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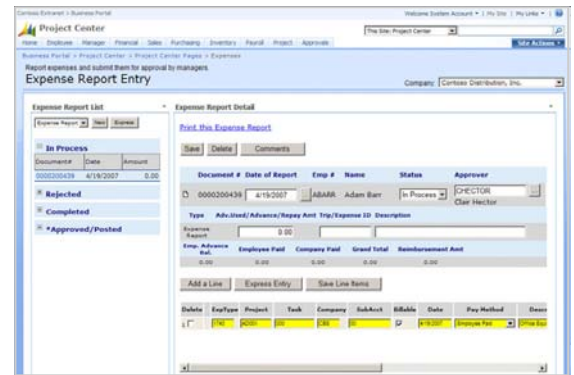
MICROSOFT DYNAMICS SL NEWSLETTER

Productivity – At Your Desk or Away from the Office

Business operations for many of today's companies have spread far beyond the four walls of the "main office." Innovative strategies that leverage the latest technology have created a prolific trend toward small and medium-sized businesses with multiple locations and a widely-dispersed workforce. From remote employees that work in a home office to "road warrior" executives and a traveling sales force, today's small and mid-sized business can literally extend it's presence globally, establish multiple locations to serve local markets, and tap into a wider labor pool to attract the most talented employees nationwide. The question: How does your business leverage the technological foundation of your Microsoft Dynamics SL system to take advantage of this opportunity? Read on to discover the possibilities.

The Distributed Workforce

The trend toward a "distributed workforce" holds tremendously positive implications for small and mid-sized companies. In the past, managing multiple offices, warehouses, and remote employees was better left to large enterprise with deep pockets. But today's small business can operate just like a large company while at the same time remain nimble and keep overhead costs in check. **Communications** and **Access to Information** are two of the most important aspects of a successfully distributed workforce. The ability to operate as if everyone was in the same office with access to the same information, anywhere and anytime, is a key component of leveraging the benefit of a distributed workforce. To that end, Microsoft offers **Business Portal for Dynamics SL**.



Report expenses and submit them for approval with Business Portal for Dynamics SL

Business Portal for Microsoft Dynamics SL

You'll quickly experience enhanced productivity by leveraging the powerful Business Portal for Dynamics SL. Business Portal works together with Internet Explorer to provide web-based access to employees, customers and business partners with complete security to protect sensitive data. From anywhere in the world, your team can enter and review information including time and expense reports, purchase requests and approvals, order changes and much more. Once entered or edited, data is updated to Dynamics SL immediately so everyone in your organization is working with the same information.

Manage Projects from Anywhere

Within each project, you can create tracking sheets and systems to view project management and project management accounting, including key elements such as time entry and approval, expense entry and approval, and item request submission and approval. In addition, Project managers can view everyone's project data through an interface that provides a summary view of each project. Managers can review a project's status, who is working on it, the start and end dates, project customer, purchase order number, whether a review is required, and percentage of completion. Whether you're at headquarters or traveling to meetings with clients, the **Executive Project Analyst** view provides up-to-the-minute schedule and budget status information for each of your customer's projects.

Contact us to learn more about using Business Portal to keep your employees productive whether at their desk or away from the office.



[Click Here](#) to read the Business Portal Overview Brochure for More Detail.

In This Issue:

Productivity:
At Your Desk
or Away from
the Office

EDI Gateway
for Dynamics
SL

Contact Us

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Partner

EDI Gateway for Dynamics SL

If you're like some folks, you've probably heard of EDI but aren't exactly sure what it is, what it does, or what benefit it can offer your company. In this article, we define EDI, evaluate its benefit, and take a quick peek at Dynamics SL eCommerce Gateway – an EDI solution integrated with your Microsoft Dynamics SL system.

So What is EDI Anyway?

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is the process of electronically exchanging data, or more specifically business documents, between companies. Business documents might include Orders, Invoices, Acknowledgments, and Advance Shipping Notice. EDI transmissions generally contain the same information that would be included in the "paper" version of the document. It's essentially an electronic conversation between two businesses ... or more accurately, between two business systems. Companies that send or receive documents from each other are referred to as "trading partners" in EDI terminology.

That Makes Sense, But How Does it Work?

To explain how it works, we'll use an example of a Purchase Order that has been processed in your system. Information from that Purchase Order is translated to a specific data format and submitted directly to your suppliers system via the internet (without re-keying data). In some cases, a Value Added Network (VAN) acts as an intermediary between you and your trading partner. In the most basic form, a VAN acts as a post office that receives transactions and routes them to the appropriate recipient. It's like a clearinghouse that simplifies communication between trading partners (i.e. you and your vendor or customer) and ensures that the data exchanged is structured and standardized.

What are the Bottom Line Benefits?

Primary benefits of EDI technology include accuracy and efficiency which can result in both direct and indirect cost savings.

Accuracy – errors are reduced because data is not being re-keyed into another system. Improved accuracy results in a host of benefits which can include eliminating excessive shipping charges and the cost of returns for incorrect orders.

Efficiency – electronic documents are delivered far more quickly than their paper-based counterparts resulting in faster order turn around, happier customers, and competitive advantage.

Transaction # *	Direction *	Description
810	Outbound	Invoice
850	Outbound	Purchase Order
855	Outbound	Purchase Order Acknowledgement
856	Outbound	Advanced Ship Notice
857	Outbound	Invoice/Advanced Ship Notice
875	Outbound	UCS Purchase Order
880	Outbound	UCS Invoice
940	Outbound	Warehouse Shipping Order

A fast & efficient alternative to paper-based communications, EDI saves time, reduces errors, and eliminates paperwork.

EDI can reduce direct costs such as paper, forms, postage, printers & toner, and document storage. Indirect benefits can include reduced lead times, more frequent inventory turns, better use of warehouse space, and improved cash flow (faster delivery, faster invoice, earlier payment).

EDI for Dynamics SL

Microsoft Dynamics SL eCommerce Gateway-EDI Edition is an affordable EDI solution that works with the Order Management, Inventory, and Purchasing modules to integrate business transactions with your customers, vendors and remote warehouses. It sends and receives transactions in a standardized format between computers and across multiple computer platforms.

Dynamics SL eCommerce Gateway-EDI Edition will reduce administrative paperwork and dramatically decrease business transaction processing times. And perhaps best of all, there are no additional software programs to learn, or new screens to work with.

Contact us to learn more about reducing transaction processing time and eliminating errors with EDI for Dynamics SL.



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