Item Cross-Reference files. Below are a few of the things which can be configured using these files:

#### *Trading Partner Cross-Reference*

- Which documents should be integrated for this customer?
- Whether individual ship to locations are set up as separate Progression customers.
- Set Trading Partner defaults

#### *Item Cross-Reference*

- Any item number sent by the Trading Partner can be cross-referenced against the Progression Item number.
- The Trading Partner's item and UPC numbers can be returned to them.
- Units of Measure can be converted between what the Trading Partner sends and what is configured in Progression and also reverted back to the Trading Partner's value.

The Base Module also includes a file containing the entire ANSI EDI standard. This not only provides a highly efficient "data-driven" integration engine, but it also provides the ability to have searches showing all valid EDI codes for a specific data element.

Finally, of course, is the ability to integrate inbound orders and create outbound invoices. Exact Software North America supports the following documents in the Base Module:

- 850/875 - Standard/Grocery EDI Purchase Order - integrates into the Progression Order Entry Module.
- 810/880 - Standard/Grocery EDI Invoice - created from certain values of Progression's Order Entry, System Manager, Accounts Receivable, Item Master, Inventory Location data, and EDI cross-references.

Exact Software North America realizes that for an EDI system to be successfully implemented, a great deal of planning must be done. Exact Software's Professional Services and EDI Support team are staffed by professionals committed to your ongoing EDI success. Some of the services Exact Software North America offers include:

- *On-Site and Telephone training programs.* These training opportunities are an invaluable tool in insuring a successful EDI implementation.
- *Direct End-User Support.* This service allows the EDI user direct access to a team of dedicated Exact Software North America EDI support specialists.
- *EDI Trading Partner Maintenance Program.* This service provides Trading Partner files current to the latest known standard used by that Trading Partner.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information on how to put the power of Exact Software North America to work in your front office and mission critical back office, call today:

**800.468.0834**



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### EXACT SOFTWARE NORTH AMERICA'S EDI SERVICES

