



EDI Software

by Ray Atia, ratia@amosoft.com

Since EDI started to get into more and more businesses and became popular around the world, there were many companies who started to offer **EDI Software** and **EDI Solutions** to the **EDI Market** place. In the past 20 years there was an increase in the number of EDI users and due to the entrance of these **EDI Software and Solutions** providers and due to the price reduction in **EDI Software** price and **EDI Implementation** and **EDI Integration**.

EDI Company can be interpreted into two types of company

1. Company that writes EDI Software and then sells their EDI Solution out.
2. Company that uses EDI with their trading partner on an ongoing basis.

In this article I will focus on:

1. What is EDI Software?
2. What components should EDI Software have?
3. Why you should integrate an EDI Software in your business?
4. Types of EDI Software in the market
5. How to Integrate EDI Software

EDI Software comes in multiple configurations.

First there is an EDI Software that acts as window software and does a couple of things like mapping fields in **EDI Transaction** sets to a local database, then there are components that read EDI file format like **X12**, parse the file and create documents from it, then there is an EDI Validation engine that goes over the entire EDI document and checks the relevancy of the data and makes sure that the data in each field actually meets **X12** requirements and standards, then the **EDI mapping** component based on the map created earlier, copies the data from the **EDI file** to a local database and vice versa. Even though the idea might sound simple, technically there is a lot to it. Because every **X12** document is substantially different from each other and has its own set of rules for data validation, optional fields and mandatory fields, validating an EDI document is not an easy task and should be taken seriously following **X12** rules and regulations regarding standards and version. A map created for one document can't be used for a second document and a map created for a document for a company can't completely be used for another company due to the differences in the nature of business both companies are in.

Companies should integrate EDI Software to save time and typing errors and by that they will save money as well. Today when most businesses use some type of ERP software and the low prices of electronics and communication components, there is no reason not to integrate the EDI Software to their already existing ERP Software.

Address: 12445 Pacific Ave 5, Los Angeles, CA 90066

Phone: 310-862-4259

Web: www.amosoft.com



Most ERP Software have an Import and Export menu options and let the user insert data from one software package to another using external text or excel files. This feature is powerful, easy to use and has a low price, however not the best EDI Solution. I would say it's a good way to start, but if there is a high volume of EDI Transaction Sets, the best way to go is with one of EDI Services companies out there. Those services cost more but save you the need to import and export files that sometimes get corrupted and need manual, human intervention, while a full EDI Integration will make the EDI experience transparent to the user.

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