Microsoft Dynamics GP

eConnect

WHITE PAPER

ECONNECT ENTERPRISE APPLICATION INTEGRATION (EAI)

Date: February 2006

Microsoft Dynamics

Introduction

eConnect is a programmable Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) solution for Microsoft Dynamics GP. eConnect offers fast and accurate accessibility to Microsoft Dynamics GP back office document transactions through the use of several programmable interfaces including a managed code .NET Assembly, a Biztalk AIC interface, and MSMQ Services. The programmable document integration package permits outside data sources such as web storefronts, web services, legacy applications, point of sale systems, etc…to easily create back office transactions, select updated, inserted, and deleted back office transactions, and send back office requests to view specific documents and document lists. The utilization of eConnect allows developments teams to focus on custom application development in the data source or front office with the ability to snap-in eConnect for valuable back office transactional access.

This EAI solution gives the flexibility to accept numerous data interfaces while handling multiple transactional access points to the accounting system. eConnect deployed in conjunction with existing web storefronts, web services, or other data sources, allows developers to provide cost effective solutions while reducing the cost of recoding for new environments. eConnect also provides the ability to leverage the transaction-based business logic in Microsoft Dynamics GP. This enables the capability to extend that business logic without rewriting existing functionality. Business utilization is endless, including the ability to provide document access for service oriented front office custom applications, quick connectivity from existing data sources, and a simple cost effective method of connecting to existing storefront and service applications.

Product Description

eConnect reduces costs be eliminating data re-entry by offering businesses with an existing online storefront, web service, or data source the ability to integrate to Microsoft Business Solutions business management solutions. Using a series of transactional business objects, eConnect offers fast and accurate integration from outside data sources to Microsoft Dynamics GP.

eConnect improves your return on investment by drawing on existing investments. Those who invest in eConnect will also use the power of Microsoft SQL Server™ 2000 and develop other industry-standard technologies. The industry standard technologies eConnect uses to accomplish these integrations include a combination of Visual Basic objects, stored procedures, BizTalk, COM, MSMQ, web services, and XML. The business logic is stored in the back office allowing developers to select their tool of choice for connectivity.

eConnect offers developers a powerful advantage. They can focus on XML and business logic development without the need to rebuild transport protocols because they have the opportunity to customize existing infrastructure. For example create an XML document for your specific transaction that is utilized by a custom application in the back office. Then transport that document from XML to the back office using the existing eConnect connectivity tools. ISVs (Independent Software Vendors) will find eConnect valuable for rapid integration of web solutions utilizing .Net services in conjunction with eConnect.

eConnect Objects

eConnect, a series of programmable tools, has the ability to integrate to business objects. These business objects act as a doorway for data to be integrated from an existing application into a Customers' back office solution, specifically Microsoft Dynamics GP. The business logic in eConnect ensures data validation and holds the capability to return well formed XML documents on demand, which display the details of an extensive set of back office documents.

eConnect contains an extensive set of sample integration components. These sample integration components consist of an ASP .Net web page, a BizTalk snap-in, a Queue client pusher for MSMQ, and a direct document sender. Open access to this tool kit permits developers to quickly implement eConnect and extend the business logic without starting over.

Benefits

Enhance your offering—eConnect supports the ability to access data in real-time. This allows you to build applications that connect to your financial management data so that you can share information back and forth between multiple applications.

Reduce development costs—eConnect allows smooth flow of information directly from your applications to Microsoft Dynamics GP, and vice-versa. It provides a large number of integration points into Microsoft Dynamics GP that can be called direct or can be used to pass XML documents in and out of Microsoft Dynamics GP. This increases your return on investment by freeing up resources to focus on other critical activities.

Leverage industry standard technologies—eConnect includes components for Microsoft Message Queue (MSMQ) and BizTalk Server, industry standard tools that allow you to tightly integrate your applications, build highly-reliable and fault-tolerant systems while automating data exchange for your customers.

eConnect Integrations

eConnect supports the following back office touch point integrations. If the touch point has an asterisk (*), update functionality is available.

Bank Reconciliation

- Bank Deposits – enter and post deposit transactions
- Bank Transaction – enter and void transactions and receipts
- Bank Transaction Voids
- Delete Bank Deposits
- Post Bank Deposits

Company

- Bank
- Country*
- Credit card
- Internet addresses
- Shipping methods*

Field Service

- Service call codes*
- Service call master*

Fixed Asset Management

- Account group
- Asset class ID
- Asset ID*
- Asset insurance
- Asset lease
- Asset user data*
- Book class
- Book ID
- Insurance class ID
- Lease company
- Location ID
- Physical location ID
- Retirement code
- Structure

General Ledger

- Account category
- Accounts
    - Regular*
    - Fixed Allocation*
    - Variable Allocation*
- Buyer
- Checkbook
- General Ledger transactions
    - Standard
    - Reversing
    - MDA (Multi-Dimensional Analysis)

Inventory

- Inventory item vendors*
- Inventory items
    - Regular Items*
    - Kit Items
- Inventory lot categories
- Inventory multibin bin-to-bin transfers
- Inventory site bin
- Inventory sites*
- Inventory transactions
- Inventory transfers
- Inventory price groups
- Inventory price levels
- Inventory unit of measure schedules
- Item currency*
- Planner

Lockbox

- Lockbox
- Lockbox bank details

Payroll

- Benefits*
- Computer check transactions
- Deductions*
- Departments*
- Employee*
    - Address*
    - Benefit*
    - Class*
    - Deductions*
    - Taxes – Federal, State, Local*
    - Pay Codes*
- Local Tax*
- Location*
- Manual Check Transactions
- Pay code*
- Position*
- Shift code*
- Supervisor*
- Workers compensation*

Project Accounting

- Accounts setup
- Change order
- Contract Billing Cycle
- Contracts
- Employee expense
- Miscellaneous log
- Purchase Order edit status
- Purchase Order transactions*
- Receiving/Invoicing entry*
- Project access list
- Project billing cycles
- Project budget master
- Project equipment list
- Project fees
- Projects
- Time sheet entry

Purchase Order Processing

- Purchase Order enter/match invoices
- Purchase Order delete
- Purchase Order void
- Purchase Order map sites
- Purchase Order receiving
- Remove Purchase Order Processing to Sales Order Processing link
- Purchase Order transactions

Purchasing Management

- PM buyer
- PM manual checks
- PM scheduled payments
- PM transactions
- Vendor
    - Including Project Accounting vendors
    - Vendor address

Receivables Management

- Create parent ID and child
- Customer
    - Including national accounts
    - Customer address
- Customer class
- Customer items
- Delete customer
- Delete customer address
- Delete salesperson ID
- Prospect
- RM apply
- RM cash receipts
- RM scheduled payments
- RM transactions – commission functionality added
- RM unapply transactions
- RM void transactions
- Sales territory
- Salesperson

Sales Order Processing

- SOP delete document
- SOP delete line
- SOP distributions
- SOP process holds
- SOP to POP link
- SOP transactions*
    - Quotes
    - Orders
    - Invoices
    - Fulfillments
    - Returns
    - Back Order
    - Holds
    - Allows negative pricing
    - Allows negative quantities for SOP invoice
- SOP void document

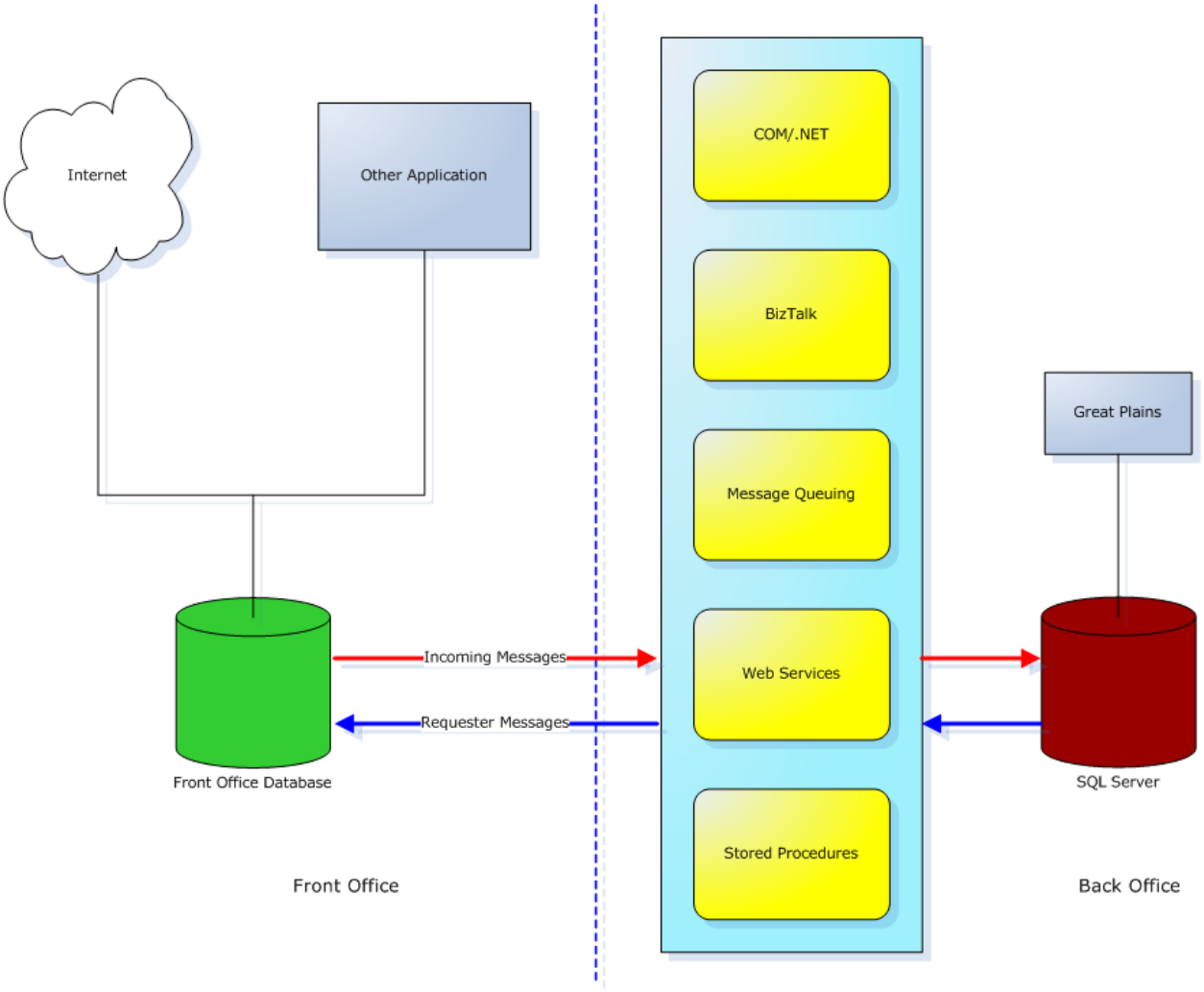
*Sop transactions include the following auto creation capabilities:

- Auto Tax creation
- Auto Commission creation
- Auto assigning Lot Numbers
- Auto assigning Serial Numbers
- Auto assigning of prices

Shared Master

- MDA Updates
- Transaction batches
    - Create
    - Update

eConnect Configuration



Extending eConnect Business Logic

Developers are frequently required to add business logic in order to solve various business problems. With eConnect, a developer has multiple methods of adding the appropriate business logic.

eConnect has the capability to add additional XML nodes to the document schema. The current nodes map directly to the SQL based business logic on the back end. As a result, eConnect middleware can be utilized to process an eConnect document. Then simply add the business logic in SQL to route the XML node that was added.

Typically, another area where business logic needs to be extended is incoming orders, invoices, or sales documents. There are Pre and Post SQL procedures embedded for each schema available that users can modify to fit their business needs. A developer could also build additional custom middleware, which can extend the existing middleware available with eConnect.

For more information about extending business logic, please copy MBSProfessionalServices@microsoft.com.

Professional Services

Support & Enhancement

Standard fees for support plans and the Enhancement Program apply to eConnect. The price of eConnect is added to the Customers' total current system list price and the price of their service plan is calculated as a percentage of that list price.

The Microsoft Business Solutions Tools Support Team provides technical support for eConnect. eConnect is available on the list of options on the eSupport form on CustomerSource and the list of Quick Access Codes for telephone support. New releases of eConnect will be delivered to Customers who have current Enhancement Program enrollment.

Advisory Services

Customers will likely need assistance in integrating and mapping the objects to their back office solution, along with the custom applications or storefront. If Microsoft Business Solutions provides these services, the Customer will be charged our standard consulting fee. To reserve this service, Partners should send an email on their Customer's behalf to MBSProfessionalServices@microsoft.com.

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