COINS

AS2 from coins-etc

AS2 is a draft specification developed by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) to allow the exchange of business documents, business-to-business (B2B) transactions, securely via the Internet.
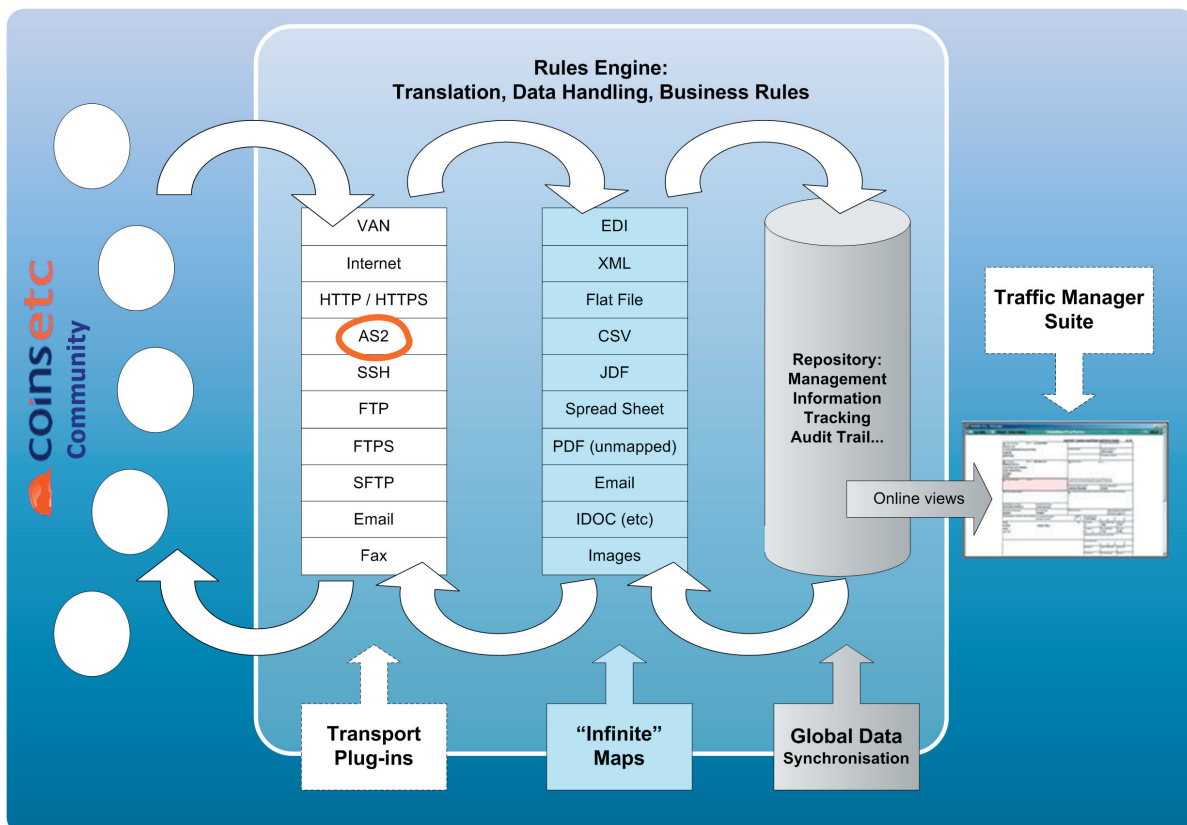
SECURE SOLUTION

AS2 provides a solution for securely exchanging business documents via the Internet using Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) and the hypertext transmission protocol (HTTP). AS2 specifies the means to connect, deliver, validate, and reply to (receipt) data in a secure and reliable way. AS2 does not concern itself with the content of the document, only the method of transport and security of the document.

AS2 essentially creates a wrapper around the business files. This enables the files to be sent securely over the Internet, rather than using a connection to a Value-Added Network (in the case of Electronic Data Interchange or EDI) or various other, non-secure means such as FTP. AS2 is a real-time technology that provides security and encryption around the HTTP packets.

AS2 provides a fast, almost instantaneous, data transfer directly to and from your network to the coins-etc Hub and your trading partner. AS2 also reduces the points of failure in data transmissions. Using AS2 eliminates Value-Added Network (VAN) charges and dial-up phone charges for VAN users. AS2 also provides increased reliability and speed, improving supply chain efficiency.

Rules Engine: Translation, Data Handling, Business Rules

coins etc Community

VAN	EDI
Internet	XML
HTTP / HTTPS	Flat File
AS2	CSV
SSH	JDF
FTP	Spread Sheet
FTPS	PDF (unmapped)
SFTP	Email
Email	IDOC (etc)
Fax	Images

Repository: Management Information Tracking Audit Trail...

Online views

Traffic Manager Suite

Transport Plug-ins

"Infinite" Maps

Global Data Synchronisation

KEY BENEFITS

- 24x7 availability.
- Designed to push data securely and reliably over the Internet.
- Fast and reliable connectivity.
- Encryption: only the sender and receiver can view the data.
- Digital signatures ensure authentication.
- Detects whether the document was altered during transmission.
- Confirmation that the intended party received the data (non-repudiation of receipt).
- Faster turn-around time for business processes.
- Automatic emails when a document is not transmitted. For example, if your Internet connection is not working, the system automatically emails internally to let you and the coins-etc support team know that there is a problem.

TYPES OF DATA EXCHANGED BY AS2

Any type of data can be transmitted over an AS2 connection. coins-etc has already proven its ability to exchange EDI, XML, DOC, TXT, binary files, graphics and spreadsheets with various organisations using AS2.

Speed of delivery is very important in today's business world. When both trading partners use AS2 as the transport means, delivering a message can take less than one minute from when the message is created by the sender, through translation to the recipient format, to receipt by the other trading partner.

SERVER REQUIREMENTS

- Dedicated persistent Internet connection: as a minimum, ADSL.
- Server running Sun Java 1.4.2 *
- A firewall to protect your systems from the Internet. **

coins provides the Java AS2 server, Digital Certificates, a licence agreement, and instructions on how to install the software; or coins will be happy to install the software for you. ***

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

You can quickly recoup the installation and set up costs for AS2 because it offers such significant financial benefits. If you use AS2 to replace an existing EDI Value Added Network connection, you will eliminate those Value Added Network charges and any telephone charges incurred in a dial-up connection. Some of coins users have saved large amounts for these recurring charges.

The reliability and speed of delivery using AS2 to send and receive data is perhaps an even bigger benefit than the cost savings. Each message you send has a receipt it was received and is correct. You can have faith that your business document has been received by the trading partner.

Notes:

* The coins-etc AS2 solution is written in Java. The software runs on one of your own servers.

** The firewall will need to be opened to allow AS2 access to your server through a specified port number.

*** coins can only install the AS2 software on systems that conform to the minimum requirements for the software. coins will not change your firewall settings or discuss changes with any third-party companies without your authorisation.

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