

Glossary of EDI Terminology

Acknowledgment	An EDI transaction set sent to acknowledge the receipt of a prior transaction set.
ACORD	(Association for Cooperative Operations Research and Development) is a global, non-profit standards development organization serving the insurance industry and related financial services industries.
Aggregate	See Data Group. Term used in XML.
AL3	Automation Level 3 Standards
ANSI	American national Standards Institute. An organization that maintains standards on many different topics.
Attribute	A property of an element or an aggregate. It can take on alphanumeric values and is usually used as an identifier or a reference. Term used in XML.
Communications Software	Software to electronically link two computers for the exchange of information.
Compliance Checking	Comparison of EDI data being sent or received with the applicable EDI standard. Normally part of the EDI translation process.
CSIO	(Centre for Study of Insurance Operations) is a Canadian non-profit standards development organization serving the property and casualty insurance industry.
Data Element	See Element
Data Group	Collective amount of data arrived-at by adding together all components, elements, or parts of a group, without implying that the resulting total is whole (contains everything that should be in it).
Data Mapping	Provides significant enhancement and transformation of data from multiple sources to multiple target formats. For example, converting an insurance company policy file in a proprietary format to a set of EDI policy transactions.
Data Transformation	See Data Mapping
Data Conversion	See Data Mapping
Download	The transfer of data from a large computer to a smaller computer used for front-end or back-end processing. In the insurance industry, this would be an insurance company system to a broker management system.
DTD	Document Type Definition is precursor to XML schemas. It precisely defines which elements and attributes may appear in an XML document.
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange. The computer-to-computer transfer of business transactions using standard, industry-accepted message formats.
EDI Document	An EDI transaction set.
EDI Translator	See translation software.

EDI VAN	See Value Added Network.
EDIFACT	EDI for Administration, Commerce and Transport. Also known as UN/EDIFACT. The international EDI standard developed through the United Nations and administered in the U.S. by DISA.
EFT	Electronic Funds Transfer. Computerized systems for processing transactions between financial institutions. The electronic transfer of funds through the banking system.
Electronic Commerce	Electronic Commerce. The conducting of business through electronic means such as EDI, E-mail, fax and file transfer.
Element	In electronic record keeping, a combination of characters or bytes referring to one separate item of information, such as name, address, or age. Also referred to as a field.
Encryption	A procedure for scrambling data to make it indecipherable to an outside observer. The receiver of the encrypted data must use a decryption procedure to unscramble the data.
Entity	A collection of elements that tend to appear together in various aggregates. Term used in XML.
File	A collection of related records which serves as a basic unit of storage in a computer system.
Implementation Guide	A publication that documents the EDI messages used by a particular industry or company.
Integrated EDI	An approach to EDI implementation requiring no human involvement in the computer-to-computer exchange of data.
Interconnect	The transmission of EDI data from one VAN to another. Enables trading partners to use different VANs.
ISO	International Organization for Standardization. An organization that works with the UN to maintain the standards for all applications of technology and mechanics for furthering global industry.
LAN	Local Area Network. A network of computers that enables access to the same computer software and files from all locations.
Mailbox	A file storage area where data is placed until it can be retrieved by the intended receiver.
Mapping	See data mapping.
Point to Point	Refers to a type of communication where messages are sent directly from one trading partner to another without the use of a VAN.
Point of Sale	Also POS. A computer application that enables the seller to collect product identification information at the time of sale.
Proprietary Data Format	A format that does not comply with CSIO AL3 or XML standards. Usually a data format specific to a company or application.
Proprietary Standards	Industry specific or company specific data formats that do not comply with CSIO AL3 or XML standards.
Protocol	A set of conventions between communication devices that validates the format and content of messages to be exchanged, and controls the communication session.

Schema	An XML schema is a description of a type of XML document, typically expressed in terms of constraints on the structure and content of documents of that type, above and beyond the basic syntactical constraints imposed by XML itself.
Standard	Something established for use as a rule. Within EDI, the agreed-to format for exchanging business transactions.
Trading Partner	A customer, supplier or other partner with whom business is conducted using EDI.
Transaction	The EDI equivalent of a complete business document such as a new business, policy change, renewal, etc... of an insurance policy.
Translation Software	A program used to convert data to and from EDI formats.
Upload	The transfer of data from a small computer to a larger computer used for front-end or back-end processing. In the insurance industry, this would be a broker management system to an insurance company system.
VAN	Value-added Network.
Web Service	Software system designed to support interoperable machine-to-machine interaction over a network.
XML	Extensible Markup Language (XML) is a set of rules for encoding documents in machine-readable form.
XSL	Extensible Stylesheet Language is used to transform and render XML documents. The output can be XML, HTML or plain text.