

## An overview of Redix AnyToAny Format Converter Engine

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The Redix AnyToAny Format Converter Engine is the most advanced and flexible conversion utility available for both XML and EDI translation software today. The Redix Engine allows a user to construct a seamless integration of the user's existing EDI applications with minimum programming effort. As opposed to traditional engines that employ a three-step approach, the Redix AnyToAny Format Converter Engine combines data validation, translation and mapping and database access into a single process to eliminate unnecessary file I/O. The Redix ONE-PASS approach is significantly faster than other approaches and allows for the exchange of messages in seconds and milliseconds, rather than in minutes and hours as with competing solutions. The Redix AnyToAny Format Converter Engine is ideal for real-time XML/EDI and Electronic-Commerce applications.



**Redix International, Inc.** is an enterprise software company. Redix develops software and provides services to help organizations convert their proprietary or organization-specific data to standardized data. Among the standardized formats supported are X12, EDIFACT, XML, NSF, UB92, HIPAA, HL7, NCPDP, and PDF. Redix software also performs validation and acknowledgement functions to help organizations achieve immediate standards-compliance. Lastly, Redix provides comprehensive consultation, training, and execution services to handle all software-translation and compliance issues. Since 1994, Redix has developed solutions for more than 3,000 organizations worldwide.

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Although the Redix AnyToAny Format Converter Engine is often used for EDI integrated with EDIFACT and X12 Standards, its scope extends far beyond the typical translation of EDI data. The Redix AnyToAny Format Converter can convert other kinds of data, such as XML, NCPDP, HL7, NSF, UB92, proprietary formats, text image files, database files, PDF files, and many others.

The Redix AnyToAny Format Converter Engine gives a user complete control over the conversion of any data formats to the data formats being used by the user's trading partners. The user also has total flexibility to define the formats to be interfaced with the existing application software. To accommodate the user's business needs, the user can convert one incoming message and generate multiple outputs at the same time, e.g., generate one flat file to interface with a mainframe application, send one report file to the printer, and create a SQL statement to interface with the database management system.

## Design Philosophy

As XML and EDI spread throughout the world and as different enterprises implemented XML and EDI in their respective industries, the task of managing XML and EDI relationships became more and more complicated. Enterprises have discovered that they did not gain the expected benefits from their XML or EDI applications unless it was fully integrated into their system. Secondly, an increasing number of enterprises have discovered the need for an XML/EDI system that exchanges messages in seconds, rather than hours. Thirdly, since enterprises have many trading partners that implement XML or EDI standards in different ways, enterprises wish to use a single interface to integrate XML or EDI into their system in order to meet all of their trading partners' needs.

Furthermore, although the trend towards standardized formats is strong, each draft format undergoes a lengthy, time-consuming revision process before it is fully standardized and adopted. In the meanwhile, some enterprises choose to continue using their proprietary or industry-specific formats. Other enterprises, however, choose to adopt the draft formats. Therefore, supporting both the industry-specific or proprietary formats and the draft formats is crucial.

Redix International, Inc. understands these problems. As a result, Redix has developed an AnyToAny and AnyToXML Format Converter Engine that helps enterprises define a single interface between their own format and their trading partners' formats, regardless of whether the formats are draft, industry-specific, proprietary, or standardized.

How does the Redix AnyToAny Format Converter engine work?

The Redix AnyToAny Format Converter Engine works by taking files generated by the user's application software and converting them into the user's trading partner's format or by converting the user's trading partner's message to the user's application files or flat files. The layout of the user's application files and the definition of the output flatfile are under the user's complete control. If the user wish to directly interface with the user's database, Redix AnyToAny Format Converter Engine also supports the direct database access through the Redix Database Module.

The Redix AnyToAny Format Converter Engine requires three files: an input data file (e.g. an EDI file, HIPAA file, XML file, or a flat file), an Input File Descriptor (IFD), and an Output File Descriptor (OFD). The Input File Descriptor (IFD) uses a proprietary Redix format to describe the structure and segment/element definition of the input file, while the Output File Descriptor (OFD) uses a Redix-proprietary scripting language to describe the output file formats. Depending on the user's needs, the user can configure your OFD to generate one or more output files.

The IFD describes the structure and element/segment definition of the input files and serves as the compliance-checking criteria for the input files. If any errors occur during the compliance-checking procedure, the Redix AnyToAny Format Converter Engine will generate a compliance-checking report, and depending on the errors reported, the OFD portion of the conversion may or may not continue.

Written in C++, Redix AnyToAny Format Converter Engine runs on Windows 2000/XP/Server 2003/Vista/Server 2008, Linux, and various versions of the UNIX operating systems, including AIX, Solaris, HP-UX. The engine provides two interface methods: API (Application Programming Interface) and command line. The API method provides you with several "C/C#/C++/JAVA/VB/VB.Net" functions, which allow the user to interface with the user's applications. The Command line method allows the user to interact with the Redix AnyToAny XML Format Converter Engine on the operating-system level.