

IBM File Gateway

Managing edge-based file transfers with an intelligent, centralized platform

Highlights

- Take control over edge-based file transfers
 - Improve efficiency and reduce costs
 - Leverage revenue opportunities
 - Trading partner satisfaction
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The increasing complexity and growth of partner ecosystems are driving demand for tighter collaboration and real-time visibility across business relationships, as well as the need to control and reduce related costs. In addition, the types of data increasingly being exchanged are not accommodated by EDI transactions.

As a result, organizations are challenged in supporting higher file transfer volumes, as well as varying sizes and formats, and more numerous and demanding communication and security protocols.

Today, the infrastructure used to support this typically consists of any number of servers using various tools (e.g., FTP) for file transfers. This approach poses more than just operational problems: It limits an organization's ability to effectively monitor file transfers with the trading partner community. And failed file transfers can disrupt critical business processes and revenue generating opportunities. Many organizations are challenged with a lack of visibility into potential issues which can quickly escalate into service level issues – or lead to revenue implications.

Take control over edge-based file transfers

IBM File Gateway addresses these challenges and enables organizations to take complete control over file transfers with trading partners. Built on IBM's B2B Integrator solution, File Gateway offers a scalable architecture and a centralized file gateway with the capabilities necessary to monitor, administer, route and transform high volumes of inbound and outbound files.

Extending edge-based file transfer services to internal systems is critical to automating processes and reducing operational costs. While IBM's File Gateway solution provides options for the protocols used to deliver files internally, Connect:Direct or WebSphere's MQ File Transfer Edition can provide the security and seamless integration between the products.

Improve efficiency and reduce costs

With File Gateway, the potential benefits of a standardized file transfer approach extend beyond reliability and security; a centralized gateway also enables the consolidation of disparate file transfer activity while intelligent routing and content-driven transformation capabilities can optimize file delivery processes. This combination helps IT staff and users become more efficient and, along with platform consolidation, helps reduce total cost of ownership.

Leverage revenue opportunities

File Gateway can also help organizations accelerate revenue opportunities. The time it takes to start generating revenue from a new trading partner relationship is often directly correlated to the time it takes to onboard the partner. With File Gateway an organization can leverage templates, create standardized processes, use dynamic rules-based file routing and rapidly onboard trading partners through a wizard-driven UI or through RestfulAPI's. Additionally, scalable architecture helps ensure better support for growth in file volumes and partners without sacrificing performance.

Trading partner satisfaction

One of the first questions a company asks when evaluating a trading partner is: How difficult or easy are they to conduct business with? Companies who deploy File Gateway can offer their trading partners a self-service portal, event-driven notifications and support for industry-standard security and communication protocols. As a result, both the company and its trading partner have complete visibility and control over shared file transfer activity. Such capabilities go a long way in making a company easy to conduct business with.

IBM File Gateway Specifications

Capability	Description	
High Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always-On - high availability, 24x7x365 • Efficient disaster recovery with little or no data loss • Fault tolerant, no single point of failure • Near zero down time with true active/active backup support • Mailboxes across geographically distant data centers 	
Onboarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An onboarding wizard and reusable templates enable the rapid onboarding of new partners • Set up group-based controls to limit administration of trading partner relationships • Utilize import/export functionality to limit risk from production updates to trading partner configurations 	
Communication channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect:Direct, Connect:Direct Secure+ • WebSphere MQ File Transfer Edition • FTP, FTPS, SSH/SFTP, SSH/SCP, HTTP, HTTPS, WebDAV, SOAP, ODETTE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS1, AS2, AS3 and AS4 support • Extensible for custom protocols • Utilize Zip and GZIP to compress files
Business processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create pre-defined event-driven business processes to limit setup and administration of process flows • Use rules-based processing to elevate file transfers to a business level activity 	
Security capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple encryption standards (PGP, SSL/TLS, S/MIME) • Single sign-on, LDAP and user authentication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encrypt both in-flight and at-rest files • Event logging to provide a comprehensive audit trail of file transfer activities
Management and visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File Gateway provides trading partners security-rich access to initiate upload and download requests • Choose from Internet Explorer, Safari or Firefox • Real-time monitoring and a self-service portal allows users visibility over in-flight file transfers • Monitor file transfer activity on an “exception” basis using event management notifications • Auditing and reporting provide metrics to help facilitate regulatory compliance and adherence to service level agreements 	
Scalability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native horizontal and vertical clustering support the volumes of consolidation of file transfer servers and growth in trading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The technical architecture supports high file transfers and extremely large files virtually without partner collaboration compromising performance
File processing and routing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use mapping capabilities to manage file naming relationships • Automate the replay, reprocess and resend associated with failed file transfers • Intelligently route files based on sender, file name, file type and file contents • Reusable templates help reduce staff time to build and maintain file transfers processes 	
Container Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure and cost-effective containers in the hybrid cloud • Achieve faster deployment, turn around and consistency • Lower IT costs and spend less time on maintaining infrastructure • Port seamlessly across multiple cloud endpoints • Facilitate fast and easy application of patches and updates 	

Capability	Description
Seamless Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seamless Interaction and architected for the future with Restful APIs• Build internal apps for company use around a micro-services model• Build customer-facing apps with internal assets• Create a shared pool of data and assets that allows teams to collaborate faster and easier• Streamline inbound and outbound marketing data collection via RESTful APIs

Why IBM?

IBM File Gateway enables companies to consolidate all internet-based file transfers on a single, scalable, secure and always-on edge gateway. The offering has the capabilities necessary to intelligently monitor, administer, route and transform high volumes of inbound and outbound files. Companies deploying File Gateway are empowered to lower the costs of managing file transfers, accelerate time to revenue and improve trading partner satisfaction.

Reduce operating costs

Reduce the cost of ownership to operate an edge-based gateway, accelerate time-to-revenue and improve partner satisfaction.

Reduce installation and patch time

Significantly reduce installation and patch time from hours to minutes by deploying your solution in a cloud based virtual container with all required components.

High availability B2B operations

Ensure the high-availability and scalability of customer facing communications.

For more information

To learn more about how File Gateway can help build a scalable, secure and always-on edge-based gateway that enables companies to consolidate file transfers and transact seamlessly on a single platform, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

ibm.com/marketplace/secure-file-gateway

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