

BESTFACT BEST PRACTICE CASE QUICK INFO eFREIGHT

N° 3-088

NAME OF CASE

TIEKE Verkottaja service (TIEKE, The Finnish Information Society Development Centre)

Key Words:

EDI; freight consolidation and transshipment; IT-technologies and solutions; Business to business solutions, cooperation; collaboration; communication; business to customer solutions; innovative operational solutions; value added services; service quality; transport management; fleet management; safety and security; working and implementation guidelines

Case logo or picture



Description

Verkottaja is an Internet based service that helps companies and organizations on public and private sector to develop tools and practices to exchange business documents electronically with their partners.

The main purpose of the service is to activate companies of different business branches to utilise electronic data interchange, based on EDIFACT or XML/UBL standards. This will be achieved by acceleration of the development process of application software by providing common and accepted recommendations as well as by decrease of integration costs.

Benefits

- Less manual document exchange – less errors, costs
- Electronic data interchange standards promotion
- Increased quality
- Increased efficiency

Starting point/objectives/motivation:

The most important motivation was a neutral, commonly agreed and reliable source of information to refer and access. Also the need to improve harmonization and coherence of the used message versions and implementation guidelines between different industry sectors was a catalyst.

Common practice before the implementation was

- Paper based transactions and information exchange
- Electronic data exchange with non-standardised solutions and individual message development between trading partners.

The purpose and the sustainability objective of the case was improved effectiveness for operations.

Success factors

- Up-to-date standardised and uniform guidelines available from a single source
- The Service is maintained by TIEKE, The Finnish Information Society Development Centre, a non-profit and neutral organisation, promoting the efforts to create viable tools and expertise for use in the information society
- TIEKE is acting as a focal point for EDIFACT and XML message development for different industry branches in Finland

Solution

Verkottaja Service contains guidelines for electronic data interchange standards and a repository of implementation guidelines for standard (EDIFACT and XML) messages. The materials in the Service are not only for the needs of large enterprises, but they are also very useful for small and medium-sized companies. The service can be referred as a source for the latest, commonly accepted versions of messages and code lists. SME's implementing electronic systems have a solid base for development to use and to refer to solution provider.

Supported strategic targets

- Competitive logistics and transport system
- Good governance
- Increased efficiency/productivity
- Increased company profitability
- Increased competitiveness
- Increased quality



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Case description (cont.):

Verkottaja Service is located in the web pages of TIEKE and can be easily accessed by a web browser. The user interface of the service is designed to be accessible by all the commonly used browsers and the engine of the service is based on Wikipedia style Confluence open source solution, which provides easy editability and access control features. It supports also notification distribution features upon updates and revisions of the contents.

Verkottaja contents are categorized according to the industry sectors e.g. Transport, Customs, Trade & Industry, Energy etc.

Case description (cont.):

Under the sectors there are the listings of individual message guidelines with links to related messages. A customized set of meta-data is attached to the content pages to facilitate categorization. In Finland the solution is serving all the industry sectors as well as private and public organizations.

Messaging between parties is global, the message standards are international domain and suitable for all industry sectors. Major (Nordic) Transport Administration Operators (TA-operators) are using standard EDIFACT and XML –messages in their data exchange with transport companies.

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<http://www.tieke.fi/display/English/Home>
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Transport mode or supply chain elements

- All supply chain elements
- All transport modes

Main actors involved

- TIEKE

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