

Sterling Commerce provides profit-focused EDI advantages with minimal investment

Gentran:Director

Executive Summary

Gentran:Director® is a basic EDI solution designed to meet simplicity requirements without sacrificing performance. Easy to install and ready to use, Gentran:Director is a natural choice for anyone who needs to meet EDI compliance goals with a minimal investment, and allows you to exchange documents with virtually any business or trading partner using any EDI standard.

In this Solution Overview, you will learn:

- How Gentran:Director translates and interprets data
- Why Gentran:Director is so easy to implement
- What Gentran:Director offers from your desktop

Benefits of this solution:

- Automatically retains copies of all inbound/outbound documents
- Stored documents can be accessed and reported by one or more criteria
- Includes tools that enable unattended operation, automated processing
- Diagnostic capabilities check for errors or warning conditions
- Flexible printing options
- Thousands of ready-made translation objects help you produce EDI transactions

You need to simplify the exchange of information within your enterprise and among your trading partners to reap the full benefits of electronic data interchange (EDI).

There's one EDI tool that promises to help you succeed. Sterling Commerce Gentran:Director is the most capable PC product on the market, and the easiest way yet to become an astute EDI player.

Gentran:Director lets is a forms-based EDI translator that provides a great way to start trading EDI documents with virtually any type of business or trading partner—with assured speed, data integrity and security. It's a sophisticated EDI product that has been designed to meet your requirements for simplicity—without sacrificing the powerful features that have long been the hallmark of Gentran® products. Perhaps no other EDI product will make you EDI confident in as little time as Gentran:Director.

It will help you compete where you haven't been able to compete before.

The Gentran:Director advantage

Gentran:Director was created to enable companies to implement EDI with ease. It's a natural choice for anyone with any degree of EDI knowledge—including those who are new to EDI.

Gentran:Director runs on standard desktop PCs, so your investment in computer hardware is minimal.

- Gentran:Director, with its Windows desktop, includes familiar graphics that promote rapid, intuitive and accurate operations.
- Gentran:Director accommodates whatever degree of flexibility your schedule demands, permitting operation in interactive or unattended mode.
- Gentran:Director supports all widely-accepted public EDI standards, including ANSI X12, EDIFACT, UCS, TRADECOMS, and many more.
- Gentran:Director offers over 6,000 downloadable translation templates developed to help you get started quickly while reducing your team's workload.

- Gentran:Director offers support for Sterling Collaboration Network and other major VANs, as well as communications capability that can be configured for virtually any commerce partners.

Using Gentran:Director

Gentran:Director allows you to move to EDI easily—with a quick-to-install, ready-to-use, reasonably-priced software solution. Gentran:Director “translates” and “interprets” data using the EDI standard you and your partners have chosen.

You can enter new data quickly and accurately using the Gentran table look-up capabilities and field validation. In fact, all of your EDI tasks can be managed using straightforward, easy-to-follow screens and useful functions. In no time at all, you will be using EDI to exchange business documents with your customers, suppliers and other partners while reaping the benefits of EDI.

The best news is, Gentran:Director runs as a stand-alone system on your PC and requires no programming to install. Once installed, Gentran:Director makes creating and sending EDI messages simple and easy. Product documentation, remote installation services and online help are included to eliminate any confusion about how the product works.

And like every Sterling Commerce product, Gentran:Director is backed by world-class support with a help desk that is immeasurable in value. In addition, complete education, training and custom consulting services are available from Sterling Commerce. As the leading producer of EDI software, we are here to help you be EDI-successful.

Desktop view

The items conveniently located on the Gentran:Director “desk” prompt you for all of your EDI activities. By simply pointing and clicking on the related desk icons, you’ll know what documents are under construction, what’s ready to send, what’s filed, and what’s required. In short, Gentran:Director lets you handle the entire EDI information stream with precision and confidence.

Document processing

The Out Documents feature on your desktop counts and reports the number of EDI documents that are ready to send. Once transactions are sent, the corresponding Out Drawer reveals what’s been accepted, rejected or waiting acknowledgement. Clicking on Out Documents will display a scrollable list of documents that you can print, send, file or delete. Likewise, the desktop’s In Documents feature gives the status of all inbound documents with similar options.

Electronic file cabinet

The electronic file cabinet, with its Out Drawer and In Drawer, automatically retains copies of all outbound and inbound documents. Stored documents can be accessed and reported by one or more criteria such as trading partner, document type and transaction number.

Document turn-around

The data contained in any document you receive (e.g., a purchase order) can be used to create a corresponding outbound reply (e.g., an invoice) for transmission back to the sender. This turn-around feature can save you time while ensuring the accuracy of the outbound document.

Process control

Since business is not limited to a simple 9-to-5 schedule, off hours processing may be desired. Gentran:Director includes the tools that enable unattended operation, automated processing and specialized handling of documents.

Controlled access

To safeguard your business information, Gentran:Director provides a flexible security feature that lets you control access to your EDI system. You can specify exactly who may access particular features and EDI data.

Auditing and tracking

Gentran:Director is constantly on guard—analyzing why any inbound or outbound documents were suspended. Handy diagnostic tools check during system start-up and at periodic points for any error or warning conditions. Checks include the results of unattended operation and occurrences of denied access. And, the tracking feature is so thorough that you can trace the activity of a document from the moment it's created until it's deleted from your system.

Flexible printing options

You can print documents, in either portrait or landscape mode, using existing print translation objects or export the document to your word processing software for reformatting.

Translation objects

Thousands of ready-made translation objects are available from Sterling Commerce to help you produce EDI transactions. These interactive templates take the guesswork and people work out of trading partner and EDI standards compliance. Additionally, a Forms Integration option provides the ability to build your own translation objects.

Partner wizard

One of the more complex chores associated with your EDI implementation is building the trading partner profiles that define the terms of your EDI exchanges. The Gentran:Director Partner Wizard simplifies this process with the use of intuitive, easy to use user interfaces. Each profile helps you keep track of contact information, EDI envelope specifications, functional acknowledgement requirements, and the documents that may be exchanged per trading relationship. The Gentran:Director Partner Wizard greatly simplifies all the tasks associated with profile set-up.

Communications

Gentran:Director includes the communications software to communicate between you and your commerce partners. Detailed online profiles store information about communications requirements, methods and schedules. Communication scripts for Sterling Collaboration Network and a wide variety of trading partners and other VANs are available. Further, AS2 communications can be added with the Sterling Integrator AS2 Edition.

All communications with Sterling Collaboration Network, other VANs, or individual trading partners are adeptly handled by the built-in communications module.

Choosing the right product for your needs

Gentran:Director is a great product for companies that are just getting started with EDI, and have reasonably low document volumes. As your needs grow, you can upgrade to Gentran:Director Pro, or to the Gentran:Server product line for improved performance, additional automation and “lights-out” processing capabilities, and support for translation of XML and other documents and files.

Additional functionality

Gentran:Director, your core EDI component, can be combined with other highly functional modules to extend your company’s enterprise application integration (EAI) capabilities.

About Sterling Commerce

Sterling Commerce, an AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T) company, helps companies optimize and transform their Business Collaboration Network quickly, easily and securely so they can accelerate revenues, reduce costs and protect their enterprise. Sterling Commerce provides more than 30,000 customers worldwide with applications and integration solutions to connect, communicate and collaborate with their customers, partners and suppliers. Learn more at www.sterlingcommerce.com.

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SC0154 01/10