

IBM B2B Advanced Communications

Helping business address the communication demands of complex global trading partner networks



Highlights

- “Always on” trading partner communications
 - Extend your existing IBM Sterling B2B integration capabilities
 - High performance, high availability B2B communications
 - Adopting the AS4 protocol
 - Simplified partner on-boarding
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Managing trading partner networks is rapidly becoming a challenge that many organizations are struggling to address. What used to be considered an isolated IT managed asset has now become a competitive differentiator. The line of business recognizes this and is triggering some fundamental re-thinking on how an organization architects and deploys their underlying B2B integration platform.

Driving this change is a recognition that companies trading partner networks are global and increasingly complex while at the same time the consumerization of technology is requiring companies to adopt a more flexible, real-time value chain. As a result companies recognize they can no longer accommodate downtime in their trading partner communications, they want operational processes automated across all the enterprises involved, end-to-end process visibility so process exceptions are immediately flagged, real-time execution of those processes and simplified on-boarding for their partner community.

At the same time there is a convergence of technology taking place where traditional silos of independently managing EDI vs. Managed File Transfer vs. B2B integration is no longer practical. Collectively this is challenging IT departments to re-architect their B2B integration platform. IBM recognizes the impact of these trends and is delivering flexible deployment capabilities that companies can use to extend their existing B2B infrastructure to selectively address the business demands for high availability, high performance trading partner networks.



Enabling “Always on” trading partner communications

To address the demands for “always on” trading partner communications, IBM offers IBM B2B Advanced Communications. This is the critical customer facing component that companies can leverage to run their global trading partner network. Without “Always on” communications your business is down for a certain period of time implying you cannot exchange business documents with partners and in an age of 24x7x365 global trading partner networks this is no longer acceptable.

IBM has architected IBM B2B Advanced Communications in a way that isolates trading partner facing communications from core processing. This allows companies to operate trading partner communications during scheduled or unscheduled downtime of the back-end operations processes. And this modular architecture allows IT departments to independently scale their communications to support trading partner growth without impacting those back-end applications

Extending your existing B2B integration platform

An ongoing challenge for most IT departments is how to integrate new capabilities into their existing infrastructure while leveraging the investment in B2B integration capabilities they already have. The modular architecture of the advanced communications capabilities is designed for easy integration to your company’s existing IBM Sterling B2B Integrator infrastructure. It compliments your existing B2B integration capabilities and gives those companies that fit the profile for high performance, high availability AS2 or AS4 based trading partner communications, the flexibility to optionally deploy those capabilities as an extension of what you already have.

High availability, high performance for AS2

Many companies rely on the AS2 protocol as their primary trading partner communications protocol. Characteristics IBM finds as common requirements across these companies is they all operate high volume networks, they are global in nature and for customer service reasons they are under pressure to minimize any downtime to the network. Companies relying on AS2 and who fit the profile for a high performance, “Always on” AS2 based communications can now leverage these advanced communications capabilities to address those requirements.

Enabling adoption of the AS4 protocol

For companies looking to adopt the AS4 protocol, IBM B2B Advanced Communications now offers that as an optional protocol. Countries such as Australia are leaders in developing the specifications for the AS4 protocol and adopting it to a country wide use case for Governmental data exchanges. For those organizations who need to adopt AS4, IBM offers AS4 based advanced communications capabilities including the same high performance, high availability we offer for AS2.

Simplifying the partner on-boarding process

To help improve the time-to-value from trading partner relationships, IBM has simplified the process to get AS2 or AS4 based protocols quickly setup and operating by using policies and guided tasks to help ensure their correct configuration and timely completion.

Benefit from a singular B2B integration solution

With IBM’s latest advanced communications architecture your IT department can continue to deploy and support a common, singular solution for B2B integration while enabling the business to address demands for high performance trading partner communications and support for the AS4 protocol.

IBM B2B Advanced Communications capabilities at a glance

Capability	Description
Deployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivered as a standalone software install as an extension of IBM Sterling B2B Integrator• On-premise deployment• Scalable architecture
Protocol support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AS2 high availability, high performance• AS4 high availability, high performance
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple layers of security to help ensure secure data exchanges
On-boarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policies drive the configuration process• Guided tasks for ease-of-use• “Save as you go” to handle disruptions on the setup process• Manage dependencies – address other artifacts such as certificates from the same location

Why IBM

IBM B2B Advanced Communications gives companies the option to take their trading partner communications to a higher level of performance. If AS2 or AS4 is your protocol of choice and high availability communications a requirement, then let IBM show you how we can help.

For more information

To learn more about IBM B2B Advanced Communications, contact your IBM sales representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit: ibm.com/B2BCommunications



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