

EC/EDI Technology Audit

Why do an Audit?

Budgets are constantly under scrutiny and IT managers have to find creative ways to **reduce operating costs**. The EC/EDI Technology Audit from Vantage Point & Associates will help you find extra savings and shift those budget dollars toward other needy projects. We'll **review the price performance** of your current EC/EDI technology providers and determine if you're getting the best price for their software and services.

Five reasons to do an EC/EDI Technology Audit

1. Reduce your operating costs
2. Review the price performance of your technology providers
3. Decrease the number of technology providers you use
4. Contemplate outsourcing your EC/EDI operations
5. Planning to expand your EC/EDI program

Like many other companies, you're probably using more EC/EDI technology providers than necessary. In the past you didn't have a choice or it was easier to just go with the provider that your customer uses. By **decreasing the number of technology providers**, it is possible to fulfill all your EC/EDI technology needs with just one or two providers. The audit will look at streamlining your providers with the result being less administration, less cost and less hassle.

A growing trend is for companies to outsource their EC/EDI operations as a means to further reduce costs. If you are **contemplating outsourcing** you will need a base from which to

start. The audit will calculate the cost of running your current EC/EDI environment and make a recommendation whether outsourcing is an option.

You may be **planning to expand** your EC/EDI program to meet customer demands but you're not comfortable with your current EC/EDI providers. Costs cannot escalate out of control nor can you afford to have the current technology falter because of the increased activity. The audit will assess the financial impact of expanding your EC/EDI program and make recommendations on dealing with your current technology and providers.

Audit, Consolidate, Transition

The EC/EDI Technology Audit is comprised of three steps: Audit, Consolidate and Transition. The Audit step looks at your current EC/EDI environment and analyzes the costs. Key recommendations are made for consolidating your technology providers to realize the greatest savings. The deliverable from this step is a report of the findings and recommendations. The Consolidation step carries out the recommendations in the Audit and solicits quotations from EC/EDI technology providers. The responses are evaluated and we assist you with selecting one or more providers. The Transition step entails writing a migration plan to complete the consolidation.

EC/EDI Technology Audit

These are the tasks that Vantage Point will complete in each step:

Audit

- ▶ Gather current statistics on trading partners, transaction volume, VAN traffic etc.
- ▶ Document any problems and frustrations with your current EC/EDI technology and providers
- ▶ Enter the statistics into the EC/EDI Cost Analyzer and:
 - Compare the price performance of your current EC/EDI technology providers
 - Calculate the savings that could be derived through consolidation
 - Calculate the total cost of operating your current EC/EDI environment
- ▶ Forecast future costs and savings based on expanding your program
- ▶ Make recommendations based on results from the EC/EDI Cost Analyzer and:
 - Identify EC/EDI technology providers to consolidate
 - Identify cost effective, alternative technologies to consider
 - State whether outsourcing is a financially viable option

Consolidate

- ▶ Identify 3-5 EC/EDI technology providers who can fulfill the recommendations stated in the audit. This may include the incumbent providers.
- ▶ Write a request for quote (RFQ) to be sent to the providers
- ▶ Compare and evaluate RFQ responses
- ▶ Enter costs submitted in the RFQ responses into the EC/EDI Cost Analyzer and:
 - Calculate the total cost of operating your current EC/EDI environment using the quoted figures
 - Forecast future costs and savings to expand your program using the quoted figures

- If outsourcing is an option, compare in-house costs vs. outsourcing costs and calculate the projected savings
- Assist you in the process of selecting the EC/EDI technology provider(s)

Transition

- ▶ Write a migration plan to transition your current EC/EDI technology environment to the chosen provider(s).

Why Choose Vantage Point?

We've been in the EC/EDI industry for 16 years and have expert knowledge of the technology and providers. You can count on us to perform the audit with credibility and professionalism. We'll complete each step for a fixed price and after the Audit step is completed, it is your option to use our services for the Consolidation and Transition.

About Us

Vantage Point & Associates is an independent source for E-commerce and EDI resources, news and vendor information. We bring sellers of the technology together with buyers for mutual benefit. We cover all the bases by providing information to help buyers educate themselves and make informed decisions. At the same time, we offer advertising, promotional and marketing support to sellers to help them get their message out to buyers. We're independent and neutral and accept no commission for recommending sellers.



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