

ORACLE SUPPLIER NETWORK

KEY FEATURES

- Self-service trading partner registration
- Multiple communication protocols support (HTTP/S, SMTP, etc.)
- Web Mailbox for easy access
- Transformation from OAG XML to other common standards
- Transaction monitoring and automatic message re-send
- Services to help your company get enabled
- Pre-certified suppliers
- 24 X 7 support

The Oracle Supplier Network (Oracle SN), an online service offering managed by Oracle, provides electronic message setup, transformation and routing services through an Internet-based hub model. The Oracle SN is an open community for Oracle 11i customers and their trading partners.

Enterprise-Wide Messaging

The goal of machine-to-machine integration through electronic transaction messaging between companies has existed for decades. Even with support for new standards and the rise of new technology mediums over the years, electronic transmission of business documents still handles only a fraction of the transactions between businesses. For most companies, phone, fax and email are the primary communication methods with their trading partners. It is evident that electronic messaging has not been adopted into the corporate mainstream, with most citing the initial setup costs, expensive Value-Added Network (VAN) costs and ongoing maintenance required to support individual integrations with each trading partner. After nearly thirty years with limited success, a new approach is needed. The Oracle SN delivers a unique hub-based solution for the exchange of electronic business documents over the Internet, allowing companies to minimize the integration, transmission and maintenance costs.

The Oracle Supplier Network provides a single point connection for transmission of electronic business documents for all business processes across the enterprise. Companies running the Oracle E-Business Suite or specific modules of the Suite can easily establish connectivity to the Oracle SN to transact with their trading partners. Trading partners register on the Oracle SN and supply their transaction delivery preferences, such as protocol support and password credentials. Once the one-time setup is complete, companies send their business documents to the Oracle SN, and the Oracle SN intelligently transforms the message, routes to the appropriate trading partner and monitors transaction status to ensure delivery. The hub-based model allows companies to set their individual preferences and not absorb on the cost of supporting individual connections, multiple protocols, and multiple standards that is common in point-to-point electronic messaging.

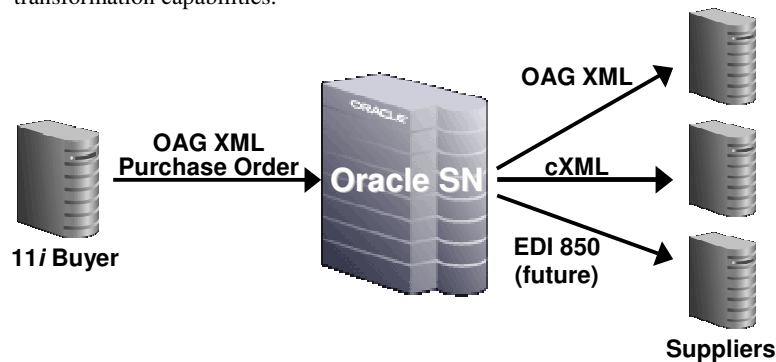
Benefits of Electronic Communication: Procurement Example

The procure-to-pay cycle has been the most common starting point for electronic transaction delivery. For buying companies, it enables instantaneous distribution of the order information and suppliers can directly receive the order into their system without having the costs associated with data entry. Once goods are ready to ship, the supplier can communicate this information to the buyer, giving awareness and expediting the receiving process for the buyer. In the settlement process, the buying company receives

the invoice electronically and avoids the costly accounts payable data entry and matching process. The advancement of electronic communication creates a win-win relationship and rids the supply chain of latency and other inefficiencies. Oracle SN supports the most common procurement and payment transactions, such as Purchase Orders, Change Orders, Advance Ship Notices, and Invoices. Additional electronic messages will be ramped onto the Oracle SN, allowing trading partners to easily communicate financial data to banks, HR information with the government, forecasts to their supply chain, etc.

Transformation Services

The Oracle SN supports common XML message translations for a set of standard business documents. Oracle 11i customers communicate with the Oracle SN using the Open Applications Group (OAG) XML standard for inbound and outbound messages. Using the Oracle E-Business Suite's open application architecture, Oracle 11i customers can start sending and receiving messages with very little setup and no customizations. Their trading partners can choose from one of the common standards supported by the Oracle SN. The Oracle SN has a real-time message transformer to convert messages from the XML standard of the sender to the preferred XML standard of the receiving party. With these transformation capabilities, companies will not have the additional cost of supporting multiple standards. An example of Oracle SN's transformation capabilities:



Protocol and Web Mailbox Support

Standard communication protocols supported by the Oracle SN allowing the trading partner to select the method that best suits their technical capabilities. Most companies will choose the HTTP over SSL (HTTPS), Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) or the Oracle Transport Agent (OTA) for communicating with the Oracle SN. Another option available to trading partners is the Web Mailbox. Trading partners can choose to have their messages stored in the Web Mailbox and retrieve them at their convenience.

Easy Administration

The Oracle SN has been designed to drive wide-scale 'on ramping' of trading partners with tools such as a quick web-based registration, company profile setup, account maintenance capabilities, and environments for managing test and production transactions. Many of the largest suppliers in the world have been pre-certified on the Oracle SN, allowing 11i customers to quickly enable XML transactions with those companies.

For operational administration, a comprehensive Transaction Monitor tool is provided to track successful delivery of all message traffic. On exceptions, such as a trading partner's message receiver being unavailable, the Oracle SN has auto-retry capabilities and will generate notifications to bring awareness to the issue.

Support, Infrastructure and Security

The Oracle Supplier Network has been designed specifically for hub-based message routing using the latest in Oracle technology. Registered companies on the Oracle SN can obtain 24 X 7 assistance from Oracle's award winning technical support organization either through MetaLink, Oracle's web-based support system for 11i customers, or Oracle SN's online submission form.

The Oracle SN is hosted at Oracle's Data Center facilities, with trained experts ensuring system availability. Outsourcing is one of Oracle's fastest growing services with significant investment in state-of-the-art facilities, providing multiple areas of resiliency, redundancy and network security.