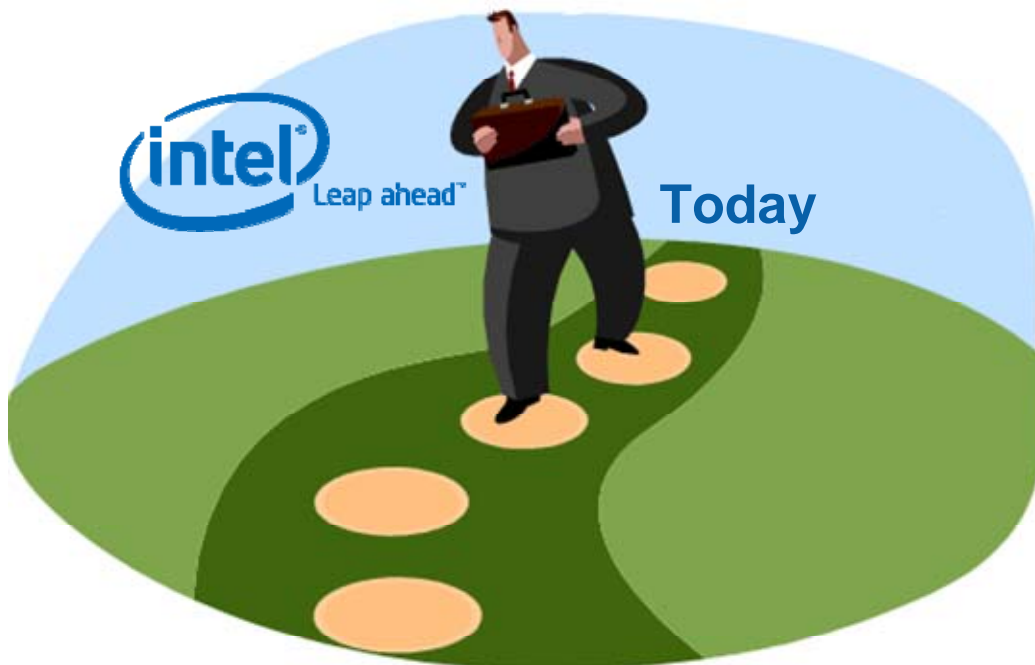


FasterCash™

from Intel Financial Services

Reference Architecture



2010 and beyond

FasterCash Architecture

The FasterCash initiative from Intel is designed to offer an electronic alternative that will ultimately replace the current paper based, and heavily manual, trade processes. It will offer far greater transparency, certainty and speed of access to their trade related data for corporates, trade facilitators and providers of finance and payments services.

The Business Challenge

Every businessman and banker understands that trade based on paper documents, such as purchase orders and letters of credit, and upon manual processes, leads to inefficiencies and can make trade financing slow and difficult. By looking at some of the high level statistics the true scale of the business issue is clear:

- More than 90% of business-to-business invoices are paper based (Source: Gartner)
- It is estimated that the Fortune 500 incur U\$81 billion per annum of unnecessary supply chain and working capital costs (source: Killen & Associates)

So for those corporate and financial firms that can make the transformation to electronic trading and also bring their financial and physical supply chains closer together, the benefits are significant. Not only will they reap the advantages of earlier and more complete transparency and certainty around their trade flow but, over and above the cost and efficiency savings to be made, significant new financing opportunities, such as reverse factoring, become available.

Clearly, the need for an improved supply chain and trade flow is paramount. How can the market minimise these inefficiencies, reduce costs and improve the speed of the process without falling foul of the problems of previous attempts – such as insistence on a rigid single standard, single system approach.

The FasterCash Response

Overcoming these challenges requires a wide mix of skills and capabilities. To this end, Intel, with its reputation for technological and market changing innovation, has drawn together a uniquely powerful consortium 'ecosystem' of partners who share a common vision to deliver the FasterCash solution, based on the following goals.

- Connecting the physical and financial supply chains
- Any place, anytime, anywhere electronic access to supply chain processing
- Reducing the inefficiencies in time and cost and risk exposures of current process
- Combining innovation and the intelligent reuse of existing components and standards
- Provide more timely and more efficient access to market leading financing
- Redefine and thereby streamline commercial processes
- Promote standards, interoperability and integration of electronic trade data.

The consortium draws together Intel as the major technology infrastructure provider, plus deep domain and process knowledge, the ability to devise and implement open and flexible standards, B2B marketplaces and business process servicers with an open view to the future, coupled with the drive and innovation of small entrepreneurial software and hardware firms to deliver a market leading reference model and focused solutions.