

Sterling Commerce provides unique EDI capabilities, extra advantages

Gentran:Director Pro

Executive Summary

Gentran:Director® Pro is an advanced electronic data interchange (EDI) solution that offers all the advantages of Gentran:Director, along with a number of other applications that provide added power. Easy to install and ready to use, Gentran:Director Pro advantages include full integration of accounting, shipping, and inventory systems.

In this Solution Overview, you will learn:

- How Gentran:Director Pro provides rapid and accurate data entry
- How downloads help you start Gentran: Director Pro with minimal effort
- How flexibility accommodates your schedule demands
- How communications capability can be configured for virtually any commerce partner

Benefits of this solution:

- Powerful, flexible e-business integration solutions
- Outstanding document turn-around time
- Controlled access to safeguard your business information
- Auditing and tracking of inbound/outbound documents
- Intuitive Partner Wizard interface
- Extensive online help
- Custom screen templates
- Application integration

Leverage the full advantages of EDI with this quick-to-install, ready-to-use, reasonably-priced software solution

Your business uses a variety of applications and processes that are unique to its own environment. Likewise, your business is continually adopting new technologies and processes to run more efficiently and to stay competitive.

At Sterling Commerce, we provide powerful, flexible e-business integration solutions that adapt to the advancements in new technology and to the constantly changing demands of your business.

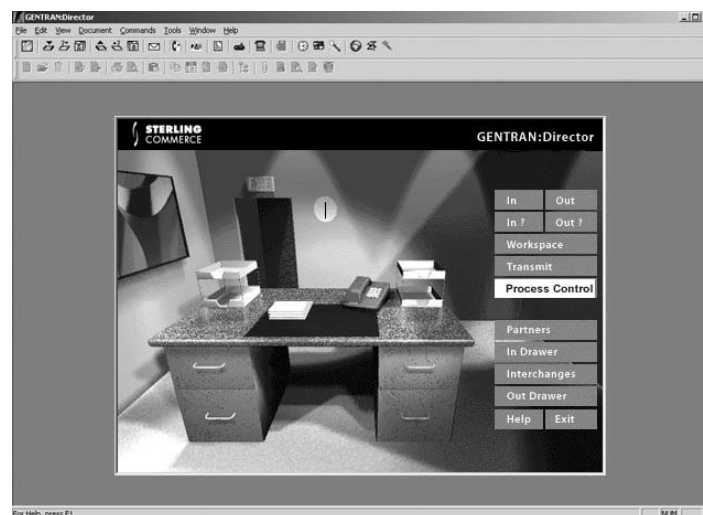
The fact is, with more than 30 years of experience in electronic commerce

and thousands of satisfied customers, Sterling Commerce has developed the most efficient methods to integrate the business processes within your organization and with your commerce partners.

Simplify EDI

Gentran:Director Pro will help you to hit the ground running when you jump into electronic data interchange (EDI).

The easiest way yet to become an astute EDI player, Gentran:Director Pro lets you communicate with virtually any type of commerce partner—with assured speed, data integrity and security. And while it's a sophisticated EDI product,



The Director Pro screen design utilizes icons, toolbars, online help facilities, and point-and-click capabilities for unmatched ease-of-use.

Gentran:Director Pro is remarkably easy to learn and use. Perhaps no other product will make you EDI-confident in as little time.

The Gentran:Director Pro solution is made up of two components:

- Translation and management software (Gentran:Director), and
- Visual mapping tools (Gentran:Director Pro)

Together, this bundled integrated solution provides the essential technology and tools needed for a successful EDI implementation. In fact, all of your EDI tasks can be managed using straightforward, easy-to-follow screens. In no time at all, you'll be using Gentran:Director Pro to electronically exchange business documents with your commerce partners, enabling you to reap the many benefits of electronic business integration.

Create and send EDI messages with ease

As the core of your EDI solution, the Gentran:Director translation and management software runs as a stand-alone system on your Windows PC and installs as easily as other Windows-based software. Once installed, Gentran:Director makes it simple to create and send EDI messages. Other advantages include:

- Minimal investment in hardware required because Gentran:Director Pro was designed to be used with standard desktop PCs
- Rapid and accurate data entry
- Flexibility that accommodates your schedule demands, permitting operation in interactive or unattended mode
- Support for all widely accepted public EDI standards, including ANSI X12, EDIFACT, UCS, TRADECOMS, WINS, VICS, ODETTE, and TDCC

- Support for major VANs, as well as communications capability that can be configured for virtually any commerce partner
- Downloads are available with over 6,000 pre-built plug and play translation maps to help you to get started and to continue trading with minimal effort

Gentran:Director features

A desktop view

To simplify the learning process, Gentran:Director uses a familiar desktop metaphor. You'll see a desk with an in-basket and an out-basket. To access incoming documents, you click on the in-basket icon. To see outgoing documents, you click on the out-basket. To start communications, click on the phone. To file incoming documents, click on the desk drawer under the in-basket. And so on.

The desktop icons are so intuitive and direct, they remain the preferred form of data access, even after users learn their way around the software.

Out box/In box processing

The Out box 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 the Out box will display a scrollable list of documents that you can print, send, file or delete. Likewise, the desktop's In box feature provides 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. Archived 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 is an outstanding time saver that further ensures the accuracy of outbound documents.

Unattended operation

Since business is not limited to a simple 9-to-5 schedule, off hours processing is often required. Gentran:Director includes the tools necessary to automate processing, and perform unattended operations.

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 your system start-up (and at periodic points thereafter) 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.

Partner wizard

One of the more complex chores associated with EDI implementation is building the trading partner profiles that define the terms of your EDI exchanges. The Partner Wizard helps to make this process easy with its intuitive user interface and use of non-jargon terminology. 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 Information Broker are provided. Scripts can be developed for virtually any commerce partner using industry-standard communication protocols. Further, AS2 communications can be added with the Sterling Integrator® AS2 Edition.

Online help

And to make it all easy to learn, Gentran:Director includes extensive online help as well as context sensitive help for the Gentran:Director translation and management software.

Once you've mastered the basics of the Gentran:Director module, the Gentran:Director Pro solution enables you to extend your company's e-business capability with the highly functional Gentran:Director Pro visual mapping tools.

Quickly get your entire trading community up-to-speed on EDI

Gentran:Director Pro gives you the ability to provide complete integration of EDI with your existing business applications. In short, the Gentran:Director Pro module delivers everything you need to bring an entire trading community up-to-speed on EDI quickly and painlessly.

The following Gentran:Director Pro components provide a more sophisticated measure of EDI functionality; and once installed, can have a positive impact on routine business procedures, eliminating redundant data processing tasks and extending your ability to conduct business electronically.

Forms Module

Using the Gentran:Director Pro Forms Module, you can create custom screen templates to prepare all outgoing documents and develop print templates to process all incoming documents. For many users, the Forms Module helps demystify electronic commerce, allowing them to produce human-readable versions of EDI transactions that resemble traditional paper documents.

Application Integration Module

The Application Integration Module is a sophisticated tool that lets you translate or "map" your in-house application files to EDI transactions and vice versa, without altering the existing application.

Moreover, application integration eases the task of extracting data from or inserting data into your application. With this module you can generate import and export documents and create turn-around documents. Application integration allows you to select from the EDI transaction only those bits of information that are relevant to your business application. It also helps determine which data items to include in or exclude from an outbound EDI document.

With the Application Integration Module you gain greater control—organizing information to suit your preferences—by processing only that information which is of real value to your company. As you define the EDI standards, versions, transaction sets, data segments and elements that are required per trading partner relationship, Gentran:Director Pro visual mapping tools build the templates that allow the Gentran:Director translation and management software to manage the daily flow of transactions.

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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