

*IBM CrossWorlds*  
WebSphere Business Integration for  
Retail Distribution



# Item Synchronization for Suppliers Solution Overview

*Version 4.1*

**Note!**

Before using this information and the product it supports, be sure to read the general information under “Notices and Trademarks” on page 3.

**First Edition (June 2002)**

This edition applies to Version 4, Release 1, Modification 0, of *IBM® CrossWorlds®* (5724-C12) and to all subsequent releases and modifications until otherwise indicated in new editions.

IBM welcomes your comments. You can send to the following address:

IBM Canada Ltd. Laboratory  
Information Development  
8200 Warden Avenue  
Markham, Ontario, Canada L6G 1C7

Include the title and order number of this book, and the page number or topic related to your comment.

When you send information to IBM, you grant IBM a nonexclusive right to use or distribute the information in any way it believes appropriate without incurring any obligation to you.

© **Copyright International Business Machines Corporation 2002. All rights reserved.**

US Government Users Restricted Rights – Use, duplication or disclosure restricted by GSA ADP Schedule Contract with IBM Corp.

---

# Contents

## Item Synchronization for Suppliers

<b>Solution Overview</b> . . . . .	<b>1</b>
Challenges for suppliers . . . . .	1
Solution: Item Synchronization for Suppliers process solution . . . . .	2

## Notices and Trademarks. . . . . 3

Notices . . . . .	3
Programming interface information. . . . .	4
Trademarks and service marks . . . . .	5



---

## Item Synchronization for Suppliers Solution Overview

**Note:** This version of the Item Synchronization for Suppliers process solution runs on IBM® CrossWorlds® 4.1 only.

WebSphere® Business Integration for Retail Distribution is a portfolio that provides retailers and their suppliers with industry-specific business process templates, a portfolio of connectors to leading applications, and an integration hub to help them automate their current business processes.

This overview focuses on the portfolio's first solution offering, the Item Synchronization for Suppliers process solution, which automatically integrates a supplier's item business processes with those of its trading partners. The process solution uses the IBM CrossWorlds Collaboration for UCCnet Item Synchronization, along with application connectors, the IBM InterChange Server (ICS), and Trading Partner Interchange (TPI) connector and server, to provide affordable, extensible, scalable, and secure access to the UCCnet standard registry. (UCCnet is a neutral, tax-exempt organization that provides item registry and data synchronization for electronic commerce based on industry developed standards.) The resulting efficiencies to supply chains can significantly drive down costs and improve profits for suppliers.

---

### Challenges for suppliers

Today's suppliers face many challenges. An enterprise's business processes and associated operations can be stretched to the breaking point as a result of:

- Constantly shifting economic conditions
- Technologically complex and cumbersome planning, forecasting, buying, and inventory management processes
- Impacts from growth, acquisitions, mergers, and expansion

Consider that 20,000 new food and non-food Universal Product Code (UPC) items are created annually and that it typically takes 10 to 30 days to get new items and price changes to market. Data elements that describe these individual items typically change up to four times per year. Plus, nearly three out of five orders placed need to be revisited and reworked before completion.

To meet these escalating data demands on suppliers, UCCnet has implemented multi-industry standards for product identification and related electronic communications. A subsidiary of the Uniform Code Council Inc., the UCCnet is a neutral industry organization that implements these standards by requiring its community of trading partners to provide standardized item data in particular formats to its registry. The system also includes integral compliance checks to assure the integrity of the data in all cases. By subscribing to the UCCnet registry, suppliers can potentially achieve near real-time price changes and greatly improve their speed-to-retail-shelf for new products and item maintenance.

For suppliers to work effectively with UCCnet, they must be able to synchronize their enterprise item data with UCCnet systems quickly and easily, without the need to rewrite or replace existing systems. They must be able to extract business information from diverse sources and move this information through disparate applications quickly and accurately to keep item information current. Plus, they

must be able to get up and running on the UCCnet registry quickly with minimal disruption to their current business processes and enterprise systems.

---

## **Solution: Item Synchronization for Suppliers process solution**

The Item Synchronization for Suppliers process solution meets these challenges by helping suppliers automate the item synchronization process in compliance with UCCnet standards. In fact, the solution is certified for interoperability with UCCnet version 2.0 and 2.1.

The heart of this modular, open-systems-based solution is the IBM CrossWorlds Collaboration for UCCnet Item Synchronization. This collaboration, or pre-built template, enables suppliers to automatically add items to, update or delist items within, or withdraw items from UCCnet when item updates are made in their Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) applications. When an item is updated in a supplier's ERP system, item data is automatically validated, reformatted, and sent to the UCCnet standard registry. This collaboration also provides a single process for communicating item information to trading partners via UCCnet. Thus, a supplier's enterprise data is synchronized with item data sent outside the enterprise.

The solution's benefits to suppliers include:

- Quick UCCnet format compliance, with the flexibility to connect to other partners and vendors.
- Back-end and legacy integration for true business process management without the need to write changes to existing data and application environments.
- The ability to stage a common or "catalog" view of item attribute data mapped and integrated from multiple systems of record within an enterprise.
- Fast deployment, simplified application upgrades, and reusability of both business process flows and application access code.
- Improved speed to market.
- Seamless, real-time updates to existing product records, along with immediate acceptance and setup of new and delisted items.
- Message transformation, message routing, guaranteed message delivery, as well as orchestrated workflows around closed-loop and secure business process executions.
- A fully extensible framework to support tomorrow's new processes and partners.

For more detailed information about solution components, architecture, and installation, see the following:

- *IBM CrossWorlds Collaboration for UCCnet Item Synchronization* document for comprehensive information about this collaboration.
- *IBM CrossWorlds UCCnet Solution: Operational Guide*, available at the IBM CrossWorlds Exchange Web site, for an overview of a sample solution using this collaboration and a description of the processing flows for performing synchronization.
- *IBM CrossWorlds UCCnet Solution: Installation and Configuration Guide*, available at the IBM CrossWorlds Exchange Web site, for instructions on setting up a sample solution.
- *IBM CrossWorlds Generic UCCnetGBO\_envelope Business Object* document, available at the IBM CrossWorlds Exchange Web site, for information on the structure of this sample business object.

---

## Notices and Trademarks

US Government Users Restricted Rights - Use, duplication or disclosure restricted by GSA ADP Schedule Contract with IBM Corp.

---

### Notices

IBM may not offer the products, services, or features discussed in this document in all countries. Consult your local IBM representative for information on the products and services currently available in your area. Any reference to an IBM product, program, or service is not intended to state or imply that only that IBM product, program, or service may be used. Any functionally equivalent product, program, or service that does not infringe any IBM intellectual property right may be used instead. However, it is the user's responsibility to evaluate and verify the operation of any non-IBM product, program, or service.

IBM may have patents or pending patent applications covering subject matter described in this document. The furnishing of this document does not give you any license to these patents. You can send license inquiries, in writing, to:

IBM Director of Licensing  
IBM Corporation  
North Castle Drive  
Armonk, NY 10504-1785  
U.S.A.

The following paragraph does not apply to the United Kingdom or any other country where such provisions are inconsistent with local law:

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION PROVIDES THIS PUBLICATION "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF NON-INFRINGEMENT, MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. Some states do not allow disclaimer of express or implied warranties in certain transactions, therefore, this statement may not apply to you.

This information could include technical inaccuracies or typographical errors. Changes are periodically made to the information herein; these changes will be incorporated in new editions of the publication. IBM may make improvements and/or changes in the product(s) and/or program(s) described in this publication at any time without notice.

Any references in this information to non-IBM Web sites are provided for convenience only and do not in any manner serve as an endorsement of those Web sites. The materials at those Web sites are not part of the materials for this IBM product and use of those Web sites is at your own risk.

IBM may use or distribute any of the information you supply in any way it believes appropriate without incurring any obligation to you.

Licensees of this program who wish to have information about it for the purpose of enabling: (i) the exchange of information between independently created

programs and other programs (including this one) and (ii) the mutual use of the information which has been exchanged, should contact:

IBM CrossWorlds Lab Director  
IBM RTP Laboratory  
3039 Cornwallis Road  
P.O. BOX 12195  
Raleigh, NC 27709-2195  
U.S.A

Such information may be available, subject to appropriate terms and conditions, including in some cases, payment of a fee.

The licensed program described in this document and all licensed material available for it are provided by IBM under terms of the IBM Customer Agreement, IBM International Program License Agreement, or any equivalent agreement between us.

Any performance data contained herein was determined in a controlled environment. Therefore, the results obtained in other operating environments may vary significantly. Some measurements may have been made on development-level systems and there is no guarantee that these measurements will be the same on generally available systems. Furthermore, some measurement may have been estimated through extrapolation. Actual results may vary. Users of this document should verify the applicable data for their specific environment.

Information concerning non-IBM products was obtained from the suppliers of those products, their published announcements or other publicly available sources. IBM has not necessarily tested those products and cannot confirm the accuracy of performance, compatibility or any other claims related to non-IBM products. Questions on the capabilities of non-IBM products should be addressed to the suppliers of those products.

This information may contain examples of data and reports used in daily business operations. To illustrate them as completely as possible, the examples may include the names of individuals, companies, brands, and products. All of these names are fictitious and any similarity to the names and addresses used by an actual business enterprise is entirely coincidental.

All statements regarding IBM's future direction or intent are subject to change or withdrawal without notice, and represent goals and objectives only.

**COPYRIGHT LICENSE** This information may contain sample application programs in source language, which illustrates programming techniques on various operating platforms. You may copy, modify, and distribute these sample programs in any form without payment to IBM, for the purposes of developing, using, marketing or distributing application programs conforming to the application programming interface for the operating platform for which the sample programs are written. These examples have not been thoroughly tested under all conditions. IBM, therefore, cannot guarantee or imply reliability, serviceability, or function of these programs.

## **Programming interface information**

Programming interface information, if provided, is intended to help you create application software using this program.

General-use programming interfaces allow you to write application software that obtain the services of this program's tools.

However, this information may also contain diagnosis, modification, and tuning information. Diagnosis, modification and tuning information is provided to help you debug your application software.

**Warning:** Do not use this diagnosis, modification, and tuning information as a programming interface because it is subject to change.

---

## Trademarks and service marks

The following terms are trademarks or registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the United States or other countries, or both:

IBM  
the IBM logo  
AIX  
CrossWorlds  
the CrossWorlds logo  
DB2  
DB2 Universal Database  
MQIntegrator  
MQSeries  
Tivoli  
WebSphere

Lotus, Domino, Lotus Notes, and Notes Mail are trademarks of the Lotus Development Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both.

Microsoft, Windows, Windows NT, and the Windows logo are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both.

MMX, Pentium, and ProShare are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both.

Solaris, Java and all Java-based trademarks are trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc. in the United States, other countries, or both.

Other company, product or service names may be trademarks or service marks of others.

IBM CrossWorlds Servers V4.1  
IBM CrossWorlds Full Toolset V4.1  
IBM CrossWorlds Connectors V4.1  
IBM CrossWorlds Collaborations V4.1

