

GRAND CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

BUSINESS INTEGRATION COMPANY ADDS AS2 COMMUNICATIONS TO SERVICE OFFERINGS BY USING THE /N SOFTWARE IP*WORKS! EDI / AS2 COMPONENTS.

THE CHALLENGE:

- INTEGRATE AS2 DATA TRANSPORT FUNCTIONALITY INTO CURRENT SERVICE OFFERINGS WITH MINIMAL CUSTOM DEVELOPMENT.
- MINIMIZE DISRUPTION OF SERVICES TO CURRENT CLIENTS.
- SUPPORT RAPID INTEGRATION AND MINIMIZE TIME-TO-MARKET TO MEET STRICT TESTING DEADLINES.

Secure communication is a critical piece of any e-business integration initiative. Grand Central Communications offers its customers a way to securely integrate business processes, applications and services with partners regardless of their partner's technology requirements. The ability to securely send and receive Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) documents over AS2, the leading standard for secure Internet EDI, is a frequent requirement for Grand Central customers.

Currently, Grand Central offers Integration On DemandSM solutions through its award-winning, subscription-based Business Services Network (BSN). By offering integration as a service, Grand Central dramatically lowers the cost, time, and risk of business integration, providing a better alternative to complicated, lengthy, and expensive software deployments. Companies of any size simply plug in once to Grand Central's Business Services Network, and they are able to integrate with their business partners.

Creating a single solution that enables these disparate systems to communicate requires that Grand Central support a multitude of common standards-based Internet protocols, as businesses all have differing integration technology requirements. Consequently, Grand Central set out late last year to integrate AS2 communications into their current Business Services Network; the company announced certification in May 2004. Completing AS2 eBusinessReadyTM interoperability is an additional provision as most suppliers, retailers, and agencies require this independent third-party certification.

Grand Central selected /n software's IP*Works! EDI / AS2 Java Server Edition to add AS2 communication support to their Business Services Network. "IP*Works! EDI / AS2 is an attractive solution as it easily integrated into our existing infrastructure with minimal disruption," said Ron Palmeri, Executive Vice President of Corporate and Product Development at Grand Central Communications. "Going the component route enables us to leverage our service oriented architecture. We treated AS2 support as a new service; this allowed us to integrate AS2 into the rich set of services we provide in the network."

"Also, /n software is in the business of providing libraries for third parties to use," Palmeri explained. "This means that their business/product goals and our own are strongly aligned. We want a product that a company will stand behind and provide support for Grand Central and its rapidly growing customer base."

THE SOLUTION:

- EFFICIENTLY ADD AS2 PROTOCOL LOGIC, SECURITY FEATURES, AND TRANSFER FUNCTIONALITY BY USING IP*WORKS! EDI / AS2 ENGINE

The IP*Works! EDI / AS2 components encapsulate the complex protocol and security logic required by the AS2 specifications and greatly simplify the process of integrating AS2 functionality.

"Implementation occurred fairly quickly. There was minimal training required; we just jumped in and started integration. It took a single developer only a matter of days to complete the integration."

Ron Palmeri, Executive Vice President of Corporate and Product Development, Grand Central Communications

After integrating AS2 communications into their service offerings, Grand Central began the process of eBusinessReady™ Interoperability testing, a joint process performed by The Drummond Group Inc. (DGI) and the Uniform Code Council, Inc. (UCC).

“We worked closely with the /n software development team to get this version of the AS2 code Drummond Certified,” added Palmeri. “It was a very productive working relationship that enabled us to meet all our deadlines.”

THE RESULT:

- RAPID TIME-TO-MARKET AND SEAMLESS INTEGRATION
- SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED EBUSINESSREADY™ INTEROPERABILITY CERTIFICATION
- CURRENTLY INCLUDES AS2 COMMUNICATION AS ONE OF THEIR CURRENT SERVICE OFFERINGS.

Grand Central completed AS2 interoperability testing using the IP*Works! EDI / AS2 Engine and now offers an eBusinessReady certified AS2 solution for secure B2B transactions.

Instead of developing a proprietary AS2 solution in-house, an expensive procedure requiring significant development and technology expertise, Grand Central was able to leverage a software engine built by a company whose core competencies lie in Internet, security, and e-business technologies. This allowed Grand Central to focus their resources on other business requirements while meeting the needs of their current customer base.

“I would happily recommend the IP*Works! EDI / AS2 Java Server Edition,” said Palmeri. “It worked as advertised, support was responsive, and the product was easy to use.”

By using the IP*Works! EDI / AS2 components, Grand Central was able to meet their delivery requirement, minimize custom development and its associated expense, successfully complete certification, and react to the needs of their expanding customer base.

ABOUT GRAND CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Grand Central Communications provides Integration On DemandSM solutions through its award-winning, subscription-based Business Services Network, lowering the cost, time, and risk of business integration. As a neutral, trusted third party, Grand Central enables enterprises to easily and rapidly connect, access and share information, services and business processes across the extended enterprise, without installing or maintaining hardware or software.

ABOUT /N SOFTWARE

/n software is a leading provider of software components for Internet communications, security, and e-business development. Founded in 1994, /n software (pronounced 'n software') is based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. You can reach the company via email at info@nsoftware.com, on the World Wide Web at www.nsoftware.com, or by calling (800) 225-4190 or (919) 402-0590.

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