



Integrate business processes within your enterprise while strengthening links to trading partners

Gentran:Basic for zSeries

Executive Summary

Gentran:Basic for zSeries is a versatile, high-performance e-business solution for the Z/OS environment. Easy to operate, flexible and customizable, Gentran:Basic® uses the resources offered by the Z/OS operating system to your best advantage. Gentran:Basic for zSeries has several components that work together as a system: trading partner configuration; standards maintenance; auditing and tracking for databanking; and data-translation mapping. Each of these elements is accessible from the CICS interface.

In this Solution Overview, you will learn:

- How to integrate your business processes more efficiently
- How to link to all your trading partners, regardless of their size or electronic capability
- How to better serve your customers and improve your competitive advantage

Benefits of this solution:

- Gain power over your processes and grow your system as you grow
- Create an outstanding e-business program
- Boost document tracking and exception management with Gentran:Viewpoint, handle fixed-file EDI data formats with Gentran:Structure, and prioritize processing with Gentran:Control
- Benefit from our relationship with IBM

Adapting to the latest technologies

To save money, be more effective, and stay competitive, your business is being driven to new applications and processes. To ensure success, you need powerful, flexible e-business solutions that adapt to the latest technologies—and to the constantly changing demands of your marketplace.

So how will you find the most efficient way to integrate your business processes? What will you have to do to reach outside your organization, to link to all your trading partners, regardless of their size or electronic capability? Turn to Sterling Commerce.

Sterling Commerce has over 30 years of experience. As a result, we can deliver the mix of software, service and support that suits your company's unique business needs—enhancing your ability to serve your customers and improving your competitive advantage.

Gentran:Basic for zSeries is a versatile, high-performance e-business solution for the Z/OS environment. Easy to learn and operate, flexible, and customizable, Gentran:Basic takes advantage of the resources offered by the Z/OS operating system.

Gentran:Basic has a number of components that work together as a system. This includes trading partner configuration, standards maintenance, auditing and tracking for databanking, and data-translation mapping. And each of these elements is accessible from the CICS interface, so that the system administrator controls the level of access for each user.

Gain power over your processes

Gentran:Basic gives you maximum control over your e-business environment, because it delivers a comprehensive set of interactive online tools for automated electronic data interchange (EDI) translation and

management. These tools are both powerful and easy to operate. User-friendly panels and menus provide quick familiarity with the overall system, while actions, function keys and prompts guide you smoothly through each task.

Because Gentran:Basic is easy to install, your EDI system will be up and running quickly. Once you've implemented the Gentran:Basic solution to meet your essential needs, you can build on your investment over time, adding more capabilities as your e-business requirements evolve. And you never have to worry about outgrowing the system because no other translator on the market today is better at managing high-volume EDI traffic or meeting the demands of multiple trading partners.

Grow your system as you grow your business

Gentran:Basic is a feature-rich and robust solution, with outstanding managing, processing and tracking functions. And when you're ready to extend your e-business system, additional capabilities are available—such as CICS automated online processing, communications software, exception and tracking management, file-to-file translation, and XML translation.

The Gentran® product family for zSeries includes:

- **Gentran:Basic** – EDI translation and management
- **Gentran:Realtime®** – concurrent and real-time online translation
- **Gentran:Plus®** – mailboxing and communications software
- **Gentran:Control®** – event-driven process automation
- **Gentran:Viewpoint®** – document tracking and exception management
- **Gentran:Structure®** – file-to-file translation

Boost document tracking and exception management with Gentran:Viewpoint

A companion product to Gentran:Basic, Gentran:Viewpoint provides powerful document-tracking and exception-handling capabilities to your e-business environment.

Gentran:Viewpoint delivers end-to-end document tracking, giving you direct access to the information you need to identify and solve problems. While it's true that you can audit part of the EDI process with the Gentran translator, and you can manage another part via your communications software or VAN, Gentran:Viewpoint tracks inbound and outbound documents through the transaction lifecycle as they move between your application and your trading partner's EDI solution.

Gentran:Viewpoint contributes significantly to your e-business operation by providing automation and a structured, proactive approach to problem-identification and resolution. With Gentran:Viewpoint you can:

- Enhance customer service via end-to-end document tracking
- Improve staff productivity with better management tools
- Reduce business errors and risks through better controls, tracking, and exception processing
- Reduce operating costs by automating workflow

A valuable tool for error-detection and correction, Gentran:Viewpoint also contains robust exception-handling and event-management capabilities.

Create an outstanding e-business program

Gentran:Basic delivers the key system components you need to implement and maintain an outstanding e-business program:

Solution components	Capabilities
Partner file maintenance	Creates and maintains all the information you need to exchange data with a specific trading partner.
Standards maintenance	Allows you to display and maintain EDI standards online and to create customized standard versions.
Databank maintenance	Enables you to monitor the EDI translation and compliance checking processes. You can choose to monitor only the highest levels of data movement, or to capture detailed transaction information, inbound or outbound for compliance or translation.
Security maintenance	Provides complete user-access and feature-access control to the Gentran:Basic system.
Mapping integration	Allows you to build maps that define the relationships between your application files and your EDI standards. When EDI processing is initiated, Gentran:Basic selects the proper map, based on partner definitions, and translates your data into the appropriate EDI format.
User-defined error messages	Constructs messages and reports data errors the way that is best for your business.

You can specify the kinds of errors you want to capture using as much detail as you need. Gentran:Viewpoint will alert the appropriate person when errors occur and provide the steps to follow to resolve the exception.

Gentran:Viewpoint can also drive the correction-action process by sending error messages directly to end-users. For example, notification of a purchase order error may be sent directly to your purchasing agent or another party who is able to immediately respond.

Handle fixed-file EDI data formats with Gentran:Structure

Another Gentran:Basic companion product, Gentran:Structure enables you to define and translate fixed-format data that doesn't conform to public EDI standards. This gives you flexibility and saves you the cost of hard-coding translation programs. With Gentran:Structure you can:

- Achieve EDI process compatibility, regardless of data structure

- Extend your EDI program globally, wherever proprietary formats are used
- Support multiple variable-length EDI standards and fixed-length file formats within one environment

Gentran:Structure is easy to use. It employs the same mapping tools found in Gentran:Basic. Also, because it includes a sample fixed-format file that can be used as a tutorial, you can expect your staff to master the system almost immediately.

Prioritize processing with Gentran:Control

Gentran:Control is an optional module that helps you manage and streamline your most critical business processes. Gentran:Control automates and accelerates your EDI processing stream by prioritizing e-business events according to your own criteria—not someone else's.

With Gentran:Control you can:

- Accelerate processing of time-sensitive documents
- Automate document handling to accommodate business priorities
- Manage the entire EDI process from one central location
- Expedite document movement across the batch/CICS boundary

What's more, Gentran:Control lets you specify transactions by commerce partner or document type. For example, you can stipulate that purchase orders, or documents from your most important customers, are moved ahead of other transactions and handled immediately. And you can designate immediate processing, or processing according to:

- Time of day
- Day of the week
- A selected interval of time
- A specified number of documents in a queue

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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