

INTERCOPE

IBM & INTERCOPE RMA Solution integrated with WBI-FN

Background

As part of SWIFTNet Phase 2, SWIFT has introduced the concept of a Relationship Management Application (RMA) to manage bilateral relations in place of the BKE model.

SWIFT has defined a set of minimum functions, which each RMA application must implement, and has asked the SWIFT vendor community to develop RMA solutions for the market with the option of developing functionality beyond the minimum requirements.

These RMA solutions have to function independently of CBTs and are separately certified by SWIFT.

The status of the certification process is monitored and published by SWIFT on www.swift.com under "SWIFTNet Phase 2 / Vendor Status".

A certified RMA solution must be installed in every bank worldwide at the latest in 2008, and the RMA solution is of vital importance for the bank's SWIFT traffic.

The INTERCOPE RMA solution for WBI-FN (IC-RMA)

In September 2006 the INTERCOPE RMA successfully completed the SWIFTNet Phase 2 pilot test with IBM WBI-FN at Finanz-IT in Germany as the pilot customer. INTERCOPE therefore became the first RMA vendor, aside from SWIFT, to complete this qualification process successfully.

As IBM WBI-FN does not include RMA functionality, INTERCOPE decided to focus on developing such an application specifically designed for large institutions and service providers.

IBM now sells the INTERCOPE RMA solution (IC-RMA) to their WBI-FN customers, and promotes IC-RMA as a solution tightly integrated with WBI-FN.

To ensure this tight integration the IBM and INTERCOPE labs work closely together and review planned enhancements for either component on a regular basis. This process also enables INTERCOPE to support new WBI-FN releases at the time of their general availability.

In addition to the functions specified as mandatory or optional by SWIFT, the IC-RMA solution offers additional important functions which are critical for most large institutions.

Reasons for using the INTERCOPE RMA solution (IC-RMA) with IBM WBI-FN

The solution is specifically designed for large institutions and service providers and takes into account the additional complexity likely to be encountered by such institutions in this application area.

It is tightly integrated with IBM WBI-FN, supports multiple platforms and makes use of standard IBM middleware such as MQ Series, DB2 and Websphere Message Broker.

1. Real time update of relationship data in WBI-FN

The SWIFT specification states that update of the data store in the CBT can be performed via file transfer, once per day, per week or whenever the banks choose. IC-RMA, instead, assures a real time update of the data store, which allows banks to stop unwanted SWIFT traffic immediately. It also allows banks to establish a new relation within seconds. Both of these functions are available to banks today using Merva for managing relationships via BKE. This real time update minimizes the risk of communicating with unwanted correspondents especially in time critical situations.

2. RMA permission check

External applications can check today whether a BKE exists before executing the transaction and bookings. After introducing the RMA granularity, legacy applications must check at the message type level. Included in the IC-RMA solution is a service (implemented through SOA, via MQ or ESB), where the bank's legacy applications can access the actual data in the IC-RMA data store, to ensure transaction consistency and correct bookings.

3. Merva Enhancement

IC-RMA allows a bank to continue using Merva after the replacement of BKE by RMA. It enables Merva to perform RMA permission checks for all the messages running through Merva, as well as for messages manually created in Merva. It also allows the manual viewing of all active relations and the handling of RMA errors in a Merva queue as today with BKE.

4. BIC4 creation of new relations

With traditional BKE banks could establish relationships based on BIC4 codes with all locations of an institution worldwide or based on BIC6 codes with all locations of a bank in a specific country. With RMA this is no longer possible, authorizations have to be granted for each BIC8 individually instead. However, IC-RMA provides a comfortable option in the user interface to generate authorizations for any number of BIC8 correspondents in one step by simply selecting them from a BIC directory list with help of wild-card search functionality.

Why buy IC-RMA NOW ?

SWIFT has designated implementation windows for all countries and customers for SWIFTNet Phase 2 during 2007 and 2008.

All banks should implement PKI security by 3rd or 4th quarter 2007 together with RMA traffic in a test environment.

In order to have enough traffic to automatically update the RMA data store in 2008 all banks should start the traffic based recording of existing relationships in 3rd or 4th quarter 2007. Subsequently the RMA solution must be in production at the latest by 2nd or 3rd quarter 2008.

In the "SWIFTNet Phase 2 Planning Guide" SWIFT recommends that "you should have installed the Relationship Management Application (RMA) functionality in the infrastructure upgrade" and at SIBOS 2006 in Sidney SWIFT again recommended that banks should choose, acquire and install an RMA solution in 2007.