iSoft Peer-to-Peer Agent

Release Notes

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Contents

Preface

Welcome to the iSoft Peer-to-Peer Agent Release Notes. In addition to this document, we encourage you to use the following resources, as well.

Providing documentation feedback: Your feedback on the iSoft Peer-to-Peer Agent documentation is important to us. Send us e-mail at docsupport@iSoft.com if you have questions or comments. Please indicate that you are using the documentation for the Peer-to-Peer Agent version 3.1.

Contacting iSoft Technical Support: If you have questions about this version of Peer-to-Peer Agent, or if you have problems installing and running Peer-to-Peer Agent, contact iSoft Technical Support through at http://www.isoft.com or by using the contact information provided to you by your local iSoft salesperson.

iSoft Peer-to-Peer Agent Release Notes

iSoft Peer-to-Peer Agent Release 3.1
Date: January 2003

This document includes the following topics:

- About This Release of iSoft Peer-to-Peer Agent
- Documentation Conventions
- Gathering AS2 Trading Partner Information
- Recommended Practices
- OS Patches

About This Release of iSoft Peer-to-Peer Agent

iSoft Peer-to-Peer Agent 3.1 (hereafter referred to P2P Agent) provides the functionality needed to exchange data between companies and business partners over the Internet in a secure and reliable manner. The P2P Agent software extends traditional B2B technologies by providing a secure, scalable solution built on established industry standards.

P2P Agent supports established security models, data types, and communication protocols, enabling you to quickly and easily connect to all your trading partners, large and small.

Wal-Mart Trial Implementation Considerations

The iSoft P2P Agent application being distributed for the purposes of the Wal-Mart trial implementation is file based only.

Contact your local salesperson for information on expanding the P2P Agent to include additional trading partners, database functionality, and other enterprise features.

Documentation Conventions

The following documentation conventions are used throughout this document.

Convention	Represents
italic	Italic letters are placeholders for information you must provide. For example, if the parameter syntax is *filename*, you would type the actual name for a file instead of the word shown in italic type. Italic letters may also be used to emphasize a word or phrase.
[ ]	Brackets designate optional parameters. The brackets themselves should never be typed.
|	Vertical bars indicate that you can supply one of a series of values separated by the vertical bar. The symbol itself should never be typed.
UPPERCASE TEXT	Indicates filenames.

Convention	Represents
`monospace text`	Indicates code samples, commands and their options, data structures and their members.

Gathering AS2 Trading Partner Information

P2P Agent is compatible with most AS2 trading partner environments, however, these trading partners have environment variables that must be gathered and configured for the two environments to work together.

The following environment variables and elements must be gathered for use with the P2P Agent application in order to enable connectivity between the two environments.

Variable	Purpose
AS2 -to Name	Specifies the agreed-upon trading partner name or ID receiving the data being sent.
AS2-From Name	Specifies the agreed-upon trading partner name or ID from which data is being sent.
Protocol	Specifies the agreed-upon communications mode that will be used between the two trading partners. Trading partners must decide if they are going to use HTTP or HTTPS.
Sender Test Certificate	The sender may use P2P Agent to generate a certificate or acquire one from a provider.
Receiver Test Trading Partner Public Certificate	The receiver must send their public certificate to their iSoft trading partner.

Variable	Purpose
Sender Test IP Address or URL	Specifies the sender's static IP address or URL to access the location of the AS2 application. If the sender does not have a DNS server, an IP address must used instead.
Sender Ports	Assign the sender HTTP and HTTPS ports as required.
Receiver Test Trading Partner IP Address or URL	Specifies the receiver's static IP address or URL to access the location of the trading partners AS2 application.
Receiver Port	Assign receiver HTTP and HTTPS ports as required.

In order to ensure that early inter-staging testing goes well, trading partners must exchange and agree to the environment variables listed above in the table.

Recommended Practices

The following sections discuss best practices when using the iSoft P2P Agent application.

- Improving Initial Testing Results
- Suggested Customer Setup Practice

Improving Initial Testing Results

During the initial stages of testing, it is recommended that you perform the following actions:

- Start the P2P Agent with logging turned on and the debug level set to its highest value. The command to invoke logging and

debugging can be executed at the P2P Agent console or while starting the P2P Agent.

- Console command:

  ```
  set -m6 -lf
  ```

- To add commands during startup:

  ```
  p2pagent -m6 -lf
  ```

■ Ensure that assigned ports have been cleared and tested with your firewall network administrator.

■ Familiarize yourself with console messages.

■ Familiarize yourself with how to perform the following functions:

- List all console commands:

  ```
  commands
  ```

- Display all inbound IP or URL addresses.

  ```
  listinbound
  ```

- Display trading partner AS2 names and destination IP or URL addresses.

  ```
  listpairs
  ```

- Add or remove parameters managed by a P2P Agent task.

  ```
  set
  ```

- List the version of the software and current parameters being used.

  ```
  version
  ```

■ Recognize the start of an AS2 session, AS2 packaging or unpackaging process, and connect messages.

■ Recognize that receiving a zero after a connection attempt suggests a potential firewall challenge.

Suggested Customer Setup Practice

It is recommended that you segment setup into the following three testing phases:

- Firewall Test
- Isolation Test
- Customer to iSoft QA_Host Test
- Customer to Trading Partner Test

Firewall Test

The P2P Agent application running in your environment requires a static IP address that is addressable from the Internet. If you are using the P2P Agent application behind a firewall, this address will be the address of the firewall. You must configure the firewall to support inbound and outbound connections with the P2P Agent application.

Contact your Firewall administrator for information about your firewall configuration settings.

Isolation Test

Start up two iSoft trading partner P2P Agent consoles using the local host IP address [127.0.0.1] and an available port [80, 8080, and so forth]. Each P2P Agent must use a different port. Completing this test ensures the version of the software being used works within your own computing environment. This verifies the application is operating correctly and demonstrates how to send files, store files, and view console messages.

Customer to iSoft QA_Host Test

Exchange environment setup information with iSoft Technical Support and execute send and receive tests.

Customer to Trading Partner Test

At this point, you should be comfortable enough to begin sending and receiving files to your trading partner. Contact iSoft Technical Support for debug support for you and your trading partner if necessary.

OS Patches

Solaris 8 requires the "8_Recommended patch" cluster available at http://www.sunsolve.sun.com.

Troubleshooting

Occasionally, you might encounter problems during installation or configuration. The following sections provide some troubleshooting tips you can use that may resolve the problem and includes tips on how to interpret error messages. If you have any further questions, contact iSoft Corporation Technical Support.

- Troubleshooting Tips
- Interpreting Error Messages

Troubleshooting Tips

Use the following troubleshooting tips to try and resolve problems you might encounter.

- Immediate time-outs normally indicate a firewall issue.

- A warning indicating a relationship was not found generally indicates that the *AS2-name* for either the Sender or Receiver does not exist in the iSoft trading partner `p2pagent.cfg` file.

- Decryption errors may be the result of importing the wrong certificate. Request your trading partner to send a new certificate.

- The sender and receiver must define, communicate, and agree upon the parameters to be used in terms of ports, EDI-names, protocols, and so forth.

- If certificate challenges persist, execute the `-ft` command to capture the AS2 packages being transmitted back and forth.

- Setting message and logging levels upon P2P Agent startup

  During initial testing, it is important to set message and logging levels to ensure maximum debug information for solving challenges. Messages echoed to the console will be stored in a date/time-stamped log file that will be available for review and use by iSoft Technical Support if necessary. Activating this option ensures that detailed information is available to Technical Support for troubleshooting an issue.

  Issue the set commands `-lf` and `-m6` at startup to write log information to a file and set the messaging-level to `DEBUG`. The `-lf` set option enables the writing of trace-log records to a file in the current application directory. The `-m6` set option displays in-depth messages, including the contents of certain program variables, to the console, or writes them to the trace-log file.

  Typical challenges are: unable to connect, unable to decrypt, timing of time-outs by viewing console, and so forth.

- If you receive an error message indicating P2P Agent is unable to create a file, verify that the sub-directory specified in the inbox parameter of the `addpair` statement is correct.

Interpreting Error Messages

You may encounter error messages during the operation of the P2P Agent application. In order to help you interpret the cause of any error you might encounter, refer to the following text to help you diagnose a problem. Errors can be categorized in two areas: connectivity and security.

- Connectivity errors can result from any of the following situations:
  - An incorrect *AS2-name* or structure
  - An incorrect IP address or URL
  - An incorrect port assignment or use

- Security errors can result from any of the following situations:
  - Firewall configuration challenges
  - Certificate challenges
  - Incorrect certificate setup in the `p2pagent.cfg` configuration file import statement
  - Trading partner configuration not met or understood

For more information on error messages, refer to the "P2P Agent Error Messages" appendix of the *iSoft Commerce Suite Administration Guide*.