What components should EDI Software have?

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Since EDI started to get popular it has been many years and during all this time, there were many EDI Software packages out there allowing companies to use EDI easily. In an EDI Software there are couples of components that are crucial to the success of the EDI Software solution in the organization. In this article I'll focus on some on the main components that every EDI software package must have in order to offer the user a positive experience and actually be used by company EDI Administrator or one of the company advanced user who is in charge of the EDI transactions, sending and receiving and the whole process involved in it.

- Mapping
- Translation
- Validation
- Import/Export
- Reporting
- Documents Turn Around
- Monitoring and Alerting

EDI Mapping
When we talk about EDI Mapping we talk about pointing on different elements in the EDI file as a source data and setting their corresponding destination objects. Destination objects can be fields in a text file, columns in an Excel file or whatever file structure you choose to use.

EDI Translation
EDI Translation is the option to read one value and set another value as result of some translation setting we used during the software installation or later. For example a user can decide that every time that he see Qualifier ID 08 and then Qualifier value then he wants to set that Qualifier value as DUNS number.

EDI Validation
EDI Validation is the process of making sure that all the data in the EDI file are correct, sitting in the appropriate location, that mandatory elements are not missing and that element that are from a list of possible value for that specific dictionary id, are correct.
The file in the right format and follow the guidelines of the EDI Version and standard.

EDI Import and EDI Export
EDI Import and EDI Export is the process of importing data from a text file/excel file or any other file format used by the organization into EDI file structure, export is the

same but the other way around. This option is vital in case the user need some interface with his/her ERP software an many of those ERP software packages have Import/Export routings, so in order to integrate between the two software packages, the user can import and export data between the ERP and the EDI software packages.

EDI Reporting
EDI Reporting is the option to view reports on the transactions activity on a given time frame. That way an EDI Administrator can see how many EDI Transactions went through, how many of each document type, how many were with errors and more…
Each EDI software has its own set of EDI Reports, but the main point is that it has to give the EDI Administrator some tools to look at the EDI Activity in the organization so he can determine on what type of action to take in different situation, for example if he receive too many transactions with errors.

EDI Documents Turn Around
EDI Documents Turn Around is the part when user take an EDI document like Purchase Order (850, 875) and creates an Invoice of it, saving the user time and typing errors.