

OFTP2 is becoming the communications protocol of choice for an increasing number of automotive companies – providers of communications solutions need to integrate OFTP2 in their products to meet this demand

OFTP2 was developed by Odette in order to meet the growing need of the automotive industry for a globally available, low cost, fast, reliable and secure communications protocol.

An increasing number of OEMs are now requesting their suppliers to switch to this latest version of the Odette protocol and, in order to meet the growing demand, more and more service providers are busily integrating OFTP2 into their communications solutions.

Odette asked several service providers to explain what they are doing to meet the demand and why they feel that OFTP2 is an essential part of their product development strategy.

Dr. Davies, could you please introduce yourself to our readers and present Trubiquity and its portfolio to us?

I am Dr. Martyn Davies, Vice President of Trubiquity's Engineering Solutions Business Unit which engages with Trubiquity's global customer base regarding Managed Data Exchange solutions for the automated exchange of CAD, PLM and related documents. A main focus of my work is to ensure that the Trubiquity roadmap addresses both the current and future needs of its customers. Trubiquity is headquartered in Rochester Hills, Michigan, USA, with offices in Germany, the United Kingdom and Japan and an international network of resellers. The company delivers managed data exchange (MDE) and business process integration solutions across multiple enterprise boundaries for manufacturing, finance, consumer goods and retail organizations.

Demand for these solutions increases as partner value chains extend globally and involve more geographically dispersed stakeholders, e.g. internal teams, external suppliers or Joint Venture companies. In fact, 6,000+ companies in 40+ countries worldwide use Trubiquity enterprise and SaaS solutions to connect, move, and share key business information while maintaining control, quality assurance and intellectual property security. Trubiquity solutions manage the complexities of information flow in many areas to enable B2B process automation. The key areas include Managed Data Exchange, especially for large files e.g. CAD, CAE, PLM, images, financial data, video and also IP security, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), Procurement automation, Team collaboration and Quality and measurement data management.

What objective did Trubiquity want to achieve by investing in the OFTP2 protocol?

Trubiquity has played an active role in the ODETTE OFTP2 organization to ensure the development and release of this important standard. Support of OFTP2 has been added to some of our products to make sure that current and future customers can benefit from this new communication protocol which is required by an increasing number of OEMs especially in the automotive industry.

Meanwhile almost every manufacturer requires the application of OFTP2. BMW, following PSA, was the latest OEM announcing to use OFTP2 with their suppliers before the end of the year 2009. This decision has been made as BMW considers ISDN as a technically and economically unreasonable technique for exchanging large volumes of data in global engineering networks.

What customer requirements have Trubiquity met by incorporating support of OFTP2 into a number of its products?

Trubiquity's OFTP2 solutions meet the major requirements regarding:

- Availability: Companies can use OFTP2 everywhere - Internet is globally available!
- Speed: OFTP VI with ISDN (1 channel) at 7kB/s, it takes 20 hours to transmit a 500MB file which is not unusual for CAD/CAE/PLM and even classic EDI may reach 100 MB per file. Using OFTP2 with Internet (high speed internet access) the same 500MB file may be transmitted in 15 to 30 minutes.
- Cost savings: Less transfer costs compared to using ISDN or ENX.
- Security: Use of state-of-the-art security methods (i.e. security certificates) for channel protection, file encryption, document and end-to-end response signatures.
- File size: Larger files for CAD/CAE/PLM can be realistically exchanged.
- Reliability: The capability to restart broken transmissions, as well as pull and push data transfer.
- Compliance: Ensuring availability of OFTP2 to comply with major customer demands, especially with automotive OEMs.

How do you see the results of this investment?

We have updated a number of Trubiquity solutions to incorporate support of OFTP2, as well as continued support for OFTP VI. These solutions include TRUeurex-c (formerly eurex[®]c). This software is used by over 2,000 companies to enable CAD and EDI data exchange as a standalone solution or as part of a more comprehensive Trubiquity or partner solution, for example as part of an ERP deployment.

Another solution is TRUfusion Connect that includes support of OFTP VI and OFTP2 and ENG DAT for CAD/PLM data exchange in the automotive industry.

Our solution TRUfusion Enterprise (formerly DDX and Fusion-DX) includes support of OFTP VI and OFTP2 and further communication options with TRUexchange, TRUfusion Portal and other company Portals. TRUfusion Enterprise provides ENG DAT for CAD/PLM data exchange in the automotive industry and key integration with other software solutions to automate the engineering data exchange workflow. So it integrates with PDM/PLM systems i.e. that manage the data that needs to be exchanged, CAD system translators e.g. for DXF, IGES, JT and STEP, 3rd party direct translators, CAD data quality checkers and data compression and encryption utilities.

Trubiquity's TRUexchange+OFTP, the web based/Software as a Service (SaaS) solution for users who wish to outsource their ODETTE data communication requirements offers beside the support of OFTP VI and OFTP2 also support of Internet, ISDN, VPN and ENX connectivity options.

Regarding our investment in OFTP2 Trubiquity has ensured its solutions are open, can be integrated with other tools and enable B2B interoperability. Trubiquity's ability to support the OFTP2 protocol with our software was a critical step in offering market leading solutions to current and future manufacturing customers worldwide.

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