TOGETHER COMMERCE™

Toshiba Data Integration Facility, Version 2.3

Unlocking point-of-sale information for improved store operations

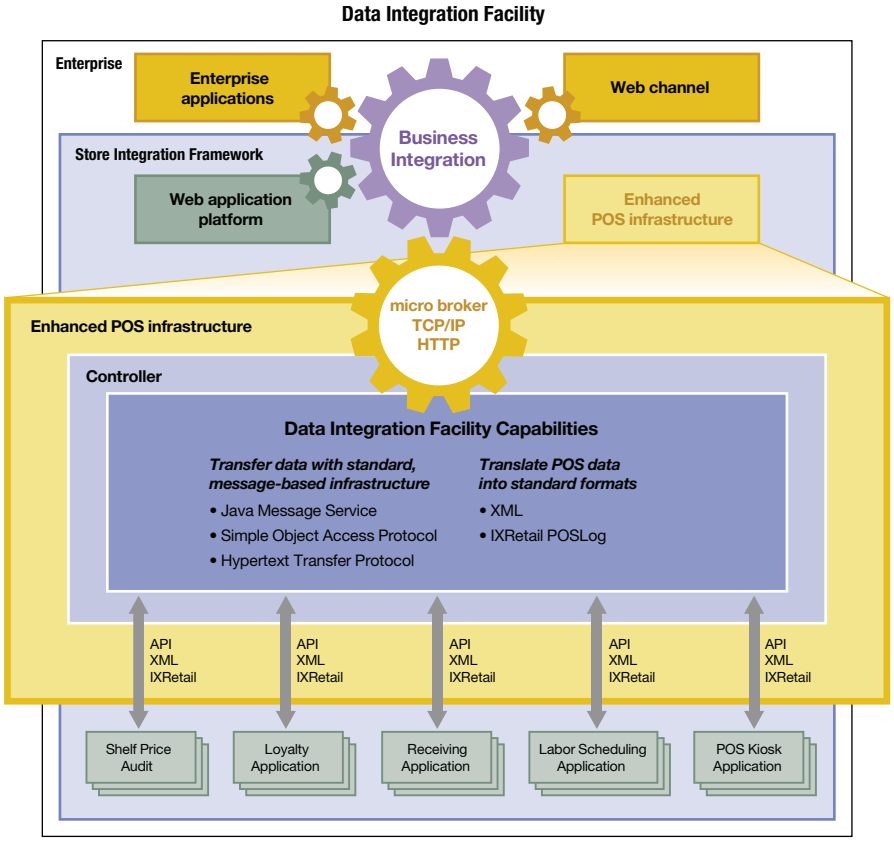
Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions Data Integration Facility (DIF) helps retailers streamline operations and reduce operational costs by using a variety of open-standard formats to share data between applications. It is designed to help unlock point-of-sale (POS) information and improve the customer shopping experience with real-time visibility of transaction data. This advanced visibility can allow retailers to take advantage of best practices at the store level to help shorten product replenishment times, maintain suitable product assortment and monitor the effectiveness of marketing promotions.

Open-standard formats enable flexibility and data sharing across the enterprise

Data integration in today's complex technical environment requires a flexible message-based system for sharing information. In contrast to a file-based solution, the message based DIF provides an infrastructure to access POS data using standard messaging structures. With DIF, retailers can simplify new application deployment and choose from several options for real-time data exchange.

Highlights

- Remote and secure partial file/record update through Secure Data Access Writer
- Supports open-standard formats and JVM 1.6 to enable common messaging across the enterprise
- Enables easy integration among critical store systems
- Improves store operations by leveraging real-time visibility of transaction data



A Java application and toolkit, DIF enables integration of POS data to targeted destinations across the enterprise. DIF is installed on a 4690 POS controller and consists of a programmer's application programming interface (API) and a runtime process. These tools enable the following kinds of messaging:

- Intra-store point-to-point communications between applications
  - Applications can exchange arbitrary data
  - One application can query another and receive a response
- Once-only assured delivery of data from the store to the enterprise
  - Send real-time sales and inventory data
  - Adjust the rate of data flow to match network performance and capacity
- Response to queries from remote systems, such as enterprise requests for store-based data
- Enables communication between legacy terminals and other in-store devices using XML (Extensible Markup Language), Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) or Java Message Service (JMS)-based messaging

Embeds micro broker component for improved communications capabilities

Toshiba Data Integration Facility V2.3 embeds the micro broker component of IBM Lotus® Expeditor, which is an edge-of-the-network, lightweight messaging hub that allows DIF to communicate easily and reliably with message-oriented middleware. Using micro broker's point-to-point capabilities, DIF can accept message senders and receivers directly, but can also be configured to forward or retrieve messages from message-oriented middleware (this capability is also known as its bridging capability). This bridging capability can be configured by DIF to connect through micro broker to WebSphere® MQ, WebSphere Message Broker and Lotus expeditor. Additionally DIF V2.3 now includes support for JVM 1.6, to enable common messaging across the enterprise and leverage the latest software technologies.

Enables easy integration among critical store systems

The DIF runtime process is a Java-based background application that serves as a messaging hub for the store. It allows non-Java applications, such as CBASIC or C applications, to communicate with message systems like WebSphere MQ or Lotus Expeditor. Examples include:

- Integrating 4690 sales and checkout support with micro broker for trickling transaction data in real time to message-oriented software
- Allowing a CBASIC terminal application to send requests to the DIF runtime process over a 4690 pipe, which the runtime process can convert to XML or SOAP for communication with an application server.

Improves operations with real-time visibility of transaction data

DIF can improve store operations by leveraging POS data for real-time, enterprise-wide analysis. For example, when utilized with price synchronization software, DIF can quickly and easily synchronize price changes across the store by distributing price information from the POS to other applications, enabling retailers to respond rapidly to sales results or changes in competitors' pricing. Additionally, customer relationship management data from the enterprise can be made available at the point of sale, helping deliver improved customer service with consumer-targeted POS initiatives. No longer is a change to the entire file needed to address a simple one-line change with the added function of Secure Data Access Writer in DIF V2.3. Now changes can be made securely and remotely to parts of a record or file.

Open-standard formats enable flexibility and data sharing

Data integration in today's complex technical environment requires a flexible message-based system for sharing information. In contrast to a file-based solution, the message based DIF provides an infrastructure to access POS data using standard messaging structures. With DIF, retailers can simplify new application deployment and choose from several options for real-time data exchange.

Specifications

Minimum Hardware Requirements	
Disk Space	512 MB
Free Memory*	• 36 MB for DIF runtime process (without transaction log XML transformations) • 155 MB for transaction log XML transformations (optional)
Runtime Environment	Java 2 Runtime Environment
Software Requirements	
Operating systems supported	Toshiba 4690 Operating System Version 6 Release 3, CSD 0CC0, or later
Product/Applications Supported	
Systems Management	Toshiba Remote Management Agent (RMA) V2.5 or later
POS Applications	• Toshiba SurePOS™ ACE/EPS V6.2 or later • Toshiba 4680 - 4690 General Sales Application (GSA) (5696-546), PTF P001 or later • Toshiba 4680 - 4690 Supermarket Application (SA V2) (5696-536), PTF P001 or later

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For more information

To learn more about the Toshiba Data Integration Facility V2R3, access the DIF V2R3 Users Guide by clicking on http://www.toshibacommerce.com/support/, or please contact your Toshiba marketing representative or Toshiba Business Partner, or click on www.toshibacommerce.com

For detailed information on how to install, configure, manage the operation of DIF as well as help to develop custom applications that use DIF, refer to the online Data Integration Facility User's Guide.

Additionally, Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions can help credit-qualified clients acquire the IT solutions that your business needs in the most cost-effective and strategic way possible through our global financing partner.

References

* The free memory requirements assume that bundling and pacing are used. Actual memory requirements may be greater, depending on the Actors and Services configured for execution.

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