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MERVA ESA Directory Services

Highlights

S.W.I.F.T.'s Standing Settlements Instructions / Foreign Exchange (SSI/FX) Directory service enables financial institutions to hold and manage an in-house SSI/FX database to help achieve Straigh-Through-Processing (STP). MERVA ESA* Directory Services now enable users to fully integrate SSI/FX data on an IBM host to be used by user application programs.

Automation through integration

Today many institutions run their payment applications and network gateways on an IBM host (with OS/390*, CICS* or IMS*, and MERVA ESA) and use a separate S.W.I.F.T. workstation to manage their SSI/FX data base. These institutions need to automatically access and use SSI/FX data at host level in order to improve their automated payments process and achieve higher levels of STP.

MERVA ESA Directory Services is the answer to this need.

The complete SSI/FX database is now available for MERVA ESA users. It is stored on IBM's Universal Data Base* on the same environment as MERVA ESA. The data is automatically updated by incoming and outgoing S.W.I.F.T. messages and fully managed by MERVA ESA Directory Services.

Financial applications can make use of SSI/FX data by accessing it through the Application Programming Interface (API) of MERVA ESA Directory Services, which gives users full read access to this new data base. Data exchanged in this way can then be used to improve the quality of automatically created S.W.I.F.T. messages exchanged with other institutions in order to achieve higher levels of STP.

Operation through connectivity

Integrating the SSI data is unfortunately not enough.

Financial institutions need to distribute their own entries to the SSI/FX database simply and frequently. MERVA ESA users can do this by making changes to the local SSI/FX data base using the S.W.I.F.T. Directory Services Application (DSA) running on a separate PC. The updates are then passed to MERVA ESA to be sent through the S.W.I.F.T. network to the central SSI/FX database and are further distributed by S.W.I.F.T. to subscribers of the SSI/FX service.

New entries to the SSI/FX database are entered on the Directory Services Application. This generates a file containing one or more relevant S.W.I.F.T. messages. The MERVA Import/Export feature running on the S.W.I.F.T. workstation automatically transfers these messages to a MERVA OS/2* USE PC using the MERVA Connection/NT feature. In a second step, these messages are transfered from the MERVA OS/2 USE PC to MERVA ESA through MERVA Link for further transmission to S.W.I.F.T.

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Those institutions using MQSeries* may pass new entries from the S.W.I.F.T. workstation to MERVA ESA using the MERVA Import/Export feature and MQSeries automatically transmits the updates directly to MERVA ESA as described in the second figure below.
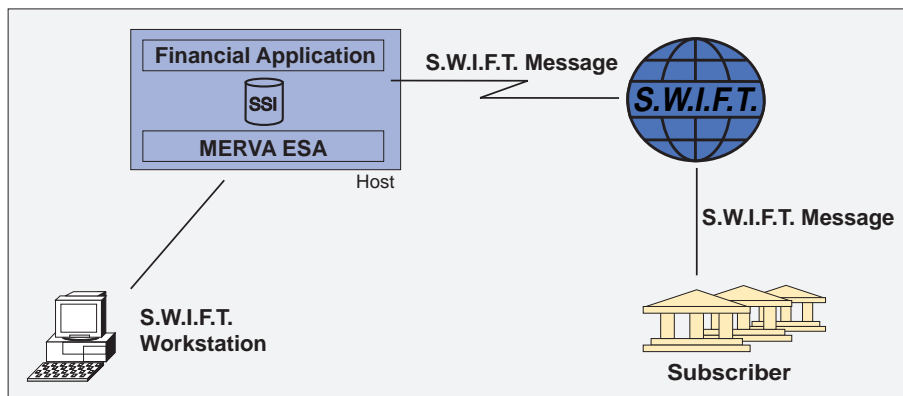
Looking to the future

The general architecture that enables MERVA ESA users to have a direct access to S.W.I.F.T.'s SSI/FX database could be extended by adding additional databases such as the Payment Directory database.

Ordering information

MERVA ESA Directory Services is an IBM service offering. If you wish to order it, please contact your nearest IBM office for information about the terms and conditions.

Further information

For further information about MERVA, IBM's Financial Messaging System, please contact your local IBM representative.

Or visit us at:
www.europe.ibm.com/finance/merva

Or send an e-mail to:
merva@de.ibm.com
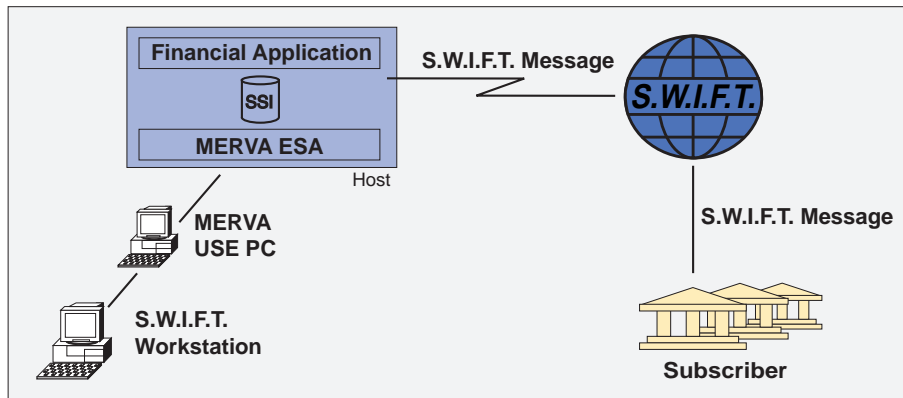
Connecting S.W.I.F.T. Workstation with MERVA Import/Export feature

Connecting S.W.I.F.T. Workstation with MQ