



# BIZTALK SERVER 2004 BASE EDI ADAPTER VS COVAST EDI ACCELERATOR FOR BIZTALK SERVER 2004

## BizTalk Server 2004 Base EDI Adapter

BizTalk Server 2004 contains rudimentary EDI functionality. This functionality can be used for small EDI implementations where only a limited number of EDI documents are used and no EDI communications is needed. These documents must be of the EDIFACT or ANSI X12 standard of which a number of syntaxes are supported. Within these specific syntax versions a limited number of document types are offered. It is suitable for small to medium businesses that need some form of EDI document format output or input where EDI is not a significant part of the integration need.

## Covast EDI Accelerator for BizTalk Server 2004

Jointly developed by Covast and Microsoft on the latest .NET technology, the Covast EDI Accelerator is the recommended EDI solution for BizTalk customers. The EDI Accelerator is tightly integrated with BizTalk and leverages the new BizTalk Server 2004 adapter framework. Simply stated, the Covast EDI Accelerator provides BizTalk users an easy way to introduce complex EDI requirements into the XML framework of BizTalk Server and allows companies to utilize a single platform for handling all of their B2B activities.

## What are the functional differences?

BizTalk Base EDI Adapter

Auditing	
Acknowledgements	
Formats and Types	
Control Numbering	
Validation	
Batching	
Communication	

Covast EDI Accelerator

Auditing	
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Bottom up the key differences between the Microsoft Base EDI Adapter and the Covast EDI Accelerator:

### Communications:

- The Base EDI Adapter does not have any EDI specific communication support.
- The Covast EDI Accelerator has multiple facilities to set up communications common in EDI environments like: FTP, OFTP, HTTP, X.400, AS2 and email (with or without attachments). Besides these protocols for point to point connections, Covast offers out of the box "Connectors" for the most common Value Added Networks.

### Batching:

- The Base EDI Adapter has no batching facilities for EDI. In functional descriptions / presentations of BizTalk Server 2004 batching is mentioned, something else is meant here (batching of multiple transactions into one database transaction), not batching of EDI documents.

- The Covast EDI Accelerator offers all standard batching facilities needed with EDI. Besides the standard batching methods, there are custom options (batch documents with same identifier or recreate a batch as it came from the back office system).
- By having access to the EDI envelope elements from the BizTalk Mapper, batching can be controlled from within mappings.

### Validation:

- The schemas used in the Base EDI Adapter are based on the XDR schema's from BizTalk 2002. These schemas miss a lot of the required validation rules which need to be done in EDI (check on composites, check on complex hierarchical segment structures, etc.).
- There is only support for a very limited set of EDI documents.
- The Covast EDI Accelerator adds a true EDI validation engine to the BizTalk Server.

### Control Numbering:

- To a certain extent control numbering is supported in the Base EDI Adapter, control numbers can be set on Document, Group and Interchange level. It is however not possible to use "masks" in the numbers. There is no check on duplicates.
- One can use masks with the Covast EDI Accelerator and it checks on duplicates.

### Formats and types:

- The Base EDI Adapter supports only a limited number of only X12 and EDIFACT syntaxes and types. Only the types in the standard installation can be used, one cannot add e.g. a EDIFACT ORDERS D96A or X12 4020 850 document.
- The Covast EDI Accelerator comes with a complete repository of EDI document structures that contain all documents of all versions of EDIFACT, X12, EANCOM, TRADACOMS, ODETTE and VDA. Users can simply download what they need and import it into their environment (EDIFACT and X12 come without extra charge with the standard license).
- An additional environment for managing and maintaining all EDI document types is provided with the Covast EDI Accelerator – The EDI Studio. This is a sophisticated workbench targeted specifically to the EDI Specialist, used to manage EDI standards (and deviations).

### Acknowledgements:

- The Base EDI Adapter is only capable of handling acknowledgements on the document level, this because of the missing outbound batching facilities.
- Error information that can be sent in a "negative acknowledgement" is limited as the error information produced in the Base EDI Adapter is limited to the segment level errors only.
- The Covast EDI Accelerator fully supports correlation and generation of Acknowledgements on; Interchange, Group and Document level.

### Auditing:

- The Base EDI Adapter is integrated with HAT, all messages, in- or outbound, are logged and monitored. Error details are limited though.
- With the Covast EDI Accelerator installed, erroneous interchanges can be viewed from HAT which allows drill-down into the document, highlighting the specific error(s) with a description.
- With the Covast EDI Accelerator, all EDI Details – also group/batch/interchange data - are in HAT and can be used e.g. for queries.



	Base EDI Adapter						Covast EDI Accelerator
<b>Communications</b>							
File							
FTP							
HTTP							
POP3/SMTP + Attachments							
MSMQ							
IBMMQSERIES							
HTTP + HTTPS							
OFTP							
VAN Integration *							
Proprietary Connections							
<b>Validation</b>							
Syntax Validation (for supported formats)							
Semantic Validation							
<b>Batching</b>							
Inbound de-batching							
Batch re-creation							
Batching on Functional Groups							
Batching on Identifiers							
Batching on source/target format							
<b>Format Support</b>							
EDIFACT **							
EANCOM							
ODETTE							
ANSI X12 **							
VICS							
WINS							
UCS							
TRADACOMS							
GENCOD							
VDA							
CARGO-IMP							
Define own schema's / Formats							
<b>Other</b>							
Envelope Mapping							
Trading partner specific handling							
Generation of Functional Acknowledgements							
Reconciliation of Functional Acknowledgements							
Control Numbering							
Detailed Audit Trail							
Detailed Error handling							

\* The following Value Added Networks are natively supported by the Covast EDI Accelerator:

- Atlas400,
- GXS EDI\*Express
- ICC.Net
- Kleinschmidt
- Sterling Commerce
- Transttlements
- WorldCom EDI\*Net
- BusinessMail
- IBM Information Exchange
- Inovis
- SITA
- GXS Tradanet
- Uniplus 400 Net

\*\* Documents supported by the Base EDI Adapter:

**EDIFACT Document Types**

D93A	DESADV, INVOIC, INVRPT, ORDERS, ORDRSP, PARTIN, PAYEXT, PRICAT, SLSRPT, PARTIN, PAYEXT, PRICAT, SLSRPT
D95A	APERAK, DESADV, INVOIC, INVRPT, ORDERS, ORDRSP, PARTIN, PAYEXT, PRICAT, SLSRPT
D95B	APERAK, DESADV, INVOIC, INVRPT, ORDERS, ORDRSP, PARTIN, PAYEXT, PRICAT, SLSRPT, ORDRSP, PARTIN, PAYEXT, PRICAT, SLSRPT
D97B	APERAK, DESADV, INVOIC, INVRPT, ORDERS, ORDRSP, PARTIN, PAYEXT, PRICAT, SLSRPT, ORDRSP, PARTIN, PAYEXT, PRICAT, SLSRPT
D98A	APERAK, CONTRLDESADV, INVOIC, INVRPT, ORDERS, ORDRSP, PARTIN, PAYEXT, PRICAT, SLSRPT, ORDRSP, PARTIN, PAYEXT, PRICAT, SLSRPT
D98B	APERAK, CONTRLDESADV, INVOIC, INVRPT, ORDERS, ORDRSP, PARTIN, PAYEXT, PRICAT, SLSRPT, ORDRSP, PARTIN, PAYEXT, PRICAT, SLSRPT

**ANSI/X12 Document Types**

2040	810, 832, 846, 850, 855, 856, 861, 864, 867, 997
3010	810, 832, 846, 850, 852, 855, 856, 861, 864, 867, 997
3060	810, 832, 846, 850, 852, 855, 856, 861, 864, 867, 940, 944, 997
4010	810, 832, 846, 850, 852, 855, 856, 861, 864, 867, 940, 944, 997