

IBM WebSphere Business Integration Connect - Express



Product Overview

Version 4.2.0

Note!

Before using this information and the product it supports, be sure to read the general information under “Notices and Trademarks” on page 17.

First Edition (September 2003)

This edition applies to Version 4, Release 2, Modification 0, of IBM® WebSphere® Business Integration Connect - Express (5724-E88), and to all subsequent releases and modifications until otherwise indicated in new editions.

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Chapter 1. About this book

This document provides an overview of IBM® WebSphere® Business Integration Connect Version 4.2. It briefly describes the entire Business Integration Connect family and then describes, in more detail, Business Integration Connect - Express.

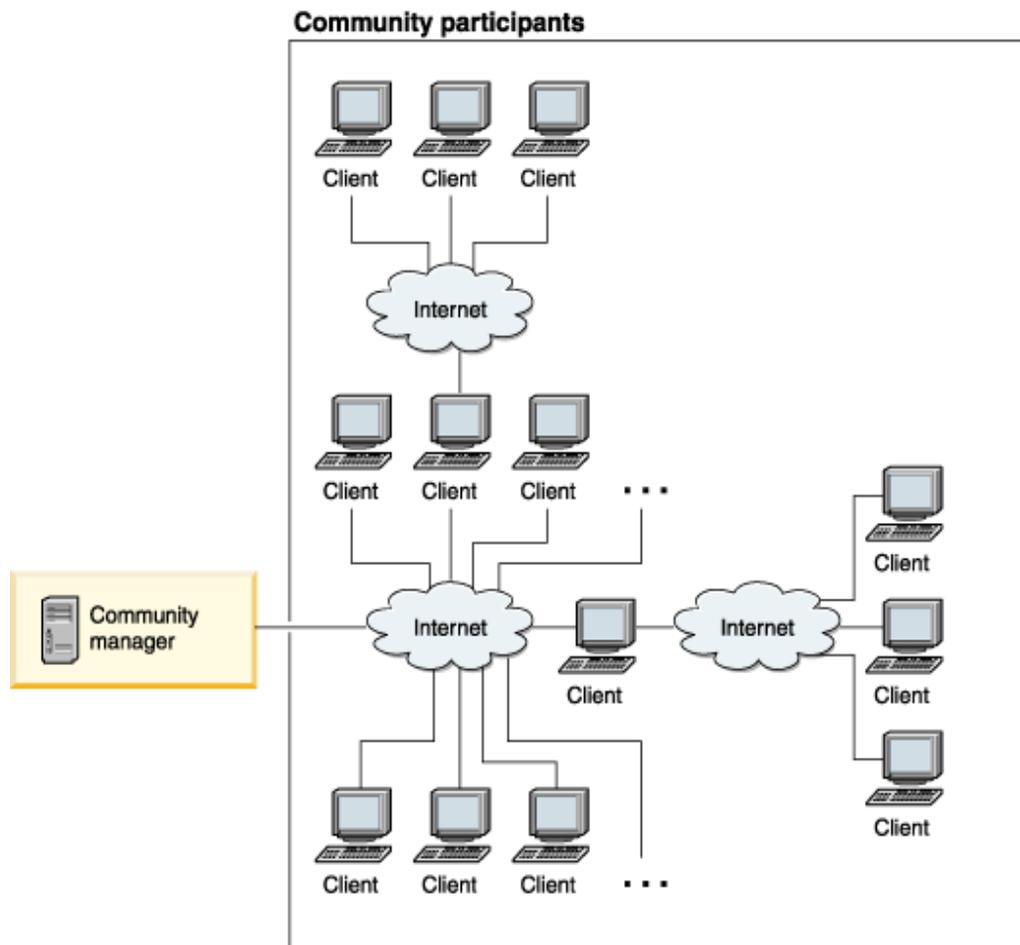
Chapter 2. Product introduction

Business Integration Connect is a business-to-business (B2B) community management solution for companies large and small. The Business Integration Connect solution addresses both the connectivity and the trading-partner enablement needs that are required to establish a mutually beneficial trading community.

With Business Integration Connect, you exchange data and processes within a trading community, crossing enterprise boundaries and extending business integration beyond the enterprise and into the community.

The trading community

A trading community typically revolves around a hub—an enterprise that acts as the Community Manager. Community participants of various sizes connect to the hub through the Internet. Participants themselves can act as hubs.



A trading community with a Community Manager and Community Participants

Business Integration Connect provides a solution for each type of participant in the trading community.

- WebSphere Business Integration Connect Enterprise Edition is ideal for the larger enterprise that wants to connect to an unlimited number of trading partners using a variety of transports and message formats. This enterprise acts as the Community Manager, establishing the community, getting partners on board, and monitoring the activity of all participants in the community.
- WebSphere Business Integration Connect Advanced Edition is suited to the customer who wants the flexibility of transport and message formats but has a more limited number of trading partners. This type of enterprise can act as a Community Manager (of its own smaller community) as well as a Community Participant in a larger community. The right side of the previous illustration shows an example of a client who is both a Community Participant (to the Community Manager) as well as a hub to its own community.
- WebSphere Business Integration Connect - Express is ideal for the smaller enterprise that needs a quick and easy way to connect to a limited number of community members to exchange business messages. This type of enterprise acts as a Community Participant.

The remainder of this document focuses on Business Integration Connect - Express. If you want information on the Business Integration Connect Enterprise and Advanced editions, see *WebSphere Business Integration Connect Product Overview* and *WebSphere Business Integration Connect Architecture Overview*.

Benefits to users

The benefits of participating in a trading community and exchanging business documents electronically include the reduction in cost associated with a traditional, paper-based exchange as well as a reduction in the number of errors inherent in such an exchange. After all, critical transactions involving purchase orders, invoices, shipping notices, and other documents drive your business. The ability to participate in a trading community to exchange this information efficiently and securely is key to success.

Business Integration Connect - Express provides the key components that make joining a trading community easy:

- Ease of setup
- Flexibility

Ease of setup

Business Integration Connect - Express makes joining a trading community quick and easy, allowing you to get on board with minimal cost and effort.

From installation through sending a first test message, you can be connected to the community in a matter of hours. With WebSphere Business Integration Connect - Express, the barriers to joining a trading community are virtually eliminated.

Flexibility

Business Integration Connect - Express provides a certified AS2 connection so that you can join a community where the AS2 protocol is prescribed. Business Integration Connect - Express also supports document exchange of any type of document through the HTTP protocol.

The Business Integration Connect - Express customer can purchase and install the Enterprise or Advanced editions should the needs of the enterprise change. For example, the customer who determines a need to support additional message formats or to connect to additional community members can install the Advanced Edition.

Supported platforms

Business Integration Connect - Express runs on a Microsoft® Windows® 2000 server. You need a Web browser to view console information. Also, if you are planning to send alerts through e-mail, you need to have an SMTP server installed.

For detailed information about the hardware and software requirements, see the [User's Guide for WebSphere Business Integration Connect - Express](#).

Chapter 3. WebSphere product family overview

This section describes how the Business Integration Connect fits into the WebSphere product family.

WebSphere

WebSphere is the market-leading Internet infrastructure software, or middleware, for creating, running, and integrating e-business applications across a variety of computing platforms.

The WebSphere family of products fall into three categories:

- Business Portals
- Business Integration
- Foundation & Tools

As its name implies, Business Integration Connect is part of the Business Integration family of products. WebSphere Business Integration allows companies to realize the benefits of end-to-end integration through five core capabilities:

- **Model** and simulate business processes
- **Integrate** people, processes, information, and systems
- **Connect** with your customers and partners
- **Monitor** business processes from start to finish
- **Manage** your business more efficiently

Connecting with partners is at the core of Business Integration Connect. Not only does it allow you to communicate with your trading community, it extends the business integration of your enterprise beyond the enterprise.

Integration with enterprise applications

All editions of Business Integration Connect provide the ability to connect to backend integration systems. Business Integration Connect - Express provides file-based integration.

WebSphere Business Integration Connect - Express could use this file-based integration to connect to other WebSphere products, such as WebSphere InterChange Server, WebSphere Data Interchange, or other packaged applications.

Chapter 4. Technical overview

Business Integration Connect - Express is a cost-effective, easy-to-install and easy-to-use AS2-certified connectivity solution that enables your company to participate in a B2B community.

With Business Integration Connect - Express, you can send and receive:

- Documents containing XML, EDI, or binary content over AS2
- Any document over HTTP

System features

Business Integration Connect - Express includes a set of robust tools that let you view the status of your documents. For example, you can:

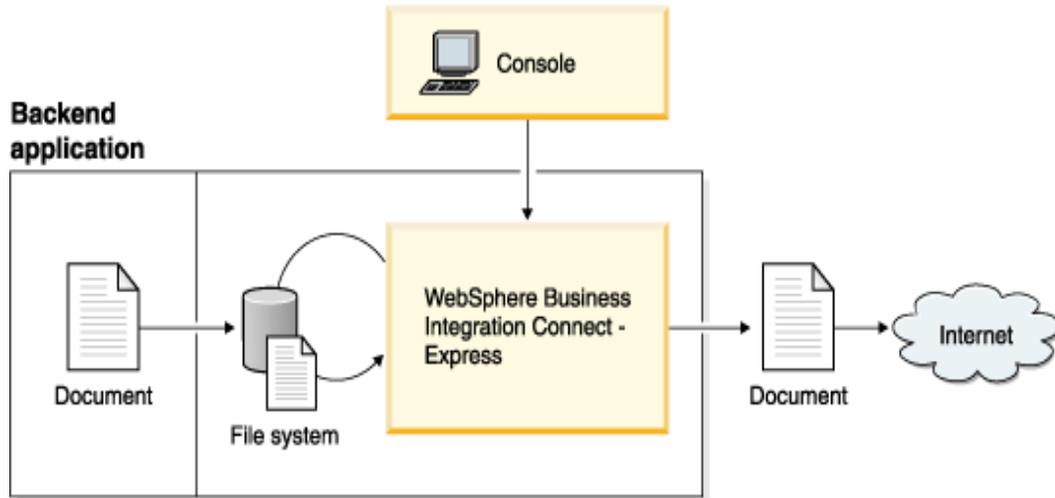
- View information about queued documents that are pending transmission and acknowledgment
- View historical information about documents that have been sent and received successfully and unsuccessfully
- View, add, and update public certificates and private keys

With Business Integration Connect - Express, you have 24 x 7 visibility into your document processing, so you can manage, analyze, track, and troubleshoot the flow of your business processes.

In addition, you can configure Business Integration Connect - Express to suit your requirements. For example, you can have Business Integration Connect - Express alert one or more individuals by e-mail if a document fails to be transmitted.

How documents flow through the system

You can send documents from the Business Integration Connect - Express console, or a backend application can generate the document to be sent. In either case, the document is placed in a directory (the send directory) associated with the intended recipient.



How a document flows through Business Integration Connect - Express

Business Integration Connect - Express polls this directory. When it detects a new document, Business Integration Connect - Express retrieves the document and sends it over the Internet to the intended recipient. Business Connection can detect, from the “[Directory structure](#)”, the recipient, protocol, and transport.

The process is reversed when a document is sent to Business Integration Connect - Express. The document is placed in the Received directory associated with the sender.

Directory structure

When you create a new community participant, Business Integration Connect - Express creates a corresponding directory structure for that participant. It contains the participant's name and transport protocols supported, with subdirectories for each state in the processing of a document (for example, sent and received). The directory structure is as follows:

```

data
  FileSystemAdapter2
    partners
      partner_name
      error
      as2
        binary
        EDI-Consent
        EDIFACT
        EDI-X12
        MDN
        XML
      http
      rec_err
  
```

```
as2
  binary
  EDI-Consent
  EDIFACT
  EDI-X12
  MDN
  XML
http
received
as2
  binary
  EDI-Consent
  EDIFACT
  EDI-X12
  MDN
  XML
http
send
as2
  binary
  EDI-Consent
  EDIFACT
  EDI-X12
  MDN
  XML
http
sent
as2
  binary
  EDI-Consent
  EDIFACT
  EDI-X12
  MDN
  XML
http
```

For more information on the directory structure and how Business Integration Connect - Express uses it to integrate with backend applications, see the Integration Overview documentation in the InfoCenter for Business Integration Connect Advanced Edition and Enterprise Edition.

Chapter 5. Fast Path

To set up and begin using Business Integration Connect - Express:

- Install the product (see the installation section of the [User's Guide for WebSphere Business Integration Connect - Express](#))
- Register with the Community Manager and begin using the product (see the [User's Guide for WebSphere Business Integration Connect - Express](#))

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