

Solution Overview

Industry

Listo Products Ltd., a supplier of premium resin planters, want to fully integrate the electronic processes to support EDI trading with its largest retailer clients. They want a solution that is integrated with their back-end SYSPRO ERP and that reduces ongoing support costs.

Scenario

Listo's goal is to create a solution to support its EDI based trading needs. The system must be automated, easily maintainable by internal staff, and extremely reliable as previous EDI solutions were labour intensive and could not fit the corporate goals for improved customer service by increasing electronic communication of business documents to their retail customers.

Company Profile

Listo Products, a Meyers Industries Company is a supplier of premium resin planters to the retail and garden centre market in all regions of Canada, the United States and overseas..

Benefits

- Improved Customer Service
- Improved vendor relationships
- Reduced labor costs
- Increased flexibility in adding new Trading Partners

Software Used

- TradeLink EDI Corporate Software
- XMAPPER Integration System
- AS2 Communications,

Implementation

- Windows 2003 Servers
- SYSPRO ERP

Professional Services Used

- Business Process Definition
- EDI Document Mapping
- Integration to Business Systems
- Project Management

Listo Products Ltd. a supplier of premium resin planters for their retail customers has integrated its SYSPRO ERP with the TradeLink EDI Management System and EDI services provided by SoftCare EC Inc. for its largest Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) enabled retailer clients.

Listo Products Ltd. started in 1948, as an organization making various plastic components and now is solely focused on the manufacture of premium resin planters to their retail customers in all regions of Canada, the United States and overseas markets.

Listo was faced with the issue of WAL*MART requiring a switch in their EDI documents form version 004030 to 005010. Their existing EDI solution was labour intensive and would not meet their future business goals to provide excellent service to its clients. This led them to look for alternative solutions that could provide the necessary changes for WAL*MART, while maintaining proper documentation and providing for support of other clients requests for electronic communications of business documents. This led them to SoftCare.

Implementing TradeLink EDI Management System

Listo chose SoftCare and its TradeLink EDI Management System because they liked their approach to combining software, consulting and services to provide an all-encompassing solution to implementing EDI for them. Additionally, they were impressed by SoftCare's focus on EDI, the business processes to support EDI and their open standards based approach to integration to their SYSPRO ERP.

The first implementation phase was to plan out the hardware and software requirements. It was determined that TradeLink and VL Trader (for AS2 communications) was to be installed on a Windows Server machine. This approach was chosen to ensure the security of information and systems. As communications for all Trading Partners was to be via the Internet (using the AS2 communications protocol), the initial test of AS2 communications was tested with SoftCare's AS2 communications hub. This approach ensured that all firewall issues were clarified prior to testing with a customer.

Integrating Business Systems to Create a Production Environment

The next step was to have SoftCare's Solutions Group work with Listo to understand their business requirements for EDI with WAL*MART specific to Listo. This process identified and created a "best practices" EDI implementation for receipt and integration of Purchase Orders (850) and export and transmission of Invoices (810) from their SYSPRO ERP to WAL*MART. The initial testing was to work on the outbound business process to move Invoices to WAL*MART. This process included:

- Export Invoices from SYSPRO
- Export any necessary Cross Reference Tables into XMAPPER
- Transform the SYSPRO Invoices to TradeLink's flat file format using the XMAPPER integration system which converted the files using XSLT.
- Validate the exported Invoices to ensure that they met the data needs of WAL*MART and reconcile any received Functional Acknowledgments (997) to their appropriate outbound EDI documents.
- Create the appropriate EDI Mailbags which were sent to WAL*MART over the Internet via AS2

Turn Key Solution

SoftCare provides a turn key solution, from initial consulting to software products to integration to final production project sign off.

About SoftCare

Founded in 1989, SoftCare EC Inc. develops e-business software. Our OpenEC® product suite allows companies to conduct business to business e-commerce. Our e-business software is open and scalable allowing for integration with existing and future technologies, lowering operating costs and streamlining the business process while delivering benefits to all electronic trading relationships

For more information about SoftCare, TradeLink EDI Management System, and the SoftCare Solutions Group visit www.softcare.com, contact us at 1 – 888 – SOFTCARE or email us at sales@softcare.com



OpenEC® is a registered trademark of SoftCare EC Solutions Inc.

Cleo is a registered trademark and VL Exchange is a trademark of Cleo Communications. SoftCare is an authorized reseller and co-developer of Cleo VL Exchange.

Upon completion of the testing of the outbound process, the next step was to design and test the business process to move WAL*MART Purchase Orders into Listo's SYSPRO ERP. This process included:

- Receive Purchase Orders from WAL*MART via AS2
- Validate received Purchase Order to ensure that they met the standards as defined by WAL*MART.
- Automatically create the appropriate Functional Acknowledgment to WAL*MART.
- Import and necessary Cross Reference Tables into XMAPPER.
- Transform the WAL*MART Purchase Orders to the SYSPRO Sales Order application using the XMAPPER integration system which converted the files using XSLT

The Solutions Group then implemented the business processes within TradeLink to automate and manage the flow of business documents to/from their back-end SYSPRO ERP to and from WAL*MART. In the initial testing phase, they relied on TradeLink's "operations dashboard" and "alert" system, to identify problems with incoming or outgoing business documents and to quickly "resolve" problems with the movement of business documents to/from Listo. Once implemented, TradeLink's superior audit system was used to manage day-to-day operations of the systems, ensuring a smooth and seamless transfer of information.

Listo Products - Customer Project Summary Comments

Commenting on the overall project, Ross Graham, IT Manager of Listo Products Ltd. states

"With SoftCare's assistance in providing best practices for business to business interchange and consultative services, our solution design was completed quickly, accurately, and with a flexibility that will serve us well into the future".
