

## The Covast B2B Suite for Retail



### The Benefits of Covast B2B Suite for Retail:

The Covast B2B Suite for Retail is designed specifically for the business, customer and supply chain demands of today's retailers. The solution offers:

- ➔ **Improved supplier visibility, flexibility and inventory control.** Using a single integration platform, the Covast B2B Suite for Retail allows retailers to see and manage supplier activity from a single place. The ability to monitor external B2B business processes and manage activity in real-time helps retailers improve critical business functions such as inventory control.
- ➔ **Comprehensive support of retail-specific protocols and standards.** Covast supports all retail B2B communication standards and protocols used all over the world. This is increasingly important for retailers who source products both globally and locally.
- ➔ **Ease of use for simplified B2B integration.** The Covast B2B Suite for Retail allows companies to quickly add new trading partners and conduct B2B communications easily. Because Covast's solutions are designed to be used by non-developer/non-programmer resources, retailers can tailor the solution to fit their precise B2B communication and integration needs.
- ➔ **Secured, controlled communication.** The B2B Suite for Retail enables companies to communicate with all trading partners in a secure and controlled way, thus ensuring communication integrity and reliability.
- ➔ **Faster responsiveness to supplier, partner and customer demands.** Through real-time visibility of all B2B communications from a single integration platform, Covast B2B Suite for Retail allows companies to quickly identify and execute critical inventory, order and payment changes.

It takes a lot more than buying and selling to keep today's large retailers up and running. The complex IT infrastructure of today's large retailers can be overwhelming. Critical business functions like inventory control, supplier compliance and order fulfillment require a host of different B2B applications and communication.

Covast is bringing simplicity to retailers all over the globe with the Covast B2B Suite for Retail. Through solutions specifically designed for today's large retailers, the Covast B2B Suite for Retail enables total B2B integration by extending the integration capabilities of traditional single platform environments.

The result? You gain immediate access to comprehensive and real-time views of all supplier and customer activity. Drastic improvements are made to forecasting and inventory control. Order fulfillment is more accurate and timely. And, the cost of doing business is less than ever before.

The result? Operations are more efficient. Supply chains are more flexible. Your IT infrastructure is more scalable. Put simply, business as you know it is better.

## Why B2B Integration is Critical to Your Business.

If you haven't already invested in a single integration platform, chances are you will be soon. Today's businesses use an astounding number of different applications, databases and systems to conduct business. Until recently, there hasn't been a way to easily manage the real-time business processes and activities — especially those that involve customers, suppliers and partners — that are housed within these applications.

Single integration platforms have partially solved this problem. But, while integrating internal systems is fairly simple with the help of these platforms, B2B system integration is not.

This is where the Covast B2B Suite for Retail comes in. Covast's combination of B2B integration software and expert professional services drastically extends the B2B integration capabilities of two of the world's leading integration platforms: Microsoft BizTalk Server and IBM WebSphere. The benefits are immediate and powerful. The ability to consolidate and manage all applications and business activities from one place quickly translates into improvements in efficiency, productivity, business process management and business activity monitoring.

## Why Covast?

The Covast B2B Suite for Retail is the industry's most reliable and scalable B2B integration solution. With more than a decade of B2B integration success behind us, Covast understands there is no "one size fits all" solution. Our solutions are designed specifically to overcome the operational and market challenges of your retailing organization.

Many of the world's leading retailers turn to Covast to facilitate B2B integration and communication. As a result, these companies are able to support all B2B communication protocols, handle unprecedented levels of secure B2B transactions on their networks, increase supply chain flexibility and better manage business processes and activities.

## B2B Solutions Tailored for Your Business.

The Covast B2B Suite for Retail is comprised of several award-winning and industry-certified products and services from Covast. Depending on your specific B2B communication needs and requirements, Covast custom builds B2B integration from the following components:

- **EDI Accelerator for BizTalk Server** — The EDI Accelerator for BizTalk Server is a seamless extension of BizTalk Server's functionality that handles every type of B2B document format and transportation.
- **B2B Suite for WebSphere** — The B2B suite for WebSphere is a seamless extension of the WebSphere Message Broker that handles every type of B2B document format and transportation.
- **Map Accelerator for BizTalk Server** — The Map Accelerator for BizTalk Server is an automated solution to migrate legacy B2B systems to the Microsoft BizTalk Server environment.
- **Map Accelerator for Websphere** — The Map Accelerator for IBM WebSphere is an automated solution to migrate legacy B2B systems to the IBM WebSphere environment.
- **OFTP Adapter for WebSphere** — The OFTP Adapter supports end-to-end exchange of B2B transactions using the protocol commonly found in just-in-time operations in the automotive, manufacturing, chemical, retail and banking.
- **AS2 Adapters for BizTalk Server and the Covast EDI Accelerator** — The AS2 Adapter for BizTalk Server and the Covast EDI Accelerator provides the means to connect, deliver, validate and reply to data in a secure and reliable way.
- **B2B Suite for GXS Trading Grid** — GXS and Covast have jointly developed advanced Trading Partner Management tools within the Microsoft BizTalk Server platform to accelerate partner enablement and deliver real time supply chain visibility.
- **Covast Professional Training Services** — Covast provides training at one of our two training facilities or on-site in your environment. Our two-day course provides the foundation necessary to install, configure, manage and maintain Covast's B2B Solutions.
- **Covast Professional Consulting Services** — Covast partners with global and regional System Integrators to provide professional services for its solutions. Covast can provide long-term on-site assistance or its "Quick Start" package to accelerate solution delivery.
- **Covast Support** — Covast is committed to providing comprehensive support for all of our B2B integration products. We offer Software Assurance which includes new versions of the software and helpdesk support during local office hours. Upon request, 24\*7 helpdesk support is also available.

## Immediate ROI.

Deploying the Covast B2B Suite for Retail is quick and easy. The Covast solution is designed to tightly integrate with both Microsoft BizTalk and IBM WebSphere. This means that, once you deploy your Covast solution, you have everything required to facilitate fast, easy B2B communication.

Covast customers see improvements in supply chain management, productivity and B2B communication in weeks, even days. Please contact a Covast representative to learn how your retail company can benefit from B2B integration.



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