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EDI: THIRD-PARTY VENDOR TRAFFIC STILL RISING

Kim Viborg Andersen
Associate Professor, Ph.D., Department of Informatics, Copenhagen Business School
Howitzvej 60, DK 2000 Frederiksberg, DENMARK
E-mail: andersen@cbs.dk

Niels Christian Juul
Associate Professor, Ph.D., Computer Science, Roskilde University
Postbox 260, DK 4000 Roskilde, DENMARK
E-mail: ncjuul@ruc.dk

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Although EDI, e.g. EDIFACT and ANSI X.12, is considered superseded by various XML dialects by many people, industry is still using it a lot. Similarly, value-added network service providers (VANS) were expected to be defeated by the Internet by the end of the 20th century. We have surveyed VANS-based EDI traffic in Denmark since 1995 and found that traffic is increasing with average yearly increase-rates of 30% even into the 21st century.

During the late 1990s, we have surveyed EDI-uptake and pointed to outstanding growth-rates of VANS-based EDI. Even during the assumed dot-com high area 1998-2000, a general high level of EDI application usage has been found. Based on an update of our analysis, we can now demonstrate that third-party against all odds is doing well and continues to outperform the Internet-based exchange of EDI-messages. The growth in the Danish EDI traffic is remarkable in the light of the business structure where there is few multi-national companies present and no major up-stream powerful companies.

Our analysis include all major VANS-operators in Denmark where we have collected all outbound traffic month by month for the time span from 1995 till 2002. We have data for both the amount of K-bytes and the number of messages transmitted. The increase in bytes is at a more exponential level than the growth in messages.

The analysis of our data has also found that the companies that use EDI exchange still more messages with still more partners, but do not exchange more different types of messages. Also, there is no indicator that the integration of the EDI-messages is at a substantial higher level since the most prevalent message types exchanges is orders and invoices. One exception is the health sector, which has been the major reason for the growth in EDI traffic.
EDI: Third-Party Vendor Traffic Still Rising
Kim Viborg Andersen & Niels Christian Juul

Who:
Measured in collaboration with all major Danish VANS (Value Added Network Service) Providers

What:
EDI traffic through VANS carrying mostly EDIFAC messages
All outbound traffic month by month for the time span from 1995 till 2002
Measured in K-bytes and number of messages

Further analysis:
Increase in average message size
The companies that use EDI exchange still more messages with still more partners but do not exchange more different types of messages
no indication of substantially higher level of integration of EDI
most prevalent message types exchanges is orders and invoices
Health sector is the major reason for the growth of EDI traffic in Denmark