

TRADE/CEFACT/1999/CRP.8  
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**CEFACT**

**AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON SIMPL-EDI  
AND FORMS AND WEB BASED EDI (SIMAC)**

**Glossary of terms**

SOURCE: SIMAC (CEFACT/SIMAC/98N002.Rev3)  
STATUS: Approved  
ACTION: To UN secretariat for information

**Subject: Definitions and Developments**

Electronic business, Electronic commerce, SIMPL-EDI, Lite EDI, XML/EDI and Web-EDI

**Value Chain Management Definition**

Maximising total performance and added value across an entire process by reviewing each internal and external operation, and the links between these operations.

The process will be reviewed in a systematic and standard way in order to optimise speed, certainty, and cost effectiveness for the parties involved.

The process review can be achieved through established procedures and existing techniques such as value chain analysis and activity based costing.

**Supply Chain Definition**

A sequence of events, which may include conversion, movement or placement, which adds value to goods, products, or services.

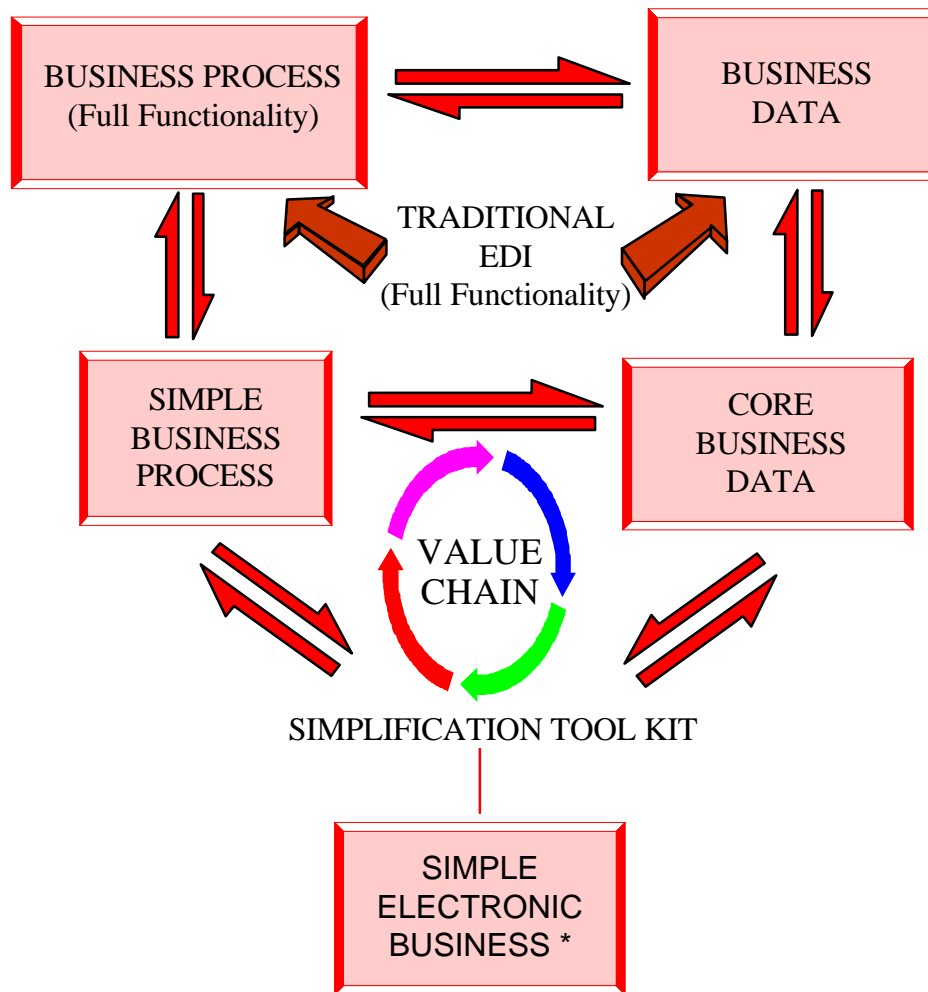
**Simplification Toolkit**

Collection of tools to enable simplified implementations of structured electronic commerce techniques such as, electronic data interchange, electronic funds transfer, automatic data capture, bar-code technology and unique goods/ product/ service/ party identification schemes.

**Electronic Commerce**

The definition as agreed in the CEFACT ad hoc group for Electronic Commerce:

*“ Electronic Commerce is doing business electronically. This includes the sharing of standardised unstructured or structured business information by any electronic means (such as electronic mail or messaging, World Wide Web technology, electronic bulletin boards, smart cards, electronic funds transfers, electronic data interchange, and automatic data capture technology) among suppliers, customers, governmental bodies and other partners in order to conduct and execute transactions in business, administrative and consumer activities.*



*Figure 1: Simple Electronic Business Map*

*\*The simple electronic business tools are defined on the next page of this document*

### **Simple Electronic Business (SEB) Definition**

Simple Electronic Business is the application of simplified business processes, using core application data, and new and existing standardised techniques which support paperless and efficient operations. Simple electronic business encompasses existing approaches such as SIMPL-EDI, Lite-EDI, Web-EDI, providing a comprehensive set of tools to support companies of all sizes.

Forms based EDI can take advantage of SIMPL-EDI messages.

Tools and initiatives to support electronic business include techniques such as:

- 1 Definition and use of core application data
- 2 master data exchange
- 3 master data alignment
- 4 Value Chain analysis
- 5 forms based interfaces
- 6 business scenarios and modelling using object oriented approach
- 7 unique numbering and identification
- 8 automatic data capture techniques
- 9 application integration
- 10 best business practice recommendations
- 11 UN/EDIFACT
- 12 Use of appropriate security mechanisms
- 13 Cross sectoral simplification and harmonisation
- 14 Techniques to generate electronic forms and data exchange

No priority should be implied by the sequence of this list.

### **Initiatives and concepts of Simple Electronic Business**

#### **SIMPL-EDI**

Simple Electronic Business defines simplest processes and their required core data allowing the exchange of the minimum data to effect a business transaction electronically.

SIMPL-EDI documents the use of UN/EDIFACT EDI messages to support the requirements of simplified basic business processes, and the core data to support the processes.

SIMPL-EDI allows the linking of improved processes and procedures, organised with the maximum use of simple standard procedures and standard EDI with the maximum use of applicable coding systems and standard IT systems.

The underlying principles are:

- application to application processing
- no manual intervention
- Prior exchange of master data
- Data alignment
- adoption of 80/20 rule i.e. 20% of the data from the existing UNSM's to enable 80% of the business relationships simply and automatically, with exceptions requiring more sophisticated use of the UNSM
- simple processes
- simple to understand and to use

Lite EDI is another term that supports many of the same concepts as SIMPL-EDI.

### **Core Data**

The fundamental set of data that is needed to convey the essential minimum detail for a specific transaction type. Ideally the detail should be all required pieces of information with no, or at least the very minimum of, options.

### **Core Master Data**

The fundamental set of data that is needed to establish sufficient (but minimum) reference material to support the maximum use of pre-coded, pre-agreed information enabling simple (minimum required content) transaction messaging.

### **Master Data**

The set of data that is needed to establish sufficient reference material to support the maximum use of pre-coded, pre-agreed information enabling more efficient transaction messaging.

### **Forms EDI**

A screen presenting to a user the contents of an EDI message in a manner that is easy to use and interpret. The form may reside on a web site or the computer of the party viewing or completing the form. The form may be based on the UN Layout key (UNLK).

## **Web EDI**

Web EDI covers the techniques used to facilitate EDI via the Internet which may include forms EDI via a web server.

## **Technologies**

A number of technologies are available to generate forms to support Simple Electronic business, including HTML, Dynamic HTML, XML, Active Server Pages, and Java. More technologies are expected to be available in the near future.

## **Object Oriented Approach**

The development of classes of business objects may support and have an impact on the developments in the area of simplification of EDI and its standards. A business object is a true representation of a tangible concept stemming from real business usage.

**Directly involved CEFACT Working Groups:**

**Business Analyses Working Group: (Business Process Analysis Group)**

Analysing and understanding the key elements of international transactions and working for the elimination of constraints.

**Techniques and Methodologies Group**

To research and identify techniques and methodologies which could be utilised by CEFACT and its working groups to enhance the process by which its deliverables are produced and integrated.

**EDIFACT Working Group**

To develop and maintain UN/EDIFACT, the support of harmonised implementations and the use of multi-lingual terminology.

**Electronic Commerce Ad Hoc Working Group**

To analyse the applicability of the CEFACT work programme to the Electronic Commerce environment and to identify areas of contributions by CEFACT

**Codes Working Group**

To oversee the development, maintenance and use of a coherent set of procedures and underlying processes to govern the production, quality control and publication of CEFACT code sets and code structures.

**International Trade Procedures Working Group**

To undertake trade procedures work by means of identifying best practice in private and public sector international trade procedures and make them as far as possible into an example for other existing procedures.

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