Overview:
Using an API for EDI

Ready to integrate EDI with an API?

With clear documentation and high-quality architecture guidelines, our in-house developers are ready to help you integrate EDI with an API.

eZCom

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LET'S START
WITH THE GOAL.

When it comes to using an API for EDI, the main goal is a simple one—transfer data from one computer to another.

The challenge? Data comes in all kinds of different formats, and they are not always compatible with your internal system. That leaves your team struggling to move data without errors or latency.
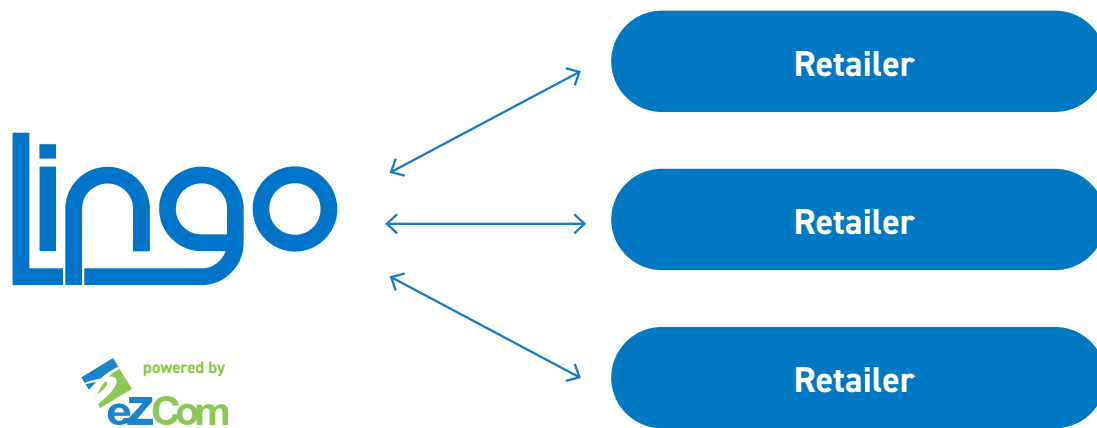
Finding a straightforward, streamlined way to move this information can be difficult.

It is, however, vital for efficient operations. Especially when it involves EDI, order processing, and the supply chain.

WHAT IS ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI)?

EDI is a data format that codifies the language of transactions.

In retail, these communication protocols are used to speed the exchange of documents between trading partners, enabling the swift transfer of data from one computer to another.

While not all selling platforms use EDI, it is an enduring technology and most major retailers still demand that suppliers use it. The time and money that would be required to move from an EDI system with something else is not an investment companies want to make. While it can be challenging to process EDI transactions, don't expect it to be replaced anytime soon.

If you are a supplier to retailers, you are likely required to process orders with EDI, and complete those transactions according to the standards of the trading partner. This is called being EDI-compliant.

YOUR OPTIONS FOR EDI.

There are three basic options when you need to exchange EDI documents with your trading partners.
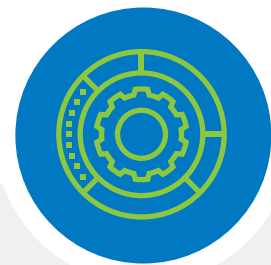
Handle everything in-house

Invest in the necessary technology infrastructure and build out a team to manage all EDI transactions with trading partners.

Outsource EDI to a specialist provider

At eZCom, our entire focus is EDI and order processing. Our Lingo software can be used as a stand-alone platform, or you can integrate it into an ERP, accounting software, WMS, or the system used by your 3PL.

Use an API

With an API, your management team can map data so it flows through your system, while also controlling the calls and puts. The eZCom team will establish retailer connections, provide maintenance and data storage, and deliver the level of support that you choose.

WHAT IS AN APPLICATION PROGRAMMING INTERFACE (API)?

While there are hundreds of different APIs, each can be broken down into three distinct characteristics: Procedures, Protocols, and Tools.

Procedures refer to the specific tasks or functions that an API program performs.

Protocols are the formats that an API uses to communicate data between applications.

Tools are sets of building blocks that make up the components needed to construct new programs.

At the most basic level, an API defines the kinds of calls or requests that can be made, how they are made, the data formats that should be used, and the conventions to follow.

Your System

API

Triggers   **Data**

API

Ask for   **Data**
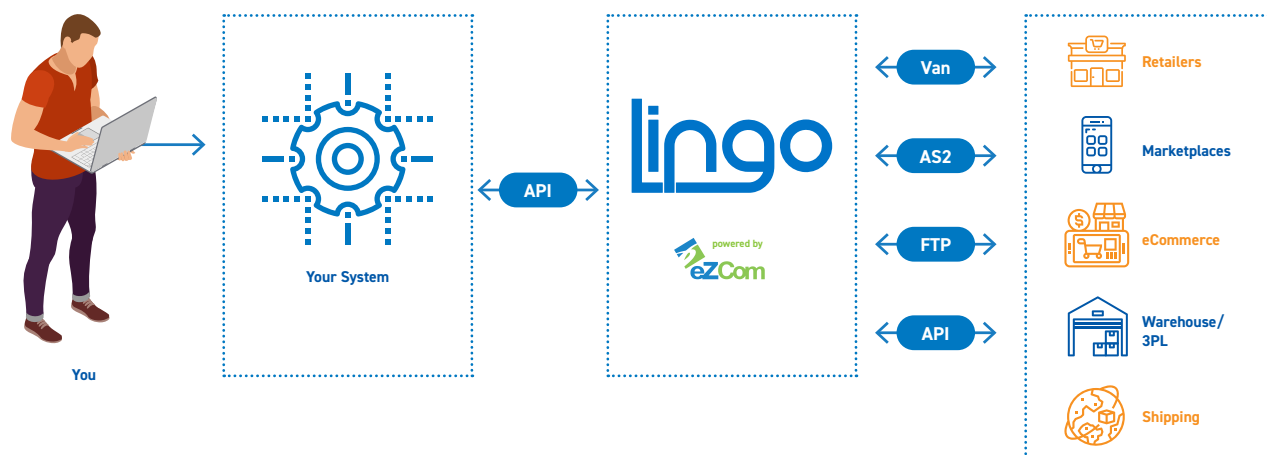
lingo

Data

Retailer

USING AN
API FOR EDI

When you use our API for EDI, connections to retailers, online marketplaces, eCommerce stores, warehouses/3PLs, and shipping providers are managed for you by eZCom.

Companies that use our API enjoy the benefits that our Lingo software provides—regular updates when retailers change their requirements, fast connections when new retailers are added, and seamless integration of online marketplaces and shipping providers. A focus on compliance eliminates errors and costly chargebacks, while our experts in Customer Support are available to resolve any issues.

When you connect through our API, you get all the benefits of our Lingo software, combined with full control of your data. And you'll work with an interface that is customized for your company.

WHY
OUR API?

Whether you're a newcomer to the field or an experienced veteran, our API is both robust and simple to use.

With a streamlined set of endpoints, this full-fledged RESTful API makes it easy to process both EDI documents and eCommerce orders. It was built by our in-house team, with clear architectural guidelines and documentation. Their understanding of developer needs will be obvious as soon as you start working with it.

We also make it easy to test our API by providing a sandbox account, eliminating the need to utilize third-party APIs. The sandbox account provides a virtual environment that is self-contained and secure. It allows you to begin testing early in the process, in a setting that fully replicates live Lingo production.

The API is part of our Lingo application suite. Lingo will handle the storage and transmission of your documents, while you work with the API to control the supply chain process.

Here are some technical notes on our API.

REST is an architecture style and a set of technical principles, defining how APIs are designed.

JSON is *JavaScript Object Notation*, a standardized way of describing and communicating data.

HTTP is the standardized communication protocol, with a limited set of methods (such as GET, POST, PUT).

These standards are why our API delivers a high degree of mutual understanding, and is not slowed by the need to make technical interpretations of messages. The level of standardization is primarily syntactical.

DOCUMENTATION AND SCHEMA

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You can review all documentation and schema here.

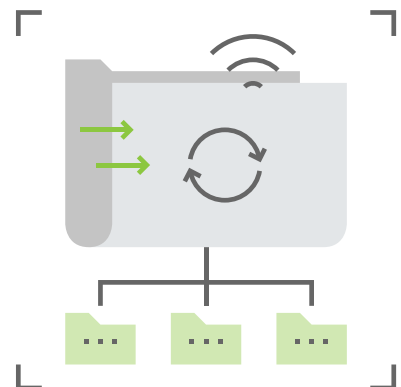**http://www.myweborders.com/restfuldoc/**

Our client roster spans nearly all categories, including apparel, housewares, and luxury goods.

Features and benefits of our API:

- Clear documentation

- Customer Support available if you need it

- Updates made by eZCom whenever retailers change their requirements

You and your team will enjoy:

- Fast retailer set-ups

- Double-validation checks

- Retailer-branded packing slips

- X12, AS2, and EDIFACT functionality

- eCommerce connections

- Extensive reporting

- Online marketplace integration

- Automated, rule-based packing

- GS1 label printing

- Pick Ticket printing

- Paired, Combined, and Crack-n-Peel label options

- Integration with major shipping providers, including UPS, FedEx, and Amazon Prime

HOW
WE WORK

Our experience with APIs is extensive, and the knowledge of our US-based, in-house team is deep.

After an initial Discovery Phase, we will provide a solution that works seamlessly with your existing workflow while generating fresh efficiency.
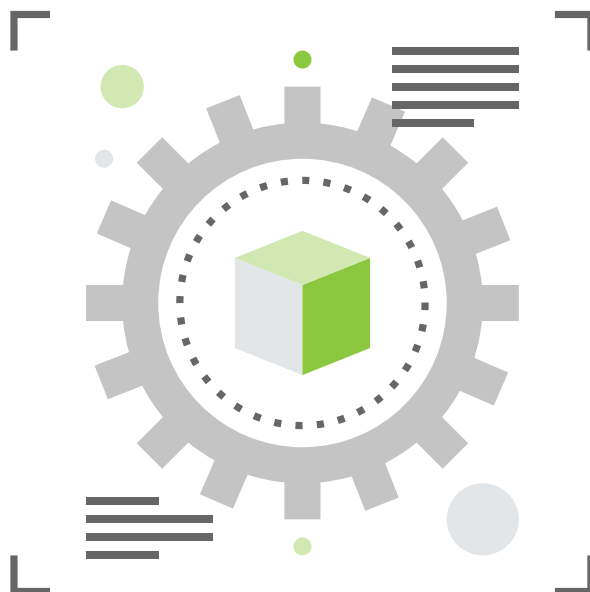
If you do encounter any issues once you're up and running, our Support Team is available to help you resolve them.

Who is this API built for?

Do you sell through brick-and-mortar stores or online channels? Then this API is for you.

At eZCom, our focus is retail, and helping suppliers work efficiently with their trading partners fuels everything we do.

Our API is built to make EDI transactions less time-consuming, and reduce errors that lead to costly chargebacks.

LET'S CONNECT

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eZCom