

ebMail

Simple to transact

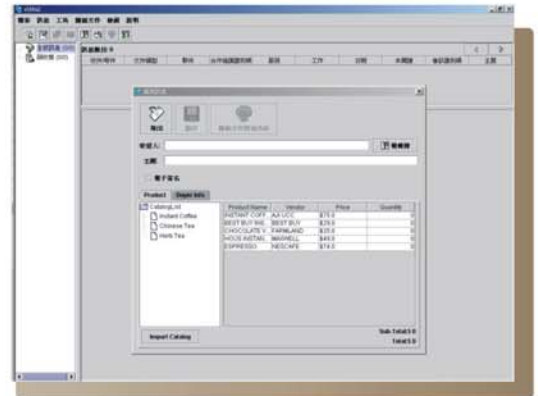
ebMail is a simple and user-friendly desktop e-mail client applying the ebXML Message Service specification. It allows organizations, in particular SMEs, to participate in the ebXML B2B framework cost-effectively. Plug-in modules provide excellent flexibility and extensibility for ebMail to accommodate new business document types and to incorporate advanced functions.

ebMail implements the packaging and transporting of ebXML messages specified in ebMS, the messaging specification of ebXML. It enables trading partners who choose ebXML as their business collaboration framework to exchange business documents cost-effectively through email, or ebXML Message Services (ebMS*) over Simple Mail Transport Protocol (SMTP).

ebMail is a trimmed-down ebMS handler which does not require substantial software or hardware investment and dedicated Internet connection. It allows users to compose electronic documents offline through graphical user interface (GUI), to send and receive documents when the users are connected to the Internet.

All these features enable SMEs to increase values over their current IT assets and to engage in B2B e-commerce activities with large enterprises which have adopted the ebXML framework.

Composing a new message on a GUI form rendered by the plug-in



* OASIS ebXML Message Service (ebMS) is one of the technical specifications of ebXML. The latest version is v2.0. For download, please go to www.ebxml.org

Feature list

1 Lightweight Toolkit for Entering ebXML Framework

As a simple and easy-to-use application, ebMail has a similar appearance to that of traditional email application you are already quite familiar with. ebMail is a trimmed-down ebMS handler for business document exchange, but does not require substantial recurrent software or hardware investment or any dedicated Internet connection. Despite its slimness, ebMail offers high level security measures such as digital signature using PKI. This SME-friendly, ebMS-enabled application equips various-sized organizations with the capability to participate in the ebXML framework.

2 Flexibility in Supporting Business documents

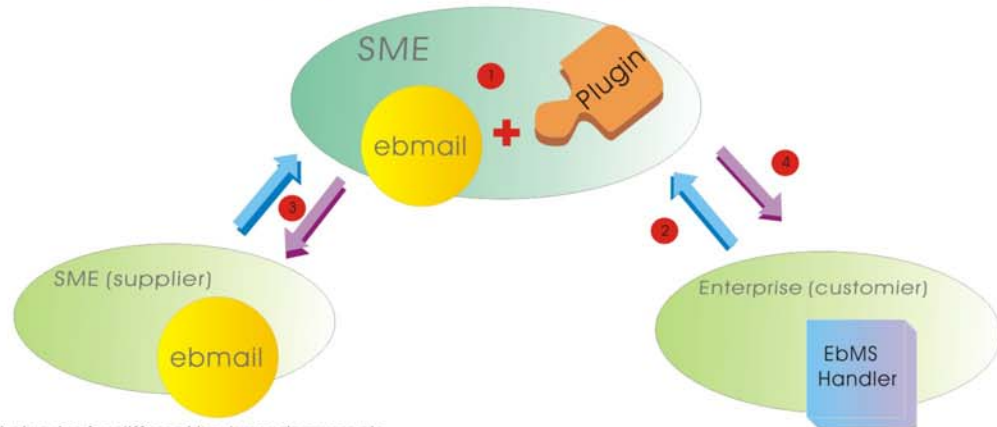
To be applied in both vertical and horizontal industries, ebMail provides high flexibility in supporting multiple electronic document formats (e.g. price quotation, purchase order, invoice, etc). It employs plug-in modules, which are Java program modules carrying additional functions, to provide different GUI forms for capturing business data. The data is automatically composed into different electronic documents according to their corresponding formats. These customized plug-ins can be created by third-party developers easily to satisfy your unique business needs.

3 Extensibility in Supporting Advanced Features

Importation of comprehensive plug-ins' features makes ebMail extensible to keep up with changing demands. Developers can be creative in implementing advanced functions in plug-ins such as document management in the local file system (e.g. electronic file saving and loading), as well as attaching files with different format like PDF or graphics to the outgoing documents. Moreover, MS Office documents can be imported to ebMail easily using plug-in.



Deployment Scenario using ebMail

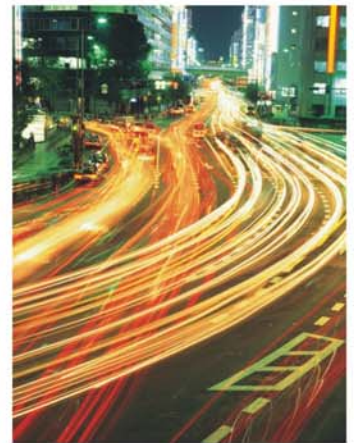


1. Import plug-ins for different business documents
2. Receive price quotation request from customer
3. Obtain price from supplier
4. Reply quotation request

There is a cost-effective way for SMEs to engage in B2B e-commerce like ebXML transaction. ebMail, a lightweight application performing like a simple email client, is designed for you to exchange electronic documents effectively with your business partners.

The prerequisites for using ebMail to transact are simple. You define the format of the electronic documents (e.g. purchase order) you want to exchange and develop the plug-ins for these document types. After capturing the business data, ebMail composes the electronic documents using the plug-ins, and then sends them through email over SMTP. Any organization, which uses ebMS compliant gateway, can receive the business documents. Subsequent documents replied from your partners can be received, verified and displayed. B2B communication is enabled and simplified by using ebMail.

You can also make use of plug-ins to incorporate a variety of advanced functions like data loading from MS Office document (e.g. MS Excel spreadsheet) in a user-friendly manner to increase your working efficiency.



System Requirements:

- Java Development Kit 1.4.0 or above available for free at URL www.java.sun.com



About freebXML

FreebXML is an initiative that aims to foster the development and adoption of ebXML and related technologies. The mission of freebXML is to provide a centralized Website for ebXML users and developers to access and share 'free' ebXML code, applications, and development and deployment experience. Founding members of this initiative include technical leaders from international technology firms, government, organizations, standardization bodies, and academic institutions.

FreebXML is sponsored and hosted by Center for E-Commerce Infrastructure Development (CECID) and the Department of Computer Science & Information Systems of HKU. Development (CECID) and the Department of Computer Science & Information Systems of HKU.

ebXML Background:

The mission of ebXML¹ is to provide an open XML-based infrastructure enabling the global use of electronic business information in an interoperable, secure and consistent manner by all parties. ebXML, sponsored by UN/CEFACT² and OASIS³, is a modular suite of specifications that enables enterprises of any size and in any geographical location to conduct business over the Internet. Using ebXML, companies now have a standard method to exchange business messages, conduct trading relationships, communicate data in common terms and define and register business processes. More information about ebXML can be found at www.ebxml.org

1. Electronic Business using eXtensible Markup Language
2. United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
3. Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards