



Improve inventory utilization while providing more accurate promise dates

IBM Sterling Global Inventory Visibility

Benefits

- Improve inventory utilization across the supply chain
- Improve product availability
- Avoid transit expediting costs
- Decrease stock-outs

Related Offerings

- WebSphere Commerce
- IBM® Sterling Supply Chain Visibility
- IBM® Sterling Distributed Order Management

Visibility across the supply chain

IBM® Sterling Global Inventory Visibility gives your company a single comprehensive view of all inventory information by aggregating inventory from internal and external locations and providing a view of what is available within your organization as well as all partner locations, what is being supplied, what is in transit, and the current demand. Inventory items from 3rd party vendors can be tracked using their SKU numbers, while still rolling up the overall inventory amount using the end item number. This extensive visibility ensures that you are giving your customers an accurate promise date for all of their orders, and your inventory is being utilized in the most efficient way.

More Accurate Promise Dates

Sterling Global Inventory Visibility provides available to promise dates for customer orders, based not only on what inventory is on hand, but also what has been ordered, in transit, and what is available at 3rd party locations. A real-time availability monitor considers business calendars and notification times to provide the user with the most accurate promise date at time of order placement. The order promising system will also look at lead times, the distribution centers the order will pass through, and priority of the buyer to determine what the promise date will be.

"Sterling Global Inventory Visibility enables us to ensure the right inventory is available when our customers want it."

Larry Poppo
MIS Director, Cabela's

Sterling Global Inventory Visibility can also be used across multiple channels and external suppliers. The same inventory availability information can be accessed from a call center, store, or the Web, and a field sales agent can access it remotely, ensuring that all supply chain participants are utilizing the most up to date inventory information.

Not your typical inventory control system

Typical inventory control systems are managed locally, and focus on tactical processes such as day-to-day inventory management and cycle counting. Such systems are not designed to provide strategic decision support capabilities that require a global view of inventory information across different locations and systems. Current systems are also limited in their ability to supply access control for inventory systems and users beyond the four walls of the location they serve.

Sterling Global Inventory Visibility not only handles the tactical process, but our visibility capabilities include a forward-looking, time-phased inventory view accessible through a configurable inventory console. Use of this inventory visibility solution presents you with a

central repository of inventory information, which can collect real-time data from other systems, then serve as a single source that can be accessed by multiple users.

Monitor inventory

Inventory in multiple locations can be monitored to ensure the most efficient

utilization as well as the prevention of obsolete inventory. On-hand inventory monitors can be time-triggered to ensure that items do not spoil or become obsolete. Event-driven monitoring of inventory levels can automatically trigger replenishment and enable proactive response to unplanned events.

Capability	Description
Global, multi-site inventory visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain real-time visibility of inventory at all internal and external locations Leverage advanced inventory search capabilities Single console to manage both supply and demand
Supply and demand matching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> View and manage demand directly from the inventory console Identify and resolve inventory shortages Provide users with role-specific inventory views
Inventory segmentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Configure inventory categories to meet specific business requirements Reserve inventory against pre-confirmed orders Use business rules to define which inventory and locations each user can view
Real-time available-to-promise (ATP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain accurate, global availability in real-time and across all channels Define promising rules based on inventory types and locations Schedule and allocate orders based upon available, in-transit, and on-order inventory Promise down to lot and batch number
Event-driven inventory monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor inventory levels, movements, late receipts, or other inventory events Raise alerts and proactively respond to unplanned events

About Sterling Commerce

Sterling Commerce, an IBM® Company, helps organizations worldwide increase business agility in their dynamic business network through innovative solutions for selling and fulfillment and for seamless and secure integration with customers, partners and suppliers. More information can be found at www.sterlingcommerce.com.