

Softshare ECS 4.0 Enhancements

The 4.0 release of Softshare Delta and Softshare ECS is almost upon us. Softshare is anticipating releasing both 4.0 products in May. We'll keep you posted on availability dates. In the meantime, we've highlighted many of the great new features coming out in ECS 4.0. If you're a current ECS user, we're confident that you'll find at least one (but probably several) new features to love.

We've broken down ECS's new feature set into several categories.

Communications Protocols Enhancements

<i>MIME multi-part messaging</i>	ECS handles multi-part MIME messages. It can break the multi-part messages apart or keep them together and can hand them off to Delta either way.
<i>Business framework support (SOAP, ebXML, BizTalk, etc.)</i>	When integrated with Delta, ECS can seamlessly handle any current or future business framework and track all related attachments.
<i>HTTP/S Server and HTTP listeners</i>	ECS 4.0 installs with an HTTP server and supports the ability to define HTTP listeners. For each listener, multiple HTTP paths can be defined and each of these paths are input channels in ECS.
<i>Input/output ports</i>	ECS' use of an HTTP server and listeners allows it to fully support Web services which expose the core services of ECS for the purpose of application-to-application processing.
<i>New security protocol support</i>	Input/output ports are generic input channels and output queues that are not associated with any protocol. Input and output ports exist to hold and forward data and to tie channels and queues together, eliminating the need to write the data to a file system as an intermediary step. ECS 4.0 supports IETF EDI-INT AS2 as well as "AS3," an industry proposed security protocol.

Security Enhancements

<i>Simpler user security model</i>	The ECS server will use a fixed SQL Server login in lieu of Windows integrated security. ECS user accounts will be created and stored in Trading Partner Manager (TPM). In addition, client utilities will access the ECS server via ECS' HTTP service, not via ECS' file-system share.
<i>Improved certificate management</i>	Certificates in ECS 4.0 will be managed directly by the service and no longer require DCOM.

Data Management Enhancements

<i>More flexible viewing in Data Administrator</i>	ECS 4.0 displays several new views in the Data Administrator. In addition to viewing data by batches (currently available in 3.0), 4.0 also supports viewing data by interchange, documents, and deliveries. Data Administrator's various views also display more data per view (e.g. senders and receivers are now listed).
<i>Data Administrator tracks XML data</i>	If your XML data matches an installed identity model, it will display in Data Administrator for tracking purposes. (Identity models are a new feature for Delta 4.0, discussed in the XML Enhancements category).
<i>Event chaining</i>	The completion, permanent failure, or transient failure of an event rule or output queue delivery can now trigger a second event. For example, you could configure an event rule that tells ECS to deliver data via an FTP output queue, but only after a particular SMTP output queue fails.

[continued on reverse]

Increased data security for batches	Input channels, in addition to login verification, can now specify authentication criteria that the data sender must conform to before the incoming batch is accepted. This criteria includes digital signature, AS2/AS3 identifiers found in the header, or EDI/XML identifiers found in the data. All of these criteria can be established per trading partner in TPM from the Identification tab.
ECS Status Monitor	The ECS Status Monitor is a utility that presents a window into the internal operations of ECS, showing all TCP/IP sessions and all threads in real time.
Archiver	From the Management Console, you can schedule an archive command based on on a rolling window. Optionally, you can set the archive command to also purge or partially purge the data that is being archived from the Data Administrator. Once archived, the data is available for viewing in the ECS Archive Viewer utility.
Addition of user folders	You can configure custom user folders in the Management Console.



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