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IBM B2B Integrator

Scalable, secure and always-on connectivity across the value chain

- Easily and seamlessly connect with partners
- Streamline business processes management
- Establish clearer, deeper visibility
- Secure the B2B value chain and data
- Deliver high-availability B2B operations
- Access application extension and container support

For companies operating in the highly-connected global economy, digital connections with customers, suppliers and business partners are critically important. To sustain and optimize business performance, these connections must be scalable, secure and always-on.

Yet, as the volume of partners and connections continues to grow, both in number and complexity, companies struggle to maintain these connections and to do so cost-effectively.

Companies seeking tighter B2B integration often rely on a patchwork of solutions and platforms that can lack flexibility and the capabilities required to keep pace with changing business requirements. This status quo hinders visibility, security and control.

IBM B2B Integrator is designed to help companies address these challenges by providing a scalable, secure and always-on platform for seamless connectivity and information flow across the B2B value chain and partner ecosystem.

IBM B2B Integrator is a highly flexible platform that supports data transformation and most communication protocols; tightly secures the B2B value chain and data; and leveraging distributed data centers and near real-time replication to achieve high-availability of operations.

The solution also enables companies to reduce costs by consolidating on a single platform and automating B2B processes across enterprises while allowing for a greater-degree of governance and visibility.

Easily and seamlessly connect with partners

IBM B2B Integrator enables companies to easily connect to business partners, regardless of their size, geography or preferred technologies. IBM B2B Integrator 6.0 has an expanded library of RESTful APIs to streamline inbound/outbound data collection, enhance communications with both back-end systems and customer-facing applications, and establish a framework for adopting important emerging technologies. RESTful APIs, which have become an industry standard, are easy to configure and deploy and are designed for easy integration with emerging technologies such as blockchain.

IBM B2B Integrator also helps companies improve communication by combining a data engine, a rules-based intelligent routing engine and graphical mapping tools that support a wide variety of EDI and XML standards. The IBM B2B integration hub also offers pre-built adapters that can enable integration with virtually any partner application, including major enterprise resource planning (ERP) and messaging systems.

Streamline business processes management

Another key attribute of IBM B2B Integrator is its capability to streamline and extend business processes with partners. The solution couples an intuitive graphical business process modeler and a robust run-time process execution engine to facilitate faster and more reliable design, deployment and execution of collaborative business processes. This includes flexible configuration options and out-of-the-box process templates to allow organizations to design and apply their own processes and best practices.

Establish clearer, deeper visibility

IBM B2B Integrator features a dashboard that allows users to customize visibility – and centralized controls for IT to manage information and access by business users or business roles. The solution monitors processes via the dashboard to help foster partner compliance with service-level agreements – and provides alerts if transactions and events fall out of defined criteria. It also provides event management, reporting and auditing functions which enables the organization to extend real-time activity and status information to system administrators and partners.

Secure the B2B value chain and data

IBM B2B Integrator provides stringent safeguards for the B2B value chain and data across diverse communications systems and has the capability to encrypt data at-rest or in-motion.

Organizations can also deploy the solution's 'DMZ-based' perimeter security: comprehensive data security capabilities with encryption, user administration and security-rich perimeter network traversal, including an external LDAP authentication. The DMZ-based security further supports security-rich communications protocols, such as Secure FTP (SFTP), HTTPS, Secure Shell (SSH), AS2 and AS3.

The solution also features capabilities that support government and industry compliance requirements, as well as B2B exchange standards, reducing the risks of fines and penalties and ensuring the safety and reliability of data assets both inside and outside of the organization.

Deliver high-availability B2B operations

IBM B2B Integrator is a high-availability gateway platform built for the most demanding environments with Global Mailbox options for geographic distribution, real-time data replication and active/active communications and file processing. This component makes use of functionality built into other IBM B2B portfolio architectures, as well as the other technologies, to deliver a high-availability solution.

Access application extension and container support

IBM B2B Integrator brings the power of service-oriented architecture (SOA) extensibility and customization to the development of industry-specific business applications. It adds human interaction, flexibility and intervention to process automation via a web extension feature and enables businesses to build strong bonds with business partners by helping organizations reach beyond their four walls. It also enables IT organizations to expose the value of existing applications through multiple channels and formats by deploying new functionality on top of them with the help of robust interoperability of web services.

IBM B2B Integrator also has options for containers in the hybrid cloud which deliver increased security and greater cost-effectiveness. Additional advantages of a container implementation include faster deployment and greater consistency. Containers also facilitate rapid and easy application of patches and updates. With the use of containers, organizations can also port seamlessly across multiple cloud endpoints.

Why IBM?

In addition to delivering seamless, secure and always-on connectivity, IBM B2B Integrator helps deliver additional business value in terms of:

Reducing supply chain costs: Consolidate systems and leverage existing investments delivers a lower total cost of ownership (TCO).

Boosting channel productivity: Strongly integrated partner communities designed to boost channel productivity; leverage visibility to identify and fix exceptions and bottlenecks before they escalate.

Speeding sales channel development: Reach new market segments and pursue growth opportunities by rapidly connecting to new customers and partners via the communications standards they prefer; seamlessly integrating shared business processes.

Elevating customer service levels: Drive customer satisfaction and loyalty by providing customers new and improved capabilities such as tracking order and payment activity.

For more information

To learn more about how IBM B2B Integrator can help your business achieve seamless, secure and always-on connectivity across the value chain, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit: http://ibm.biz/b2b-integrator

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