

SPS Commerce automates Multi-Party Supply Chains with Software as a Service EDI



SPS Commerce
Minneapolis, MN
www.spscommerce.net

Industry:

High-Technology

Employees:

300

Oracle Products & Services:

Oracle Database
Oracle Real Application Clusters
Oracle Unbreakable Linux
Oracle SOA Suite
Oracle Integration B2B

Key Benefits:

- Improved scalability to support over 3 million transactions a month
- Highly customizable processes
- Multi-tenant single instance environment provides economies of sale
- Reduced time-to-market
- Lower TCO

"SOA and Grid Computing with Oracle SaaS Platform technologies help us provide a multi-tenant SaaS solution that meets stringent SLA's that require our systems to be up 24/7, 365 days a year." – Sean Carey, Architect, SPS Commerce

SPS Commerce offers outsourced supply chain services including EDI, catalog, barcode labels and online ordering that enable retailers and suppliers to eliminate manual order, shipping and invoicing processes, replacing them with automated and integrated operations. Much of the company's growth can be attributed to its integrated EDI SaaS offering that experienced a 175% growth rate, and its catalog service that also grew by more than 145% in 2006.

In order to keep pace with an exponential growth in customers and transaction volume while growing profitably, SPS Commerce needed a platform for its Software as a Service that could scale, required minimal integration and maintenance overhead and could be relied upon to deliver a mission critical service to its customers.

SPS Commerce decided to build its EDI Outsourcing Software as a Service on an Oracle platform of database and middleware running on a grid of low cost servers.

Platform Savings

SPS Commerce realized tremendous savings in time and effort by using an integrated technology stack. SPS Commerce decided early on to focus its R&D investment in building differentiating functionality and providing value added services to its customers by leveraging infrastructure technologies that are designed and tested to work together out-of-the-box.

Customizable Business Processes

SPS Commerce has customers from various different industries and geographies that rely on it for automation of their key global trading processes. By utilizing industry-standard (BPEL), SPS Commerce is able to provide custom processes all running on a single global instance.

Automating Multi-party Global Supply Chains

As manufacturing becomes increasingly global, the outsourcing and globalization trends both require the collaboration of numerous parties to deliver the right product to the retail customer, and the flexibility to accommodate order and shipping changes at any point in the cycle. This is hard to do with traditional on-premise systems. The SaaS offering is designed to sit between companies, and uses a 'multi-tenant' architecture – thus, every user of the SaaS solution accesses their unique view of the shared application or API whose functionality has been time-tested by thousands of similar users worldwide.

Why Oracle? It takes a platform to deliver SaaS

Oracle provides a complete, integrated platform for SaaS that is ideal for a service-oriented architecture.

SPS Commerce decided to move from Microsoft® SQL Server to Oracle Database running on a grid to provide the scalability needed for rapid growth in customers and transactions while keeping costs low. In a single instance multi-tenant architecture, it was imperative to build on a platform suitable for high availability because unplanned downtime can effect not one but thousands of suppliers and retailers that rely on SPS Commerce for mission critical functions.

Earlier, every change in business process required writing code resulting in high costs and impact on production systems. Using dynamic links in Oracle SOA Suite, SPS Commerce can now reconfigure connections to suppliers and change business processes dynamically. SPS Commerce is now a more agile platform for B2B.

Advice from SPS Commerce

- Don't start from scratch: leverage the powerful platform capabilities where possible.
- Architect your solution for multi-tenancy from the very beginning: Scalability, High availability cannot be bolt-on solutions but must be designed into the solution.
- Adopt and embrace standards: Pick a platform that uses open standards.
- SaaS and SOA go together: Many concepts of SOA such as service re-use, well-defined contracts, and management by policy, are highly effective guidelines for a SaaS environment.

SPS Commerce is a trading partner integration center offering fully outsourced Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and Catalog capabilities. Today, more than 12,000 retailers and manufacturers have selected SPS Commerce as their outsource provider to automate and integrate their trading relationships. Using the Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) software model, SPS Commerce dramatically lowers the setup and on-going costs, along with the time and risks of traditional EDI software by outsourcing the entire process.