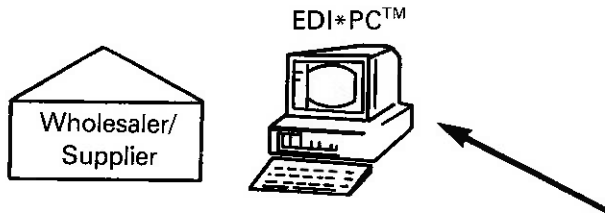
*The EDI*EXPRESS™ System*

AN ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE SYSTEM

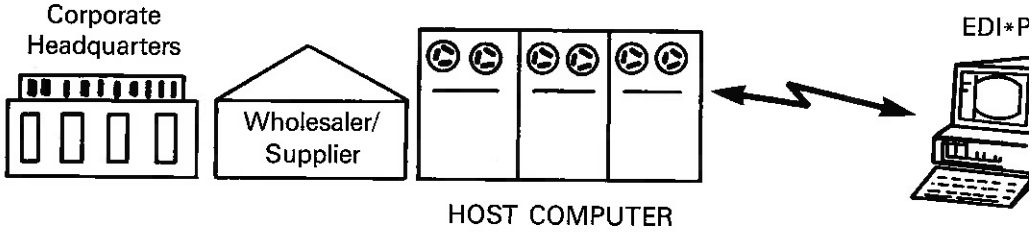
GE INFORMATION SERVICES

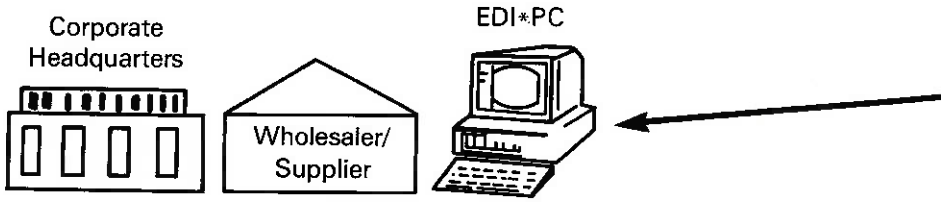
U.S.A.

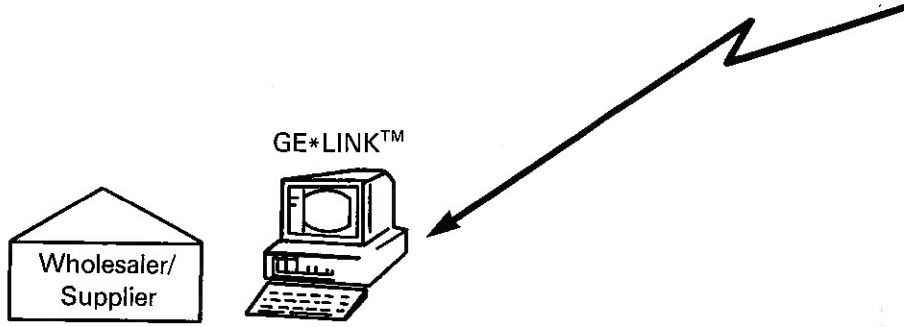


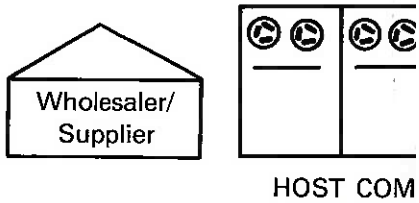
Trading Documents

- Purchase Orders
- Purchase Order Acknowledgments
- Purchase Order Change Requests
- Invoices
- Functional Acknowledgements
- Commercial Invoicing
- Freight Details, Invoices
- Acceptance/Rejection Advice
- Shipment Information
- Status Details Reply
- Plan Schedule with Release

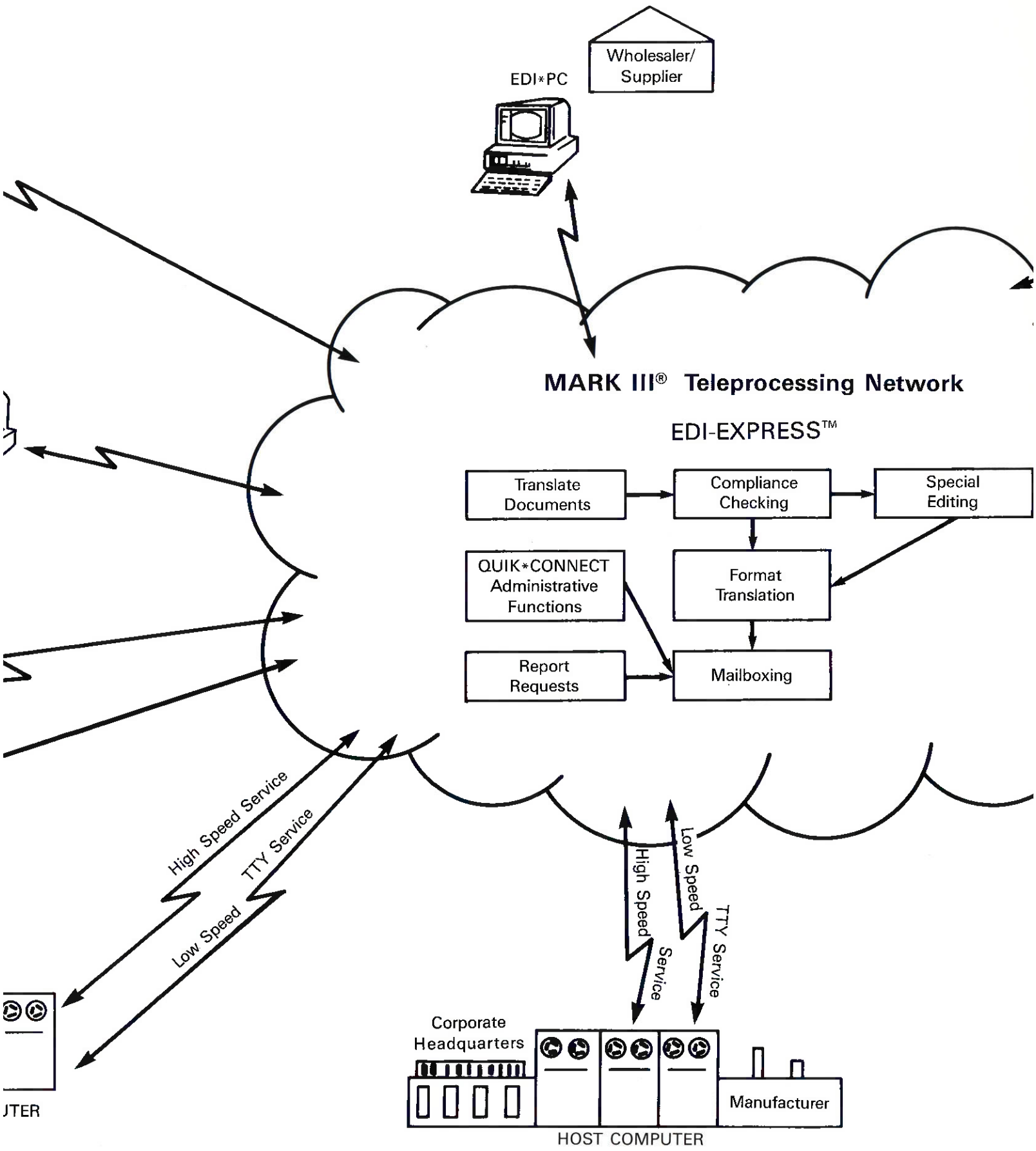








The EDI*EXPRESS World



process simultaneously by means of another menu selection.

What Reports Can You Request

There are three types of reports presently available:

- Sender or Receiver Status Report
- Unretrieved Documents Report
- Monthly Statistics Report

Sender/Receiver Status Report

These reports list changes to the status of every document that has been sent by you or received by you since the last time the same report was produced. Related errors are also listed.

Unretrieved Documents Report

This report lists all documents which EDI*EXPRESS has received from you as a sender and placed in a receiver's mailbox, but which have not yet been retrieved by that receiver.

Monthly Statistics Report

This report is generated automatically at the end of the month for you. It shows the number of documents by type, sent to each of your Trading Partners and the number of documents by type, received by you from each Trading Partner.

The QUIK*CONNECT™ System for EDI*EXPRESS Administrators

Associated with the EDI*EXPRESS System is GE's QUIK*CONNECT™ System, which makes implementing EDI easy.

QUIK*CONNECT is a low speed interactive system which prompts you through a series of questions about your company and your trading partners' companies, helping you build a personalized system with which you and your partners can exchange documents. As shown in our diagram, if you are using our High Speed Service access to EDI*EXPRESS, you will also need a low speed device to use QUIK*CONNECT.

The QUIK*CONNECT System helps get you up and running quickly and easily and ensures that you are in control. Via QUIK*CONNECT you enter your own User Profile which identifies you to EDI*EXPRESS and qualifies you as a valid trading partner on the system. You also establish definite and specific trading relationships with your trading partners to ensure that the proper documents are traded in the proper direction and that EDI*EXPRESS costs are shared between you exactly as you have approved them.

Global Reach and Support For A Global System

Your EDI*EXPRESS System has a reach that is worldwide. And with EDI*EXPRESS your company has a worldwide capability.

GE Information Services operates the world's largest teleprocessing network, accessible with a local telephone call from 90 percent of the free world's business phones, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Our extensive teleprocessing network enables communication with virtually any device and a wide variety of protocols, among them asynchronous and bisynchronous (2780/3780) protocols with speeds ranging from 300 bps to 9600 bps.

Standing behind the network is GE's 20 years of hands-on experience solving the information needs of businesses like yours, the support of our technical and marketing consultants throughout the world, and a 365-day, toll-free EDI desk for customers in the U.S. and Canada. That's a worldwide team dedicated to making EDI work effectively and profitably for you.

The EDI*EXPRESS System, EDI*PC, GE*LINK, and QUIK*CONNECT—all part of General Electric's commitment to your EDI requirements.

Call (800) 638-9636, extension 7023 so we can put EDI*EXPRESS to work for you.

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General Electric Information Services Company

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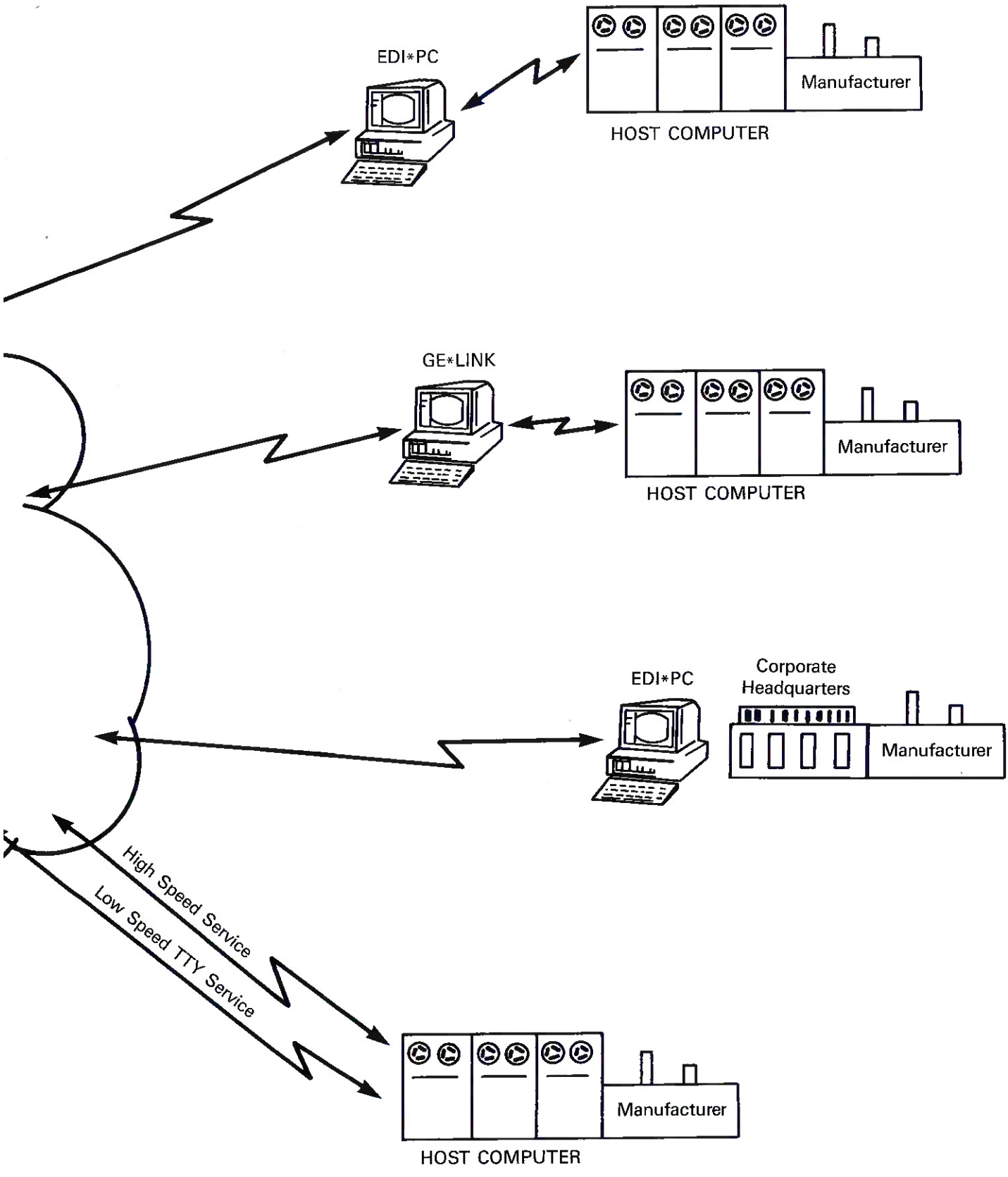
EDI*PC
Manufacturer
HOST COMPUTER
GE*LINK
Manufacturer
HOST COMPUTER
EDI*PC
Corporate
Headquarters
Manufacturer
High Speed Service
Low Speed TTY Service
Manufacturer
HOST COMPUTER

puter transmitting documents directly to EDI*EXPRESS via High Speed Service.

But such a host computer operation could also opt to use our EDI*PC or GE*LINK microcomputer software as a middleman of sorts. You can see this configuration in our diagram where a host computer first passes documents to an EDI*PC or GE*LINK microcomputer prior to their transmission to EDI*EXPRESS.

Such an operation may be desirable in the case where a company wishes to translate from a private standard to a public one prior to sending their documents to EDI*EXPRESS. Both EDI*PC AND GE*LINK perform this operation with the aid of programs written by you, the client.

What If You Have a Microcomputer

But, of course, you do not have to have a host computer to use EDI*EXPRESS. You can reach EDI*EXPRESS from any number of personal microcomputers on today's market, such as the IBM PC/XT.

The personal computer has several choices of software packages which will access EDI*EXPRESS.

The EDI*PC System will not only allow you to send and receive your documents from EDI*EXPRESS but will also provide you with form-fill screens on which you can actually enter each document you wish to send. So you do not need some pre-existing method of your own for entering your documents into your personal computer. EDI*PC provides you with the capability of entering your documents. On our diagram any client using a microcomputer with EDI*PC or GE*LINK has this capability. With EDI*PC and GE*LINK this send process is done automatically when you request it from the menu.

Other Methods of Sending Documents

As already mentioned, there are several other methods for accessing EDI*EXPRESS, such as:

- TSI (Time-Sharing Interface)
- FTU/TSI (File Transfer Utility & Time-Sharing Interface)
- PWS (Professional Work Station)
- PWS/FTU (Professional Work Station & File Transfer Utility)

The Mailboxing Function

Whichever software package you use to access EDI*EXPRESS, your documents are then transmitted to EDI*EXPRESS along with address and control information for mailboxing.

The Mailboxing function is the center of EDI*EXPRESS activity. As documents are received and processed, EDI*EXPRESS places them in the "mailboxes" of the intended receivers for later retrieval.

While this is its primary task, the mailboxing function performs several other tasks as well. For example, it checks that both the sender and each intended receiver are system users, and then verifies that they have a valid trading partner relationship. This is done for security purposes to prevent any trading which you or another company have not yet approved.

The Envelope Concept

During the Mailboxing function, the incoming documents are organized in "envelopes." All documents from a given sender are assembled for a given receiver in a single envelope. Within each envelope, there are one or more functional groups. There is one group for each type of document, such as one for purchase orders and another for invoices, all going from the same sender to the same receiver.

The Mailboxing function is initiated at frequent time intervals, depending on the volume of documents and the frequency required to handle that volume.

Prior to placing a document in the appropriate mailbox, the trading partner relationship is checked to determine whether or not compliance, translation or special editing is required. And they are then performed if they are necessary.

What Is Compliance Checking

Compliance checking is primarily concerned with determining that the information in the document is being received in the proper sequence, correctly organized and formatted, etc. So compliance is solely concerned with checking the data type and the structure of information, not the correctness of the information itself.

Compliance checking may be requested by the sender or the receiver of a document.

What Is Translation

Translation is performed when the format used by the sender is different from the receiver's format.

Translation includes a pre-translation check of the sender's information against the Standard or Private format specified for the input. Then the EDI*EXPRESS translator will translate the documents from the sender's format into the receiver's format whether private or public.

What Is Special Editing

Special editing is a feature which is performed at the option of the receiver. Two types of special editing are available:

- Checking the contents of specific entries against tables supplied and maintained by the receiver.
- Checking the ranges of values of specific entries against minimum and maximum values again supplied by the receiver.

Errors found during Special Editing are reported to the receiver.

How Do You Retrieve Documents

Retrieving your documents from your mailbox is very simple. You access EDI*EXPRESS, and request that the contents of your mailbox be delivered. EDI*EXPRESS will then transfer the documents from EDI*EXPRESS to your computer. EDI*EXPRESS is designed to facilitate the processing of documents directly by in-house computer systems or microcomputers.

With some of the software packages, such as EDI*PC and GE*LINK this process is done automatically when you request it from the menu. You can also automatically perform both a Send and Receive

Making Information Work For You

Making information work for you means developing and integrating information systems to fit your business needs. Systems that get the job done quickly, efficiently.

Key resources needed to make information work for you include the right capabilities, products, and people. People who can understand your business, its objectives and issues, and help apply the right mixture of software, teleprocessing, computing power, and hardware.

Companies around the world rely on General Electric Information Services capabilities to help get the job done efficiently and economically.

Among these capabilities are:

- The world's largest commercially available teleprocessing network. Accessible by local telephone call in nearly 60 countries, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Handling half a million users per day, transmitting over 400 million characters per hour.
- MARK*NET Value Added Network Services, supporting asynchronous, synchronous, and X.25 protocols.
- IBM-compatible MARK 3000 Service, operating on IBM's largest computers, 3081's and 4381's, and running under MVS/XA and VM systems.
- GEISCO's own remote computing service called MARK III Foreground Service.
- Integration products that let microcomputers communicate with hosts, control distribution of software, and transfer data between micros and mainframes.
- A wealth of other products and services, from 20 years of experience and a client base of 6,000 corporations and major trade associations. Focused on controlling movement of goods and services, electronic data interchange between companies, automated clearinghouses, and office communications.
- Over 6,000 computing and business professionals worldwide, who provide custom software design, development, installation, and consulting.

INTRODUCTION

The EDI*EXPRESS™ System is General Electric Information Services' Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) capability. EDI*EXPRESS operates on our MARK III® Teleprocessing Network and is designed to facilitate the exchange of invoices, purchase orders, freight bills and other business documents between your company and all the companies you trade with. These are your EDI*EXPRESS trading partners.

Why EDI*EXPRESS

Your business depends on communication. And the faster the communication, the better for your business. But a lot of communication in today's business world depends on moving paperwork back and forth between companies, and moving paper is slow.

The answer is the EDI*EXPRESS System, the electronic way to move critical business documents, computer-to-computer, across town, across continents, across the world. EDI *EXPRESS moves your "paperwork" fast—from your computer to your receivers' computers almost instantaneously. And it moves information accurately, because data is keyed only once.

MAKING IT EASY WITH EDI*EXPRESS

Implementing your own EDI system can be complicated. The more people you deal with, the more you come up against differing hardware, protocols, access methods, and standards.

That's where General Electric Information Services comes in. Our EDI* EXPRESS System provides electronic acceptance and delivery of business documents in a variety of formats, protocols, and access methods.

EDI*EXPRESS accepts documents in ANSI X.12 format, ANSI-based formats (EDX, CIDX, AIAG, ICOPS), the TDCC family (UCS, WINS, OCEAN, AIR, RAIL, MOTOR), the GTDI standard, and any private format where the necessary addressing information is provided. The EDI*EXPRESS System can be accessed using 300 and 1200 bps asynchronous protocols, and IBM® 's bisynchronous 2780 and 3780 protocols at line speeds of 2400 and 4800 bps.

The EDI*EXPRESS System runs on GE Information Services Company's worldwide network, our MARK III® Teleprocessing Network, with access by a local telephone call from over 750 cities worldwide. So trading quickly and effectively around the world is now a reality.

What Can EDI*EXPRESS Do For Your Business

The EDI*EXPRESS System offers the following capabilities.

MAILBOXING: Documents are delivered to your own electronic mailbox, which you control. This means no one has direct access to your computer. The EDI*EXPRESS mailbox browse and query features allow you to scan the contents of your mailbox and pull only the documents you need at that time. You may also prioritize documents by trading part-

ner or even choose to set up multiple mailboxes to separate documents by type or by trading partner.

OPTIONAL ACCESS MODES: You may access the EDI*EXPRESS System by dialing into the GE Information Services' network when it is convenient for you, or you may elect the Dial-Out option, whereby GE calls your computer to deliver your documents at a time prespecified by you. Either way, you retrieve documents at your convenience, not at someone else's.

TRANSLATION CAPABILITIES: If sender and receiver formats differ, the EDI*EXPRESS System will ask you if you wish to translate—and, if you do, will perform the translation automatically. No need to worry that your trading partners' formats are different from yours.

TRANSACTION BILLING: You are charged only for the EDI*EXPRESS options you use but you and your trading partner(s) must agree on the percentage of cost that each of you will pay for the various EDI*EXPRESS functions (e.g., sending, receiving, mailbox storage, translation, etc.).

STATUS REPORTS: You can know immediately the status of all documents in your system. For example, the unretrieved document report tells you which documents have not been retrieved by your trading partners. You'll always be able to keep track of where important information stands.

How Do You Reach EDI*EXPRESS

There are many software packages and systems for accessing EDI*EXPRESS which make it adaptable to any company's operating environment. The following is a listing of the software currently capable of accessing EDI*EXPRESS:

From your Personal Computer or any microcomputer, you can use the following software to access EDI*EXPRESS:

- The EDI*PC™ System
- The GE*LINK™ System
- TSI (Time-Sharing Interface)
- FTU/TSI (File Transfer Utility & Time-Sharing Interface)
- PWS (Professional Work Station)
- PWS/FTU (Professional Work Station & File Transfer Utility)

From your in-house host, mainframe computer, you can access EDI*EXPRESS using the following method:

- HSS (High Speed Service) via 2780/3780 protocol

You can also use the following method to access EDI*EXPRESS for pulling reports from any non-intelligent terminal:

- Low Speed Service for reporting purposes only.

It is also possible to use the EDI*PC and GE*LINK software packages in tandem with your inhouse host computer as you will see in our diagram.

The Benefits of EDI*EXPRESS

EDI*EXPRESS is designed to improve the exchange of documents between companies and to provide the following benefits:

- **Greater accuracy.** Your documents are keyed into a computer only once, avoiding the inevitable mistakes of the usual re-keying process that most companies experience.
- **Format To Format Translation.** You need not be concerned if your company uses a private format and trades with partners who use public formats or private ones of their own. EDI*EXPRESS handles the translation from private to public format and back again for you.
- **Compliance Checking and Special Editing.** You need not be concerned that the structure and relationships of the information being sent to you are correct. You can arrange for special editing to check that certain entries are made correctly.
- **Faster turnaround.** You are not left waiting for crucial documents to arrive by mail.
- **Decreased expenses.** You are not led to rely on costly courier services or incur express mail fees to speed documents on their way.
- **Reduced investment in equipment, software, and people.** You do not incur the costs and risks of developing your own EDI capability.
- **Your business runs more productively and cost-effectively, your clients are better served—and you stay ahead.**

How Does EDI*EXPRESS Work

The following pages illustrate how the EDI*EXPRESS System works and how it can be used by your company.

The figure in the center represents our MARK III Teleprocessing Network. EDI*EXPRESS resides on our MARK III Network. It is here that EDI*EXPRESS translates private formats into public formats; private formats into other private formats; etc. EDI*EXPRESS also performs the required Compliance Checking and any Special Editing. Beginning from this point, let's consider all that EDI*EXPRESS does.

There are nine possible operations in the movement of documents through the EDI-EXPRESS system:

- Sending Documents
- Mailboxing Documents
- Compliance Checking
- Translating Documents
- Special Editing
- Translating Formats
- Retrieving Documents
- Reporting
- EDI*EXPRESS Administration and set-up with QUIK*CONNECT

The sending, retrieving and reporting functions require action on your part to initiate the process; mailboxing and storing are accomplished automatically by EDI*EXPRESS.

Sending Documents to EDI*EXPRESS

The many documents which EDI*EXPRESS handles are listed on the left of the diagram. These can be traded in any direction via EDI*EXPRESS. There are also many ways to prepare documents to be sent to EDI*EXPRESS.

If You Have a Host Computer

Within those companies with mainframe host computers, instead of using traditional paper business forms, these documents are collected from previously-created computer files and "batched," for transmission to EDI*EXPRESS. This type of operation is illustrated in our diagram where we have shown the host com-

INFORMATION SERVICES

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NEWS RELEASE

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A SYSTEM FOR THE ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF BUSINESS DOCUMENTS IS ANNOUNCED BY GE INFORMATION SERVICES COMPANY

-- Designed to provide standards-based, electronic exchange of business documents between trading partners --

NEW YORK, NY, November 13, 1985 -- A new, applied teleprocessing service designed to provide the electronic exchange of business documents between companies, the EDI*EXPRESS™ System, was introduced here today by General Electric Information Services Company.

The EDI*EXPRESS System is designed to provide the standards-based, electronic exchange of invoices, purchase orders, freight bills of lading and other business documents between trading partners through host computer systems or personal computers.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) replaces traditional business procedures where purchase orders, invoices, bills of lading and other business documents are typically printed out on one company's computer system, mailed and re-entered into the computer system of a vendor or customer. With EDI, the entire process is electronic and the document transfer is almost instantaneous. The process is more accurate since the data is keyed only once, thus reducing the exposure to mistakes in the usual re-keying process.

"EDI will be a billion-dollar market by 1990 and GE Information Services intends to be number one in that marketplace," said David F. Foster, vice president and general manager, Focused Business Operation, General Electric Information Services Company.

- more -

Speaking here today at The Yankee Group Seminar on "Intercompany Networks", Foster said, "There are huge economies to be gained through the elimination of paperwork errors, reduction of inventory levels and the improvement of customer service from using EDI.

"The adoption of just-in-time (JIT) manufacturing techniques, requiring closer relationships between firms and their suppliers, is also playing a key role in the growth of EDI," Foster added.

"There is explosive market growth in EDI," Foster said, "driven largely by the activities of industry and standards groups such as the Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG), the Industry Committee on Office Products Standards (ICOPS), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and the Transportation Data Coordinating Committee (TDCC); all of which have had EDI activities underway for some time.

"GE Information Services' drive into the EDI market is just one aspect of a broader intercompany strategy, which is based on an industry-specific marketing approach," said Foster. He said the company is also focusing on the electronic exchange of medical claims, the clearing of interbank financial transactions, and the processing of international trade documents.

The EDI*EXPRESS System provides computer-to-computer access from over 600 cities throughout the United States. Orders and other documents may be automatically translated to industry-standard formats, stored for retrieval, and dispersed to multiple recipients. Automatic forwarding (dial-out) is also provided, as is a high degree of security and message integrity. Both PCs and mainframes may be used with EDI*EXPRESS.

Some of the capabilities of the EDI*EXPRESS System include: electronic mailboxing, compliance checking, optional access modes, format translation, special editing, transaction billing and status reports.

- more -

"There are many interactive systems and software packages available for accessing EDI*EXPRESS which make it adaptable to almost any company's operating environment," he said.

EDI*EXPRESS is priced on the basis of the number and size of the documents handled, whether special functions like translation are performed and the time of day when transmisson occurs.

For further information on the EDI*EXPRESS System, please call GE Information Services Company at 1-800-638-9636, extension 7023.

GE Information Services Company, a division of General Electric Company, is headquartered in Rockville, Maryland. It offers a range of applied teleprocessing products and services including electronic data interchange (EDI) systems, office and corporate systems, dealer and sales systems, retail systems, payment services systems and consumer information systems.

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