



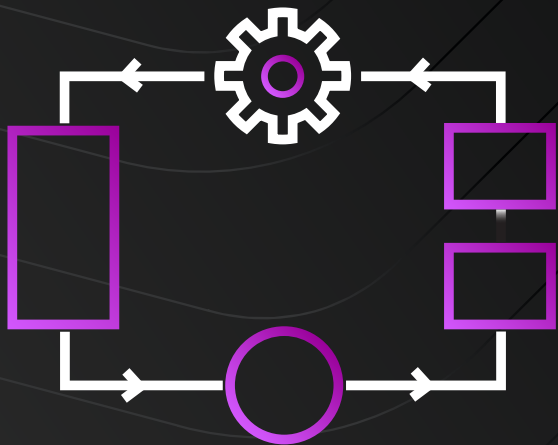
5 Tips for a Successful EDI Implementation



Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is a fundamental means of communication for organizations that execute a high volume of transactions and communicate critical business information with trading partners, customers, and electronic marketplaces. It ensures greater accuracy and timely communications between partners.

While it sounds straightforward, there are still some pitfalls for organizations to be aware of when implementing EDI.

Here are five tips to ensure a smooth EDI implementation journey.



01. Have a clear strategy

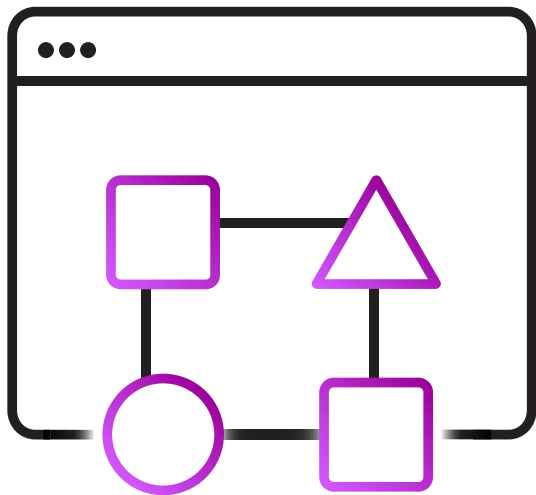
- Implement EDI one piece at a time
- Start with data that is most valuable to be exchanged electronically
- Get a “win” with one team first to gain momentum

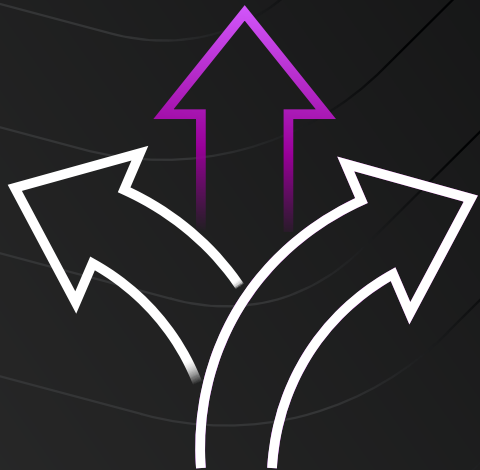
Example: If your company is losing customers because of a lack of visibility into the order delivery process, translate the EDI document into human-readable format for your customer service team.

02. Avoid complexity

- Simplify, simplify, simplify
- Be selective about modernizing your EDI workflow
- Conserve energy and resources for updating what really matters

If major EDI enablers like Amazon or Walmart still require an EDI process, it's probably because it's still effective.





03. Build a contingency plan

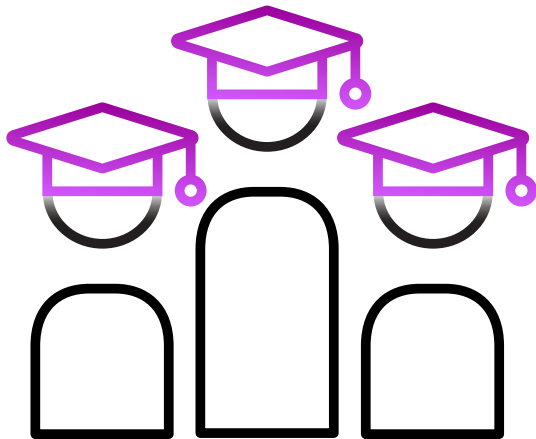
- Expect the unexpected
- Be flexible and adaptable to changing business needs

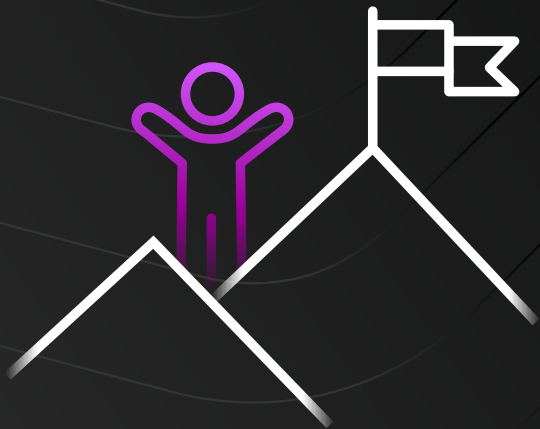
Remote work and new e-commerce models, which both accelerated over the last couple of years, aren't going away and only increase the importance of EDI.

04. Train broadly across your team

- Ensure that your team understands your chosen system—even if they are not an EDI specialist
- Always have someone who knows the process available

If you don't have the bandwidth, consider outsourcing EDI to a third party





05. Relax —and have fun

With the disruptions companies now face, EDI is experiencing a renaissance and has become a key element of cross-business collaboration.

As you approach your implementation, just remember: it doesn't need to be difficult!