



Link your business systems
with your trading partners' to
reduce costs and streamline processes

Gentran:Server for iSeries

Executive Summary

Part of Sterling Integrator®, Gentran:Server® for iSeries, is a versatile, high-performance B2B translation solution for the iSeries environment. It has the ability to grow with your business needs beyond traditional EDI standards-based information integration. Its components, which include mapping, commerce-partner configuration, translation processing, auditing, standards maintenance, environmental control and communications, are fully integrated.

In this Solution Overview, you will learn:

- How to enhance customer service
- How to increase cash flow
- How to improve your company's competitive advantage

Benefits of this solution:

- Take maximum advantage of your iSeries investment
- Navigate easily and use your own iSeries menus
- Plan your work according to your own priorities
- Find out "how to" with online help
- Set up new trading partners fast
- Go beyond simple mapping
- Access standards online
- Communicate globally or locally
- Improve process control and run multiple functions simultaneously
- Streamline your business and enhance your view

Bridging the gap

In an ideal world, all of your trading partners would use the same business software and the same documents, in exactly the same format that you use them. In reality, every business uses a variety of applications and has developed internal processes that are unique to their own business environment. More than that, businesses are continually adopting new technologies and processes to help them stay competitive.

Not surprisingly then, when it comes to linking your business processes with your trading partners', a gap exists. Because of this gap, it is critical that your business invest in an e-business solution that provides the flexibility you need to adapt to advancements in technology and the constantly changing demands of your trading partners.

Through more than 30 years of experience, Sterling Commerce has learned the most efficient way to successfully bridge the gap between your trading partners' systems and your own business systems and internal processes

is with the appropriate mix of software, services, and support. This Gentran® total solution creates a solid foundation that has all of the inherent flexibility you'll need to be responsive to your trading partners—regardless of the software or business environments involved.

Gentran:Server for iSeries

Gentran:Server for iSeries, one of the Sterling Commerce e-business solutions and part of Sterling Integrator, is a versatile, high-performance, B2B translation solution for the iSeries environment that has the ability to grow with your business needs.

By using Gentran®, your company can create a B2B infrastructure to:

- Enhance customer service by improving the speed and throughput of information while eliminating errors inherent in keying and re-keying
- Increase cash flow by reducing your invoicing and payment cycles
- Improve your company's competitive advantage by opening opportunities with customers and suppliers to communicate and service them better

The Gentran solution for the iSeries is easy to learn and operate. Its components, including mapping, commerce-partner configuration, translation processing, auditing, standards maintenance, environmental control and communications, are fully integrated.

Gentran uses standard iSeries structures for storage of commerce-partner data, interchange data and various configuration profiles. Each of these elements is accessible through an intuitive interface, so that the system administrator controls the level of access for each user.

A robust and adaptable B2B solution, Gentran:Server provides what you need to become B2B-enabled. It helps establish secure B2B relationships with your commerce partners. It performs efficient document mapping. It controls B2B processes for daily inbound and outbound data. And it delivers an array of message-management capabilities to ensure reliable communications.

Using Gentran, your company can create a B2B infrastructure to:

- **Enhance customer service** – by delivering a wealth of timely, error-free customer data, so you can respond more quickly and accurately to your customers' needs
- **Increase cash flow** – by reducing your invoice/payment cycle time
- **Save money** – by reducing or eliminating data entry, eliminating costly and error-prone re-keying
- **Improve your competitive advantage** – Some enterprises mandate B2B as a condition for doing business; others give preferential treatment to B2B-capable suppliers.

And once B2B is in place, with Gentran:Server you can expand to include all types of e-business

messaging, including e-mail, e-forms and other Web-based communications.

The Gentran iSeries product family includes:

- **Gentran:Server for iSeries** – High performance B2B translation and management
- **Gentran:Viewpoint®** – An extended business interface for an enhanced view into Gentran:Server
- **Communications Modules** – Support for all major communications protocols
- **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Extensions** – For SAP ECC

Take maximum advantage of your iSeries investment

Gentran:Server was designed to enable you to take maximum advantage of the iSeries architecture, and to minimize user training. Anyone familiar with the iSeries environment can easily navigate through the Gentran:Server panels and options. iSeries language is used throughout the system.

Navigate easily, iSeries-style

The Gentran:Server interface combines ease-of-use and error prevention with the ability to go directly and quickly to what you want to do. F4 prompting is available to list the options you can validly enter in any field. What's more, if you make a mistake or error, the system notifies you instantly and suggests the correction.

In addition, with Gentran:Server you can interrupt a process at any point, save your work and start again where you left off.

Use your own iSeries menus

You may prefer to integrate Gentran:Server with one of your existing iSeries applications. You can call on any Gentran:Server function from your own menu. Or you can run any Gentran:Server program directly from the iSeries command line.

Plan your work according to your own priorities

Gentran:Server lets you plan B2B transaction processing according to your own priorities and work schedules. Just as you scan your daily mail and open your most important correspondence first, you can choose to process transactions from your largest customer immediately. Or you can assign special priority to purchase orders from any customer. The flexible job scheduler, together with the ability to single out certain transactions for special processing, enables you to give priority treatment to any transaction by partner, document type, or both.

Find out "how to" with online help

The comprehensive online help system includes complete indexing and cross-referencing. Gentran:Server is shipped with online UIM-based hypertext documentation. "How-to" tutorials guide users through set up, mapping, and other B2B fundamentals, using sample maps, trading partner profiles and test data.

Set up new trading partners—fast

Gentran:Server enables you to add new trading partners quickly via an easy-to-use partner-profile tool. And its outstanding cross-reference capability tells the system how to recognize and respond to transactions from a new partner.

When single partners use multiple names, numbers or other identifiers, Gentran:Server for iSeries can build a partner cross-reference table that recognizes various names, numbers, or codes that belong to a single partner. With this table, you avoid the nuisance and expense of defining separate profiles for every possible partner identifier.

Gentran:Server reduces your required partner set up time and effort because you establish a single relationship per partner. When changes are needed, the

cross-reference table will point you to a specific partner to make the change.

Go beyond simple mapping with easy-to-use extended mapping

When simple mapping is insufficient for your needs, Gentran:Server offers extended mapping—via the most powerful and feature-rich mapping and translation tool on the market. Translation tables automatically resolve differences in nomenclature. Online help clarifies ambiguities. User exits provide seamless integration with external programs. And errors are reported as they happen, so they can be corrected on the spot.

In addition, the base system includes key capabilities such as conditional and/or Boolean logic, one-to-many storage, the capacity to clone maps and partner profiles, and the ability to convert maps to new standard versions. And Gentran:Server for iSeries is easy to use. Split screens make mapping simple and straightforward.

Access standards online

We've done the work for you. Gentran:Server provides online access to EDI standards. This means you won't have stacks of hard-copy references cluttering your desk as you work. You'll have, at your fingertips, a comprehensive and up-to-date listing of all standards. And you can customize and create standards to meet specialized partner or industry requirements.

Communicate globally or locally

Gentran:Server enables you to communicate with trading partners around the block or around the globe.

Gentran:Server is the only B2B system for the iSeries that integrates plug-and-play communications completely at no extra cost. Pre-written session control scripts enable you to connect easily with major e-business value-added networks (VANs)—including our Sterling Information BrokerSM, which allows you to set up communications easily by typing your mailbox and ID a single time. And all communications scripts are updated automatically.

Improve process control

Gentran:Server for iSeries gives you maximum control over your EDI environment. You set up the system to match your unique infrastructure and business requirements. Gentran:Server directs data to areas inside and outside your enterprise, and provides concurrent or event-driven messaging through an integrated job scheduler

Run multiple functions simultaneously

The concurrent processing allows you to run multiple functions—such as inbound processing, outbound processing, and communications sessions—simultaneously. This improves the speed of data throughput.

Streamline your business

To help streamline your business processes, Gentran:Server provides an outstanding application extension that integrates seamlessly with SAP systems.

Enhance your view

A critical success factor in the day-to-day operation of your EDI system is the ability to track and manage your document flow.

Gentran:Server offers outstanding auditing, tracking, and archiving capabilities, allowing you to track the cycle of each transaction—from origination through receipt. This gives you the assurance that the processing cycle is complete and fulfillment has occurred.

You can view and edit EDI data, and resend EDI data to your trading partner when necessary. Audit and archive

features allow you to track historical and new EDI transactions through document reconciliation. This enables quick resolution for partner inquiries about specific transactions.

And for an enhanced view into Gentran:Server for iSeries, we offer Gentran:Viewpoint™, an optional business interface. Gentran:Viewpoint delivers end-to-end document tracking, giving you direct access to the information you need to identify and solve problems. Automatic notification via e-mail, pager or user-defined function allows you to customize the alert process. Gentran:Viewpoint with alert management can contribute significantly to the success of your e-business operation by providing automation and a structured, proactive approach to problem identification and resolution.

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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