



At a glance

The Partners

1&1 Internet AG

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T-Systems

Enterprise Services GmbH

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1&1 Internet AG/T-Systems

SAP invoicing by email with signed PDFs

- 1&1 Internet AG, with about 7.7 million customer contracts, is a leading Internet service provider, offering a comprehensive spectrum of mature online applications for private customers, commercial enterprises, and professionals.
- 1&1 is active in Germany, France, Austria, UK, Romania, Spain, and the USA, and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the publicly traded United Internet AG.
- Their product range extends from web hosting (Internet presence, domains, online shops, payment systems), high-speed DSL access and telephony, to Personal Information Management via the Internet. 1&1 products are complemented by attractive bundles of software and hardware. All 1&1 products are operated in the high-performance computer centers of the 1&1 Group. About 10 million domains are hosted for customer Web sites.

- T-Systems is the business customer segment of Deutsche Telekom AG, providing integrated ICT solutions from a single source.
- Number one in data security: T-Systems was the first entire enterprise in Germany to receive certification under British standard BS7799.
- Experience with 2,000 corporate networks.
- Operation of 1.44 million desktop computers for customers.
- More than 550,00 SAP users.
- T-Systems operates the Trust Center at Deutsche Telekom AG. The Trust Center was put into operation in 1994, and in 1998 it was the first Trust Center in Germany to receive approval for the issuing of certificates for digital signatures under the German Signature Law (SigG) from the Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Post (RegTP) (today, Federal Network Agency for Electricity, Gas, Telecommunications, Post and Railway (Bundesnetzagentur)).

The challenge:

For a subsidiary of 1&1 Internet AG, the sending of invoices and credit notes from SAP-SD – depending on individual customer settings – is to take place by postal mail or by email. In general, all invoices/credit notes should be made available in a portal (non-SAP) for download by customers in PDF form. Part of the documents must be digitally signed.



The legal basis:

The rules for the sending of invoice documents by email have been tightened considerably by Section 14 of the German Turnover Tax Law (UStG) as amended on January 1, 2004: invoices which are solely available in electronic form, can only be taken into account for advance turnover tax return if the documents are furnished with qualified electronic signatures or with qualified electronic signatures with provider accreditation according to the Signature Law (Section 14 (3) (1) Turnover Tax Law (UStG)).

To create an electronic signature, a qualified certificate is required which was issued by a certification provider and which is used to confirm the identity of the certificate holder (Section 2 (3) and (7) of the Signature Law (SigG)).

United Internet AG: Facts and figures

Sales: EUR 1.487 billion in 2007
Founded: 1988
Customers: 7.7 million customer contracts

T-Systems: Facts and figures

Sales: about EUR 12 billion in 2007
Customers: more than 160,000 around the world
Employees: 56,500 around the world
Internet presence: subsidiaries in more than 20 countries





XEPTUM Success Story



CFO 1&1 Internet AG

The partner:

In the current project, the signature was implemented using the product TeleSec Global eSign by T-Systems. T-Systems use a SOAP interface (Simple Object Access Protocol) to provide the functions required to create an embedded PDF signature.

The technical procedure:

Since all invoices/credit notes must be stored as PDF files on a server, a PDF is generally created in the printing program. A customizing table is used to control whether the sending of the message should take place by email and whether the PDF must be signed or not.

If necessary, the signature is provided online using the Web service offered by T-Systems. If, due to overload or unavailability of the Web service, no signature can be generated, the output is interrupted and can then be restarted at a later point in time.

Depending on the message management and availability of an email address in the customer master, either a spool job is started or the PDF is sent as an email attachment via SAP Connect.





XEPTUM Success Story

The gimmicks:

The emailing of invoices in the standard SAP application takes place in a rather terse environment. In our solution, depending on the sales organization and the type of document, different text modules can be inserted for the subject line, body of the e-mail, and salutation line, using the respective customer's language. Any variables used in these texts, such as the customer's name and the invoice number, are substituted with data from the current document.

It is possible to use a different mail recipient in individual cases during output. To save time and costs, documents sent to private customers (no input tax deduction available) or overseas (and thus not taxed) are not signed. In individual cases, however, a signature can also be generated for these documents.

What are the advantages?

The entire signature process runs under the control of the SAP system. Data communications take place through a secure connection (SSL). Manipulation of the PDF data is virtually impossible.

What technical equipment is required?

SAP Basic Release 7.00 with service pack SAPKB70016
installation SAPCryptolib.

It is also possible to implement the SOAP call on a separate system (e.g. Solution Manager) and to process it via Remote Function Call from production systems with lower release levels.

Environments in which Unicode and non-Unicode systems are operated in parallel are supported as well.



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