

OpenText Data Readiness Assessment

Gain data-driven and detailed view into your ERP and supply chain integration data requirements



Benefits

- Gain a unified view into your supply chain data
- Inform the design of new business systems
- Manage risks around system migrations
- Identify all data requirements of your trading partners

Integrating B2B data in ERP systems relies on standards—such as ANSI X12 and EDIFACT—that enable organizations to exchange business documents and other information with their partners in a structured format. However, there are multiple standards, each of which has several versions, and only a fraction of the data attributes defined in a given standard are used in a typical integration flow. Since most organizations have developed their B2B programs over several years and on a project-by-project basis, few have an overarching and well-documented view into their integrations that covers all of these details.

While having this detailed view into B2B integrations helps optimize supply chain operations and identify potential issues with non-compliant trading partners, its importance can easily be overlooked. However, when an organization faces a big project, such as an ERP system migration, lack of insights on key supply chain data can cause major delays, incur unnecessary costs, and even disrupt business processes.

Gaining these insights can be challenging and expensive. This is why OpenText has developed a data assessment service that uses automated tooling to analyze large quantities of B2B and ERP data, which are then interpreted, summarized, and correlated by our business analysts and reported back to the client. The key deliverable is a harmonized ERP/B2B Reference Data Model—a single document summarizing all ERP and B2B data usage related to trading partners. The engagement and the associated report provided by OpenText will also highlight any key points discussed during the workshops, design decisions, data usage exceptions or anomalies, and OpenText recommendations. These insights can support blueprinting of new systems, managing migration-related risks, optimizing integrations, and preventing business impacts to trading partners caused by missed data requirements.

Summary of Data Readiness Assessment deliverables

OpenText Data Readiness Assessment will help you speed up your ERP migrations and manage the risks involved. Key deliverables include:

- A final report summarizing the key findings of the Data Readiness Assessment.
- A Reference Data Model capturing and harmonizing your supply chain data requirements.
- A roadmap for leveraging the generated insights for business process optimization and data quality improvement as part of a system migration.

The Data Readiness Assessment typically acts as a first step in identifying a longer-term roadmap for supporting system migrations and improving the client's supply chain performance through business process optimization and better data quality.

Gain a unified view of your supply chain data

The Data Readiness Assessment service leverages proprietary tools developed by OpenText to interrogate large quantities of business transactions, such as purchase orders, order confirmations, and shipment notices. The automated tooling helps OpenText business analysts summarize and analyze the detailed content of these transactions and identify the data attributes used by each trading partner exchanging B2B messages with your company. The value of analyzing large sets of data is that even one-off and rare data requirements are identified and reported alongside the more common requirements. Being able to review and compare the requirements of different trading partners simultaneously based on a harmonized view of the data enables identification of identical trading partner behaviors, which can be managed using shared data maps to help reduce the costs of integration.

Inform the design and blueprinting of new systems with data-driven insights

Having a comprehensive view into your exact B2B and ERP integration requirements is most beneficial in the case of a system migration, such as moving to a new ERP system or adopting a new integration platform. Knowing exactly what data you exchange with your trading partners allows you to accurately determine the scope of your B2B program, define data models, and inform the blueprinting of new systems while focusing only on necessary supply chain data attributes. This can save tremendous amounts of time and money that would be spent on identifying, defining, and implementing integration requirements.

Manage risks around system migrations by knowing your exact requirements

In the case of a system migration, having detailed insights on your B2B requirements also enables you to define a testing strategy for the new system that accounts for all real-life use cases across your B2B environment. Unlike defining the testing strategy based on general assumptions, accurately identifying all relevant test cases helps avoid issues and delays at project go-live that might occur due to surprises related to one-off or otherwise rare requirements of some trading partners.

How does it work?

The process for completing a Data Readiness Assessment with OpenText is straightforward. After defining the scope of the engagement together with OpenText, the client delivers the agreed historical B2B and ERP data files to OpenText for analysis. The files will include standard EDI files (e.g. EDIFACT, X12, VDA, TRADACOMS, etc.) and ERP data files (e.g. SAP IDoc, XML, etc.). EDI files can be analyzed as such, whereas the ERP data files will need to be accompanied by supporting information about the file structure, such as SAP parser files for SAP IDoc or the XML schemas for XML files.

Upon receiving the files, an OpenText business analyst interrogates and analyzes the data using OpenText's proprietary tooling and produces the client-specific ERP/B2B Reference Data Model and the applicable reports to summarize the findings. The model and the reports are then shared with the client in a workshop to review the key findings and recommended actions based on them.

Resources

ERP integration and transformation

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Related Solutions

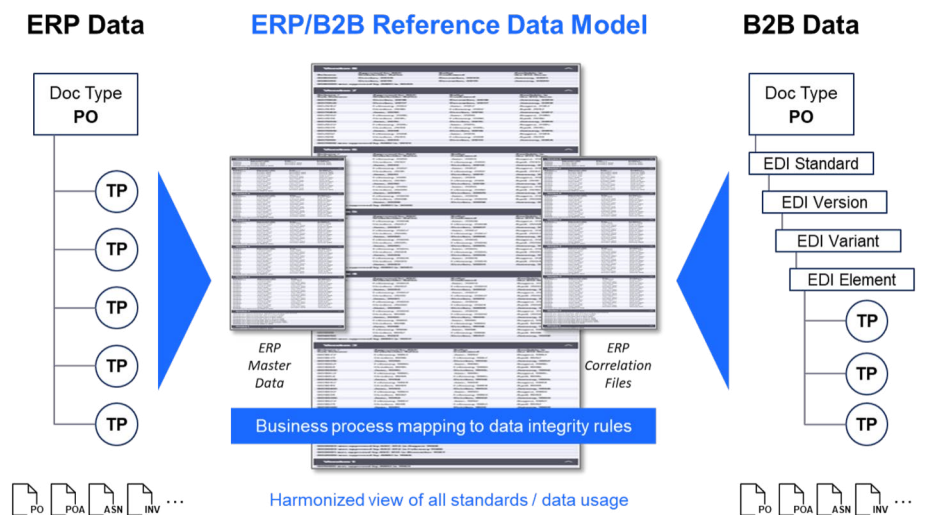
OpenText B2B Integration Enterprise

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Complete B2B integration solution to support optimal supply chain operations

The Data Readiness Assessment provided by OpenText helps organizations fully understand their B2B integration requirements, which supports the creation of ERP master data layout files and correlating ERP and B2B data. This is important in the planning and blueprinting of new system implementations and can significantly speed up system migrations. But the help OpenText can provide does not stop here.

Based on the detailed understanding of your B2B environment and mapping it against your business processes, OpenText can help identify business process optimization and modelling opportunities, as well as data quality improvements. And once it is time to kick off the migration project, OpenText can help you to manage the risks around migrating B2B connections to the new ERP by applying a parallel testing framework, where integrations with the new system are tested with live data duplicated from the existing production environment. This approach allows simulating real-life trading partner behavior on the new ERP and making adjustments without compromising the business processes that continue to run on the old system.



OpenText leverages advanced tooling to interrogate and analyze large quantities of ERP and B2B data to create a unified view into all standards and data attributes leveraged across the organization's entire trading community.