

The Grid

Align your Business

starware 

The Grid unlocks the valuable information of your legacy systems and presents it professionally to the world.

What is The Grid?

The Grid is Starware's flexible output management solution delivering a high performance, highly scalable printing solution. But The Grid does not stop there; it also enables easy connectivity with external parties, in any data format, without having to change existing software. It is widely used as an integration solution as well. By its modular design, add-ins for connectivity to all major databases and file formats are available. In addition to that, a large number of data transportation methods like email, ftp, IBM MQ, HTTPS are supported. The Grid also provides a strong way to monitor and follow the whole chain of events necessary for printing documents and transferring data.

Why The Grid?

Starware's The Grid helps organizations to meet the challenges of output management and to integrate the array of systems needed to run any operation. The number of systems and parties involved in any operation is growing rapidly. By using The Grid, organizations can unleash the potential of their infrastructure and provide all connected parties the right data, in the right format on the right time.

The Grid lets organizations:

- Automate output management to reduce costs and errors
- Professionalize the corporate image of your company, by delivering consistent, error free documents and EDI connections to your customer
- Automate your business interactions with partners
- Focus on daily operation instead of worrying about IT connectivity

Top New Features

Output management

- Full color printing
- Assign multiple actions to a single job
- Full paper tray handling per document type
- Multilingual reports and labels

Connectivity

- Enhanced host systems integration (Web Sphere MQ, IMS)
- Direct Https postings
- E-mail, Sms, Twitter connectivity

Processing

- High Performance, Load Balancing Solution
- Fault tolerant
- Combine multiple data sources in a single report or EDI message

How customers are using The Grid

A high number of customers use The Grid daily as their trusted platform for solutions such as supply chain visibility, operational reporting, EDI connectivity, KPI reporting and Management Information Solutions.

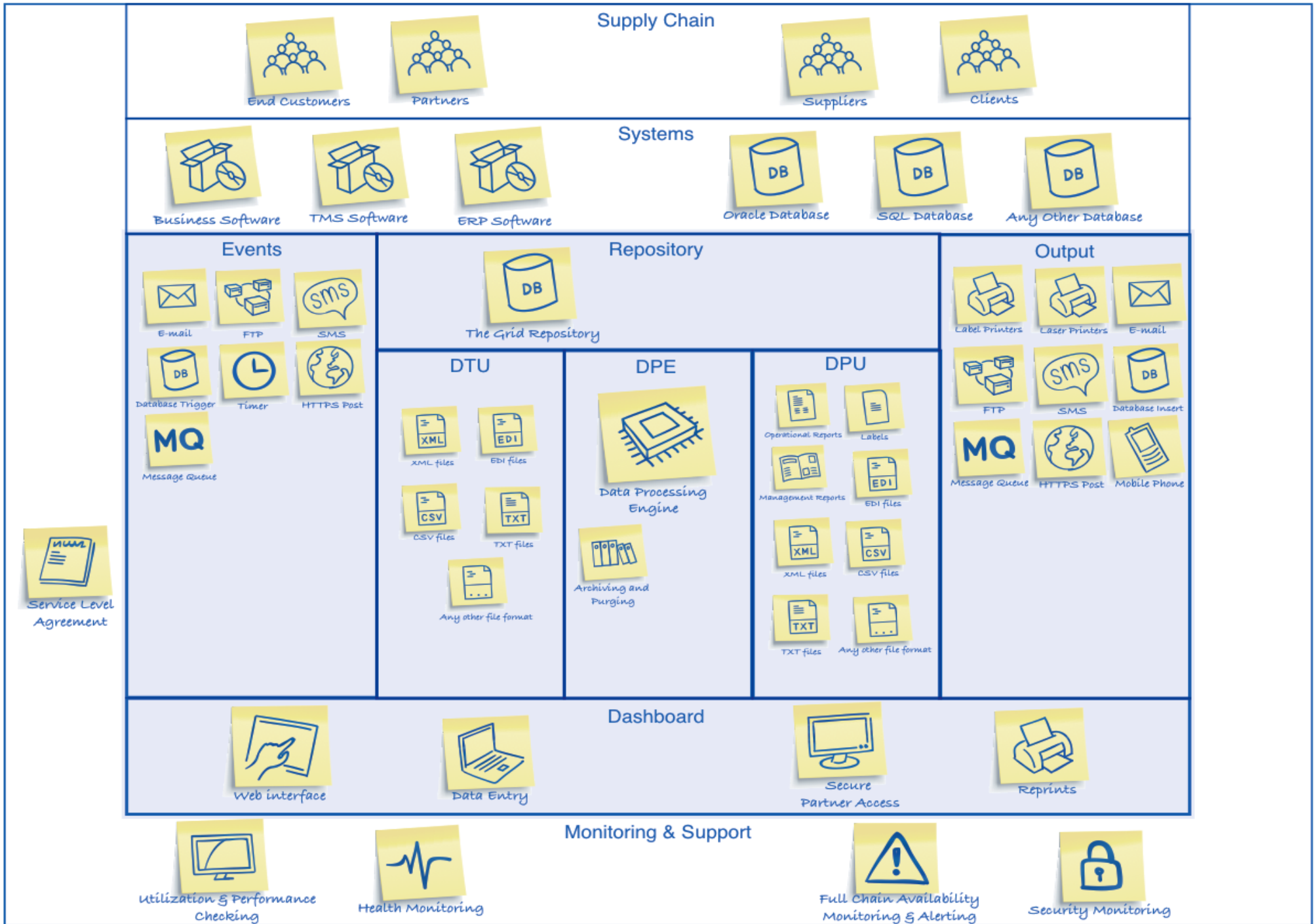
The Grid enables you to:

- Streamline and automate operational reporting in a highly-dynamic environment by delivering real-time visibility at the transaction level of interconnected business processes across different system environments
- Be very adaptable and gain comprehensive visibility of information and transactions across the multitude of disparate systems, devices (e.g. RFID) and complex processes of your supply chain

- Streamline and automate complex business processes across a number of different systems
- Flexibly execute critical business processes, gain insight in your data by delivering real-time management reports that offer a single point of entry for your data-analysts.

Learn how you can use The Grid in your organization and see how others are using it to effectively streamline their business processes and connecting with their supply chain partners. Starware would like to meet you and work out a strategy for the challenges your company faces.





Features

Activity Monitoring

Event Monitoring Engine

- File monitoring, translation of any format like CSV, EDIFACT, XML, TXT etc. via DTU to native grid format
- Database monitoring, via database triggers
- Application integration
- Timed Events

Management & Operations

Application Management

- Configurable Windows Service
- Strong management application for configuration and support
- Linking of events, input and output options

Logging & Tracking

- Full database logging for better root cause analyses
- Tools & reports for tracking messages

Host Management

- Runs on windows servers
- Load balancing
- Fail safe options by using multiple servers
- Fully Scalable

Module Development

- Visual Studio Development
- Use of template modules
- Deployment of business rules
- Direct label printing development

Report Development

- Crystal Reports & SQL reporting Development
- Flexible use of barcodes, templates.

Data Management

- Archiving & Purging
- Repository in separate part of customer database or own managed DB.

Messaging & Output Management

Inbound

- EDIFACT translation and schema validation
- XML translation and validation
- Data mapping to user tables
- Unformatted file support
- RFID reading

Processing

- Load Balancing
- Fail Over
- Context based routing
- Content based routing
- Failed message handling
- Process multiple actions on a single event

Outbound Printing

- Support for label printing on all major label printer brands in native language
- Rich operational reports created with Crystal Reports or SQL Reporting
- Clear management and KPI reporting
- Paper tray handling
- Full Color printing
- Multiple printer support for single job files.
- User based & Application based printer settings
- RFID writing
- Support for all know barcode types, 1D & 2D

Outbound Messaging

- EDIFACT, XML, CSV, PDF, Excel, Word, HTML, JPG etc file creation
- Database posting
- Archiving options

Dashboard

- Web user interface to enable users to manually print reports, send files or enter manual data
- Direct printing
- Present management information and dashboards
- Secure single sign on environment
- Possibility to present selected reports to partners / customers

Message Transport

- Web services based messaging (HTTPS, HTTP posting)
- Microsoft WCF adapters
- IBM Web sphere MQ
- FTP
- Email
- SMS
- Twitter
- Windows Shares

Security

- Encryption / Decryption
- Digital signature authentication

Monitoring & Support

Service Level Agreements

- SLA can be tuned to your business processes
- Focus on your business instead of IT issues
- Scalable from 9-5 till 24x7x365
- Professional ServiceCentre with a direct access to skilled consultants and support personnel

System Monitoring

- Full Chain availability monitoring and alerting
- Health Monitoring
- Utilization & Performance Checking
- Security Monitoring

Supported systems and requirements

Data sources

- Navision
- Exact
- Prologs
- PeopleSoft
- Chainware
- Red Prairie
- SAP

Database Connectivity

- Oracle
- SQL Server
- My SQL
- DB2

Printers

- All PCL5, PCL6 and postscript printers
- Specific label printers like Zebra, Toshiba, Datamax

Hardware Requirements

- Intel P4 processor or higher
- 2 Gb internal memory
- 4 Gb free disk space (more required when backup of .dat files is enabled)

Operating System Requirements

- Windows 2003 Service pack 2 (or higher), including:
 - Microsoft Internet Information Services

Software Prerequisites

- Windows Installer service (Or higher)
- Microsoft .NET Framework 1.1 (needed for Crystal XI RAS)
- Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0
- Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5
- Appropriate Database Client Software

Roadmap

Future developments include:

Module Store

We will build a community in which Starware, it's partners and customers can sell and buy their developed modules. In this way developments will become more and more efficient and everyone can benefit from prior developments.

Starware will certify the developments to meet the quality standards for The Grid.

Mapping Tool

A mapping tool will be developed to enable customers to map dynamic data to predefined templates. This will make development of reports and interfaces easier for end customers.

Workflow Orchestration

Starware will introduce a full workflow orchestration module; users will be even more in control of the message flow that is generated on every event. It will increase the ability of load balancing, the scheduling of reports and interfaces and create a full workflow on a single event.

Fully Decoupled Systems

A fully decoupled system can be used for highly secured environments, software as a service or remote branch office solutions. Data and triggers will be transferred via XML files to The Grid, which will store this information and base its reports and interfaces on.

Rich User Interface Modules

By adding native Microsoft Silverlight support in the dashboard a new presentation layer for users is added. It will highly enrich the possibilities for data entry, configuration and mapping in The Grid.



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