



ELIT Managed File Transfer Services

Trading Partner Interfaces

Communication Options

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Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide information on the various connectivity options which are available to trading partners on the ELIT Managed File Transfer (MFT) network.

The MFT communications network allows trading partners to exchange any type of data (including Extensible Markup Language (XML), Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), and proprietary formats) between applications, systems, and remote computer installations, over a single secure, global network. This highly flexible and cost-effective service supports a number of advanced features, network and data communications protocols, connectivity options and interconnections with other commercial Value Added Networks (VANs).

To access the MFT network, trading partners must first have an assigned MFT location ID. IDs are requested by filling out an MFT Location Profile Form and e-mailing it to the destination specified on the form. Once the MFT location ID has been created and a network access option has been selected, trading partners may log in to the network by establishing a connection and entering their MFT location ID and password or through digital Certificates or digital keys. Once logged in, trading partners can send/receive data to/from their business partners. MFT ensures the data is safely stored and forwarded for delivery to the recipient.¹

Features

Overview

MFT supports a wide range of advanced features and includes underlying services, such as:

24x7x365 systems monitoring, reporting, and service desk support to ensure superior network performance, security, and reliability.

Dual production sites for complete redundancy and 100% availability (i.e., zero downtime). Trading partners must implement automated failover in their outbound processes (to MFT) to take advantage of this capability. Trading partners must also allow inbound transmissions from MFT from either production site.

VAN Interconnects

MFT currently supports interconnects to all other major VAN service providers. These interconnects provide MFT trading partners with access to communities of trading partners across the globe regardless of the service provider utilized by the trading partner.

EDI-Direct

MFT supports several different types of data that can provide routing information. EDI-Direct allows trading partners to route their data directly from Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) documents (X12, EDIFACT, VICS, BG, etc.). MFT proprietary headers (CISCO) may also be used to route non-EDI data.

Carbon Copy

MFT supports a carbon copy facility which allows trading partners to send their data to one or more recipients in addition to the original recipient. This feature is useful when trading partners are migrating to a new environment and a parallel data feed needs to be sent for testing validation purposes.

Event Notification

MFT provides several levels of event notification to trading partners who request this information. Normal and exception-only feedback notification can be requested and will provide error and file status information. Trading partners can also receive email or SMS alerts for failed or successful transmissions.

Connectivity Options

Overview

MFT supports a variety of data and network communications connection types to allow trading partners to access the MFT network. All of the connection types support the exchange of EDI messages and other proprietary formatted data.

Trading partners can connect to MFT using the following methods:

Internet via a secured connection only. Internet connectivity supports any of the following secured interfaces: AS2, secure File Transfer Protocol (FTP/S and SFTP over SSH), HTTPS, Web browser and MFT z/OS.

Virtual Circuit (VC) connection into the MFT network. Virtual Circuit Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) connectivity is supported for the following data communication interfaces: AS2, FTP, FTP/S, SFTP over SSH, HTTPS, Web browser, Web browser using HTTPS, and ELIT z/OS.

Following is a brief description of the various data communications interfaces. Additional information and user guides for these interfaces can be requested by sending an e-mail to: mft.services@dx.com.

AS2

AS2 is the RFC standard (RFC 4130) by which vendor applications securely communicate EDI, or other data such as XML, over the Internet using HTTP and HTTPS. AS2 specifies the means to connect, deliver, validate, and reply to data in a secure, reliable, non-repudiated way. The data is then dispatched to the appropriate processor based upon its content-type.

The ELIT MFT AS2 Connector solution is Drummond Certified semi-annually. This certification is provided to software solutions which have been tested and certified by the Drummond Certified program for interoperability and/or compliance to a specific technical standard.

FTP, FTP/S and SFTP Over SSH

FTP is a command-driven interface and is primarily intended for a user at an interactive terminal. Most FTP clients support a scripting facility that can be used to execute a predefined set of file transfer commands in a batch mode. The FTP protocol supported by MFT allows for standard FTP and secure FTP (FTP/S and SFTP over SSH) for secure connections. Standard FTP clients and servers are

available at no cost for most compute environments while secure FTP products are available from third-party software vendors. Current secure FTP products have some variances in their ability to navigate firewalls. Please check with MFT support before purchasing a secure FTP product to ensure it has been tested for interoperability.

Web Browser

The Web browser interface is a graphical user interface (GUI) and is primarily intended for a user at an interactive workstation. The Web browser interface supported by MFT allows for both standard (HTTP) and secure file transfers (HTTPS). Trading partners can use a standard Web browser (i.e., Chrome or Microsoft® Edge) to implement this connectivity option.

Note: Developing scripts to automate the navigation of the Web browser interface is strongly discouraged. This interface is intended to be a direct user interface and may be upgraded from time to time to support new functionality.

Interface with Cloud Computing and Cloud Storage Services

MFT supports a variety of interfaces to cloud computing/storage services (ex. Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services, IBM Cloud Object Storage) for the purpose of transferring files to cloud storage services. MFT uses cloud keys for authentication and authorization with each cloud service. MFT can also receive event driven data from AWS cloud storage services.

ELIT z/OS

The ELIT z/OS product is a full featured store-and-forward file transfer application built for IBM z/OS mainframe systems. The ELIT z/OS product allows a mainframe to communicate with other ELIT products and the ELIT MFT service for seamless integration with trading partners regardless of the trading partner's compute platform.

Document Version History

Version No.	Version Date	Revised By	Affected Section & Description of Change
1.3	01/03/2009		Created Document
1.4	12/11/2009	Tom Zych	Copy document contents to new template
1.5	11/17/2010	Julie Biafore	Corrected footer
1.6	09/20/2011	Gary Winkler	Updated Service Line name references
1.7	10/23/2015	Julie Noelke	Removed HP logo, updated copyright, change @hp.com to @hpe.com, HP to HPE
1.8	11/14/2015	Julie Noelke	Updated to HPE template format
1.9	11/17/2015	Julie Biafore	Remove ANX references
1.10	3/4/2016	Julie Biafore	Changed Communications Option to Communication Options in the title
1.11	6/6/2017	Julie Biafore	Removed HPE logo, updated copyright, changed HPE MFT references to ELIT MFT
1.12	6/12/2017	Julie Biafore	Corrected confidentiality statement in title page header
1.13	10/21/2020	Julie Biafore/ Jeff Redick	Reworked entire document
1.14	7/12/2021	Julie Biafore	Updated to DXC new template format