

Acknowledgement

A trading partner that receives a message may send a message back to the sender to confirm that the original message was successfully received. The return transaction is called an acknowledgement. Covisint supports functional acknowledgements, such as X12 997 and EDIFACT CONTRL, as well as application-level acknowledgements, such as the X12 824 and the EDIFACT APERAK. The Covisint Connect system sometimes abbreviates acknowledgment to "ack."

Administrator

A user role defined in the Covisint Connect user interface. Administrators are responsible for creating and managing all components of the application. They managing transactions, create and manage trading partner relationships, set up and maintain routing and carbon copy rules, create and manage channels and associated rules, generate reports and administer trading partner profiles, users and notifications.

AIAG

Automotive Industry Action Group, a non-profit organization that provides an open forum through which member-companies cooperatively develop and promote solutions that enhance the prosperity of the automotive industry. <http://www.aiag.org>

ANSI

The American National Standards Institute is an organization composed of members of the business and industrial communities responsible for establishing cross-industry standards in the United States.

ANX

Advanced Network Exchange (formerly Automotive Network Exchange), a dedicated, high-performance IP data network. The ANX Network is private, meaning that it is isolated from the public Internet. However, subscribers can continue to reach their public Internet content from the ANX Network via tightly controlled connections. Subscribers access the ANX Network via their choice of fully interoperable Certified Service Provider.

Archive

The archive is an offline storage area for older messages. Current Covisint Connect policy archives messages between 15 and 60 days old. Trading partners may request archived transactions to be restored into the online environment. There are rules and potential costs associated with this type of request.

ASP

Application Service Provider, a commercial enterprise that offers hosted applications, processing and related services over the Internet.

Async

Short for asynchronous, a term used to describe communications that are not coordinated in time. Asynchronous operation means that a process operates independently of other processes, whereas synchronous operation means that the process runs only as a result of some other process being completed or handed off. In electronic communications, "asynchronous mode" usually means that the confirmation response for a message is not expected immediately, on the same data connection or session. Trading partners can use asynchronous modems to reach Covisint Connect via the Internet.

asynchronous

also A-sync, which means not synchronized, or not occurring at predetermined or regular intervals. The term asynchronous is usually used to describe communications in which data can be transmitted intermittently rather than in a steady stream. For example, a telephone conversation is asynchronous because both parties can talk whenever they like. If the communication were synchronous, each party would be required to wait a specified interval before speaking.

Basic Authentication

A secure method of authentication that uses HTTP and HTTP over SSL (HTTPS), in which the server authenticates via the user name and password obtained from the HTTP client.

Basic User

A user role defined in the Covisint Connect user interface. Basic users are responsible for managing transactions, generating reports and administering notifications.

binary synchronous

Also Bi-sync, a type of synchronous communication used primarily in mainframe networks. The binary part of the name signifies that the data is binary-coded. The synchronous part means that both the sender and receiver must be synchronized before the data transfer can begin. Note: Covisint Connect does NOT support bisync.

Bisync

Short for binary synchronous, a type of synchronous communication used primarily in mainframe networks. The binary part of the name signifies that the data is binary-coded. The synchronous part means that both the sender and receiver must be synchronized before the data transfer can begin. Note: Covisint Connect does NOT directly support bisync.

BODs

Business Object Documents are eXtensible Markup Language (XML) document formats that were created by the Open Applications Group (OAGIS) for electronic commerce. A given BOD (e.g., a "SyncShipment") is the equivalent of an EDI 856 or DESADV. The Covisint Consortium, along with the Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG) has enhanced the BODs to be automotive-specific. These BODs are the native language of the Covisint Connect messaging hub.

Carbon copy

An exact duplicate of a message that is forwarded to a trading partner other than the originally intended recipient. The messaging hub replaces the original sender and receiver codes in the message with the new sender and receiver codes, as defined in the carbon copy rules.

Carbon copy rules

Commands are based on sender/receiver codes and document types that identify what messages or transactions need to be carbon copied, and to what new trading partner. A trading partner can configure these commands in the Covisint Connect user interface, and the messaging hub will implement the commands.

CCA

Covisint Connection and Administration. The Covisint tool for administering organization and user level application access permissions.

Channel

A connection method to transmit or receive documents. Current options include FTP, HTTP(S) and WebSphere MQ.

Channel name

The title, or name, a trading partner assigns to a specific channel (connection method). Each channel has its own unique name. Channel names are used for reference purposes only.

Client Certificate Authentication

A secure method of authentication over SSL, in which the server and, optionally, the client authenticate each other with Public Key Certificates

Code Pairs

When setting up a relationship, a trading partner must define the sets of sender/receiver codes that are valid for transmitting messages under this relationship. These are called code pairs.

Communication Protocol

See Protocol

Communication software provider

Also called on-ramps, Covisint has partnerships with several companies that provide communications packages that enable trading partners to directly connect to the Covisint data messaging hub. Trading partners are welcome to use private, company-managed direct connections or use one of the providers offered in conjunction with Covisint Connect.

Compound message

A message that contains multiple documents. The messaging hub will first recognize and separate the documents before routing them to the appropriate trading partner(s).

Control number

An alphanumeric transaction identifier assigned by the sender. It's located in the transaction header.

Covisint Messaging Consortium

A group of seven companies - Covisint plus General Motors Corporation, Ford Motor Company, DaimlerChrysler, Johnson Controls Incorporated, Delphi Corporation and Lear Corporation. Covisint Connect was developed with the support of these companies. The Consortium, along with the AIAG and OAGIS, developed XML-based standard business document formats. These XML formats will become the automotive industry's canonical model, or master model, for business documents.

Custom processing

Trading partner-specific logic implemented in the messaging hub for processing documents in non-standard manners. Examples of custom processes include parsing, clipping or culling, non-standard splitting, customer-specific logic based on sender/receiver code or document type, duplicate checking and customer-specific security algorithms.

Direction

When exchanging messages, a trading partner SENDS messages they created, and RECIEVES messages created by their trading partners. Direction refers to whether a trading partner is sending or receiving a messages through a particular connection method.

Document

Business data that is a collection of data that is delivered in a specific format. Business documents include purchase orders, material releases, advanced shipping notices and invoices. In the automotive industry there are more than 100 document types, although many are not widely used. The most widely used documents in the automotive industry are the material replenishment documents; these are the forecast, material release and shipping notification. In X12, a material release is called an "862." In EDIFACT, it is called a DELJIT and in the OAGIS XML BOD, it is called a SyncShipmentSchedule.

Document format

Standards organizations create common formatting for common business documents, such as ASNs - advanced shipping notices. A document format is the designation that identifies a set of standard documents, such as ANSI X12, EDIFACT and Odette.

Document type

It is a designation defined by a standards organization to inform trading partners what type of standard business document is represented. For example, an 856 document type under the X12 standard format or a DESADV document type under the EDIFACT standard format. In OAGIS XML, the document type would be a ShowShipment.

Document version

Standards organizations create and maintain document formats and publish versions that contain updated document types. Identifying the version enables a receiver to properly read a specific business transaction.

DTD

Short for Document Type Definition, a set of instructions for a document type, ensuring that an XML document uses uniform grammar and structure. A DTD can be either internal to the XML document or held in an external repository.

DUNS

Dun and Bradstreet's Data Universal Numbering System offers companies unique nine-digit codes that help other companies identify and keep track of them.

E-commerce

Electronic Commerce or EC, the use of computers to exchange business information. This includes the use of EDI, e-mail, the Internet and Web sites.

ebXML

Short for electronic business eXtensible Markup Language, a modular suite of specifications for standardizing XML globally to facilitate trade between organizations, regardless of size. The specification gives businesses a standard method to exchange XML-based business messages, conduct trading relationships, communicate data in common terms and define and register business processes.

ebXMLLite

Covisint created the ebXMLLite specialized wrapper to help trading partners easily identify and classify messages. It is a message packaging specification that uses the simplified, basic principles outlined by ebXML for the envelope structure.

EDI

Electronic Data Interchange, a company-to-company electronic exchange of business data using industry standards. EDI is currently used to electronically transmit product information, prices, promotions, product authorizations, purchase orders, invoices and payments.

EDIFACT

The internationally recognized standard for electronic data interchange, started in September 1986 by the United Nations Joint Electronic Data Interchange Committee. It provides details of syntax rules, segment construction and message structure. Also known as UN/EDIFACT.

Envelope

The transmission header and trailer enclosing an EDI message or other transaction.

ENX

European Network Exchange, a private IP data network used by the European automotive industry.

Error transaction

A transaction that could not be fully processed by the hub. Usually, this means the intended recipient did not receive the message.

Files

From the perspective of the client using FTP Connector, everything is in file terms. EDI data is locally stored as files that are uploaded to the server host on a per-file basis. Documents on the server host are perceived as individual files and can be downloaded to the local host one at a time.

FTP

File Transfer Protocol. A protocol commonly used on the Internet and other networks to exchange files. FTP is a Covisint Connect communications protocol option for creating connection channels for transmitting and receiving messages. Trading Partners can send and receive messages via the Covisint Connect hub using FTP.

FTP Client

Applications on client computers that provide an interface to users and communicate with FTP servers to transfer files. This software is typically provided as a component of the operating system. Covisint will not provide an FTP client. See "FTP clients," for a list of FTP Client software.

FTP Server

A Messaging Hub component that provides access to Messaging Hub Services using the FTP protocol.

FTP user command

The commands provided by an FTP client's user interface.

Header

The portion of the message or transaction that precedes the actual body and trailer of the business document.

HTTP

Hypertext Transfer Protocol, an application-level protocol standard (defined in RFC2616) used on IP networks, such as the Internet, to transfer Web content between computers.

HTTP(S) Connector

A Covisint Connect messaging hub component that provides access to Covisint Connect messaging services using the HTTP(S) protocol.

HTTP(S) Mailbox

A sub-component of the HTTP(S) Connector that provides access to messaging hub services in Mailbox mode using the HTTP(S) protocol.

HTTPS

HTTPS (Hypertext Transfer Protocol over Secure Socket Layer, or HTTP over SSL) is a Web protocol that encrypts and decrypts user page requests as well as the pages that are returned by the Web server.

Hub

The Covisint Connect system that receives, processes, and sends trading partner's transactions according to the configurations set up by the trading partners.

Integration Channel

See Channel

Interconnect

See VAN Interconnect

IP

Internet Protocol - is the method or protocol by which data is sent from one computer to another on the Internet.

ISA, GA, ST

EDI standard definitions for the specific parts of a business document.

KC

Acronym for kilo-character (1,000 characters). One character equals one byte.

Kilo-character

Also KC or kilocharacter. One kilo-character (KC) equals 1,000 characters. One character equals one byte.

Mailbox

A channel that supports a trading partner pushing transactions to the messaging hub and getting transactions back from the hub. Technically, a trading partner's computer connects to the messaging hub to drop off and pick up transactions.

Maintenance Window

The date and time frame when a trading partner's system that sends and/or receives transactions may be unavailable because of scheduled upgrades or necessary maintenance.

Mapping

The Covisint Connect service that provides translation services and adds maps to the messaging hub to enable translation from one document format/version to another. In EDI, there is system-to-document mapping and document-to-document mapping. System-to-document mapping is the association of data field contents from an internal computer system such as purchasing to the document field contents in the EDI standard being used. The same mapping takes place in reverse during the receipt of an EDI document. Document-to-document mapping is the association of data field contents of one standard with the fields in the equivalent document of another standard. The mapping process may also apply customer-specific rules and data conversions, such as converting units of measure or checking for required fields.

Mapping rule

A mapping rule is a system command, based on the sender code, receiver code and document type that says when to implement a map.

Maps

Maps are mechanisms that allow trading partners' documents to be translated from one format to another. Covisint provides any-to-any mapping and monitor translations, notify users of error conditions and work with users to resolve translation issues.

Message

A specific document (or group of documents) for a particular business need.

Message ID

A unique identifier assigned by the hub to an individual transaction.

Message Payload

See Payload

Message Priority

Transactions are given the priorities of Urgent, Important, or Batch based on the document type. This is a feature of Covisint Connect that allows documents with time-critical business purposes to not be slowed down by larger, less time-critical documents. Message priorities were defined by the Covisint Messaging Consortium.

Messaging Hub

See Hub

MQ Connector

A component that provides access to Covisint Connect messaging hub services using the MQ Connector protocol

MQ Series

The old, but still commonly used name for the IBM WebSphere MQ product. See WebSphere MQ.

Notification

A note sent by the Covisint Connect system in response to an error event. Notifications are sent via e-mail to an e-mail account, text pager or mobile phone.

Notification Frequency

Trading partners can define how often they want notification contacts to receive notifications. Configuring this time interval allows trading partners to reduce the number of redundant error notifications they receive.

OAGI

The Open Applications Group is a not-for-profit industry consortium focused on promoting interoperability among business applications and creating business language standards to support this goal.
<http://www.openapplications.org>

OAGIS

The "OAGi Standard" (OAGiS) is a collection of Business Object Document (BOD) definitions. The Covisint Consortium BODs are extensions of OAGiS BODs.

ODETTE

Organization for Data Exchange by Teletransmission in Europe. A European project with agreed EDI standards for interchange among European automobile manufacturers.

OEM

Original Equipment Manufacturer, a company that makes equipment as opposed to one that sells equipment made by other companies.

OnRamp

Also (sometimes spelled On Ramp) and called software communications providers, Covisint has partnerships with several companies that provide communications packages that enable trading partners to directly connect to the Covisint data messaging hub. Trading partners are welcome to use private, company-managed direct connections or use one of the providers offered in conjunction with Covisint Connect.

Organization

A managerial group under which trading partner profiles exist, such as a corporation or major division of a corporation. Organizations are established in Covisint's user administration tool called CCA.

Payload

The Payload is the actual document(s) being exchanged. The payload is "wrapped" in an envelope that the Covisint Connect messaging hub reads. Think of the mail: the payload is the actual letter inside; the "header"/"wrapper" is the envelope that explains how to deliver or process it.

Persistent Channel

A connection method that supports an open connection between the messaging hub and the trading partner, allowing the system to send and/or receive transactions near real-time.

Pipeline

The connection environment through which transactions are sent. The Covisint Connect system offers pipelines through ANX, ENX and the public Internet with or without VPN (Virtual Private Network).

Portal

Allows users to access the administrative and reporting application interface.

Post-Post Mode

A communication method, supported by the HTTP(S) Connector, that implies the usage of HTTP POST requests for business data transfers in both directions - from a Trading Partner (TP) to Covisint and from Covisint to a TP.

Priority

See Message Priority

Production sender/receiver code

It is a live, active code that is used by senders and receivers. Trading partners identify each other and create relationships based on sender and receiver code pairs

Programmatic HTTP(S) Client

A software component in custom applications that implements the HTTP and SSL protocol RFCs and uses them to communicate with the Web (HTTP) servers in automatic mode.

Programmatic MQ Connector Client

A software component in the custom application that implements the HTTP protocol RFC and uses it to communicate with WebSphere MQ servers in automatic mode.

Protocol

This is an agreed-upon format for transmitting data between two devices. The protocol may determine, for example, the type of error checking and data compression method used. This is the technical communication method used for a channel (connection method). Covisint Connect offers FTP, HTTP(S), and WebSphere MQ as protocol options.

Qualifier

A data element which gives a generic segment or a generic data element a specific meaning. In the Covisint Connect system, qualifiers identify the specific sender/receiver code category. For example, the qualifier "01" represents DUNS and the qualifier "ZZ" represents a mutually-defined code standard.

Received transaction

A transaction that was sent from one of your trading partners to you.

Receiver code

See Sender/Receiver code

Redelivery

A trading partner administrator can select to have a transaction redelivered. This causes the hub to resend the transaction to the receiver's connection channel.

RFC

A Request for Comments (RFC) is a formal document from the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) that is the result of committee drafting and subsequent review by interested parties. Some RFCs are informational in nature.

Routing rule

A system command that defines what connection channel the Covisint hub should use for a received transaction.

Schema

Also called XML Schema. XML Schemas express shared vocabularies and allow machines to carry out rules made by people. They provide a means for defining the structure, content and semantics of XML documents.

Security Administrator

The person who controls all aspects of security within their CCA organization.

Segment

A group of logically related data elements in a defined sequence. Segments have a predetermined segment identifier that comprises the first characters of the segment.

Sender/receiver code

Typically, a trading partner's sender/receiver code is a DUNS number, telephone number or a code assigned by a customer. A trading partner's sender/receiver code can be any number as long as it complies with Covisint Connect parameters. Some trading partners have multiple sender/receiver codes that identify where to send documents. For example, a trading partner may have trading partner codes that identify different divisions or plants within the company.

Sender/receiver code qualifier

A two-letter designation that identifies what coding scheme the sender/receiver code is using, such as DUNS, phone number, etc. Some codes do not have qualifiers.

Sent transaction

A transaction that you sent to one of your trading partners.

Service

An application or tool accessed via Covisint.

SSL

Secure Sockets Layer, a protocol developed to transmit private documents via the Internet. SSL works by using a private key to encrypt data that's transferred over the SSL connection.

Supplier Connection

Covisint's Web EDI solution as part of the suite of Covisint Connect solutions. Enables low-tech suppliers to receive and send EDI documents. Supplier Connection transmits transactions through the Covisint Connect system.

TCP

A transport-level protocol widely used on IP networks, including the Internet.

TCP/IP

Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol, the suite of communications protocols used to connect computer systems on the Internet

Test sender/receiver code

A sender/receiver code identifying messages that are only used for testing purposes and will not be considered for business actions.

TP

Trading Partners - An operational group that has profiles in Covisint Connect with unique sender/receiver codes.

Trading Partner

Also TP - An operational group that has profiles in Covisint Connect with unique sender/receiver codes.

Trading partner administrator

A user assigned to manage trading partner profiles, connections and relationships within Covisint Connect.

Trading partner code

See Sender/Receiver code

Trading partner name

A name assigned by a trading partner to a specific trading partner profile. A trading partner name should identify the trading partner in a unique manner so other trading partners can search and locate this profile in the hub.

Trading partner profile

A data structure in the Covisint Connect messaging hub identified by a unique set of sender/receiver codes under a corporate organization. All administration and maintenance by trading partner administrators is executed through trading partner profiles. Relationships with other trading partners are made at the profile level. Profiles can be associated with multiple connection channels, but only one payment account.

Trading partner relationship

An approved association between two trading partners. Trading partners must first establish a relationship to exchange messages with each other. A relationship defines the sender/receiver codes that are valid for exchanging documents between the two trading partners.

Transaction

Any data file sent between trading partners. Transactions can contain one or multiple documents.

Transaction Set

An EDI term used to describe a single document (purchase order, invoice, etc.). The data included in a transaction set will convey the same information as a conventional business document.

Transaction type

Identifiers that specifies the technical nature of a transaction as processed by the hub, such as a compound transaction, single transaction or a carbon copy transaction.

Translation

The process of converting business documents from an application format to a standard EDI format and from a standard EDI format to an application format.

UN/EDIFACT

See EDIFACT

VAN

Value-Added Network, a secure network that offers services such as EDI message delivery between trading partners.

VAN Interconnect

Value-Added Network Interconnect, a transaction service that allows users to exchange messages that are not directly connected to Covisint

View-only user

A user role defined in the Covisint Connect user interface. View-only users can view all screens and tabs within the application, but cannot perform any functionality, nor make changes to any configuration. This is a read-only role.

VPN

Virtual Private Network, a mechanism to use a public telecommunication infrastructure, such as the Internet, to provide remote offices or individual users with secure access to their organization's network.

Web EDI

A solution that allows trading partners that do not have an EDI connection to their business system to exchange EDI documents with their customers and suppliers. Web EDI trading partners use an Internet-browser based application to create, send and receive EDI documents. Covisint's Web EDI solution is called Supplier Connection.

Web Services

A string-based function provided over the Internet, usually in a data language, meant as communication between computer software. The communication between Web services are implemented in one of the standard Internet Protocols (e.g. FTP or HTTP). XML is used for all communication purposes. Source: http://en2.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_service

WebSphere MQ

IBM solution to allow the exchange of information across different platforms and integrating existing business applications. WebSphere MQ is offered as a communications protocol choice for configuring channels in the Covisint Connect system. More info: <http://www-3.ibm.com/software/integration/wmq/>

X12

A standard that defines the structure, format and content of business transactions conducted through Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). ANSI X12 is produced by the committee ASC X12, supported by the Data Interchange Standards Association, Inc. (DISA).

XML

IBM solution to allow the exchange of information across different platforms and integrating existing business applications. eXtensible Markup Language is there recommended standard for creating special-purpose markup languages. Its primary purpose is to facilitate the sharing of structured text and information across the Internet. XML is the markup language used to define standard BODs.

XML Schema
See Schema

XNX
A generic term for using "any" private network exchange, such as Advanced Network Exchange (ANX) or European Network Exchange (ENX).