Global Data Synchronization Use Case -- Subscribing to Product Updates via GDSN

This use case describes one of the ways that the services in the Global Data Synchronization ES bundle could be used; for the sake of a concrete example, we describe the use case from the standpoint of a fictional company called World Wide Garden.

For More Information
If you want to learn more about this ES bundle, see Global Data Synchronization.

World Wide Garden, a multinational landscape supply retailer, needs to streamline the maintenance of master data for its products. This use case explains how World Wide Garden can subscribe to product updates from suppliers and then use those updates to automatically or selectively enter new product master data in its ERP system. (In addition to subscribing to product updates, this ES bundle also allows users to request one-time updates from their suppliers.)

Setting Up Global Data Synchronization

A World Wide Garden business architect needs to set up global data synchronization with its vendors. World Wide Garden needs to set up connections to each vendor's source data pool. World Wide Garden also needs to connect to the recipient data pool, which links directly to its ERP system and the global registry operated by GS1.org, which runs the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN).

Selecting Products for Automatic Data Updates

Once initial setup is complete, World Wide Garden purchaser Larry can log onto the subscription user interface in SAP ERP 6.0. Larry can select a single type of product or a whole category of products he wants to receive updates on.

Defining Update Notifications

In the next step, Larry uses the enterprise service Request Trade Item Catalogue Subscription to select the types of product changes World Wide Garden would like to receive. For example, Larry wants to be informed any time there is a change to weight, availability, or the price of any of the products he selected.

Confirming Receipt of Subscription Information

The source data pool sends out the Trade Item Catalogue to World Wide Garden when there is an update corresponding to a product that meets the notification criteria. The data travels from the source data pool to the recipient data pool and finally to the World Wide Garden's ERP system. On receipt of the update, World Wide Garden sends back a message to the source data pool confirming its delivery using the enterprise service Confirm Trade Item Catalogue Transmission.

Selectively Updating Master Data

Updating: Larry logs onto the maintenance interface in SAP ERP to choose which product master data to update from a list of incoming items. At any time, he can update World Wide Garden product master data for items he selects.

Editing: Larry uses the maintenance interface to view attributes for individual products. The interface allows for a view of the new product data (weight, color, etc.) line-by-line with the attributes for the product stored in the old ERP master data. Larry can enter new values for each of the attributes. He might want to shorten a name, correct an erroneous attribute value sent from the manufacturer, or include new data not sent in the update. When he is finished, Larry can apply the changes to update the master data in ERP.

Canceling a Subscription

Larry can cancel a catalog subscription from any nonperforming vendor and set up a new subscription service with more reliable or less expensive suppliers. He logs onto the subscription user interface in SAP ERP and selects the subscription to cancel, which invokes the Request Trade Item Catalogue Subscription Cancellation enterprise service. This service sends out a message to the recipient data pool and on to the source data pool, which cancels his subscription. The source data pool sends a message back to Larry confirming the cancellation.

For More Information
If you want to learn more about this ES bundle, see Global Data Synchronization.