

Customer Briefing Note 009

Invoice Output Formats

Edge Background

Edge is our flag-ship web-based software solution for retail water and waste services suppliers in the UK.

Edge has been designed and built from first principles to provide a complete “Business in a Box” for both established and new entrant Licensed Providers.

The Edge system allows seamless operations across the UK – in both the Scottish and English markets.

Edge runs on the Microsoft “Azure” cloud platform, and provides unrivalled flexibility, security and availability.

Deployment of Edge is quick and easy, whether you are a new start or the largest water company in the country.

Edge Invoice Media

The Edge invoice has been designed in the form of a “report” from the “SQL Server Reporting Services” (SSRS) module of the SQL Server database. Each Invoice format is created as a “template” RDLC (Report Definition Language Client-side) file within SSRS.

One advantage of this approach is that the RDLC can be customised to meet the exact “look and feel” of the Retail Company.

The other main advantage is that since the SSRS report is essentially an electronic file, then the output media can be changed to suit the end customer.

The following sections describe three specific formats for Edge Invoice output.

PDF Invoices via email

The original Edge billing module was designed to create Invoices as a .PDF file format. This .PDF file was then automatically emailed to end Customers when the Invoice was Activated, either manually or through Automatic Activation (AA). See also CBN-008 for more information on AA.

Invoices by Post

Some more traditional Retail Companies prefer to print the .PDF files and post the Invoices to their customers. In this instance, the .PDF invoice is created and stored in the same way as above, but the Activated Invoice is not sent via email. The Invoices are downloaded from an Invoice folder and sent to a printer or an external print house for printing, enveloping and then posting to the Customer.

Invoices by “Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)”

Other Retail Companies like to offer invoices to their larger customers in “Electronic Data Interchange” (EDI) format. Edge provides a generic .XML output format that is loaded to “Value Added Network” (VAN) middleware so that specific EDI bill formats can be created, for example Tradacoms v4.

Please see Figure 1 for a high-level architectural view of the Edge / VAN relationship.

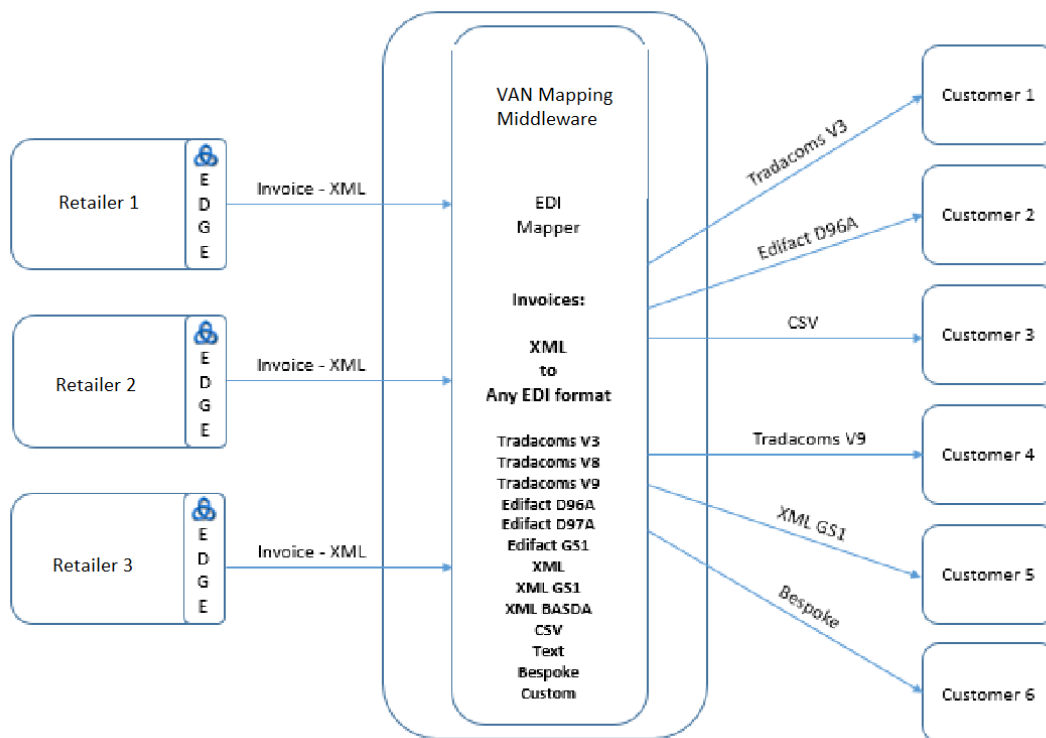


Figure 1 - Edge / VAN Relationship

Please chat to us if you would like to set up a VAN to work alongside Edge for the creation of EDI billing.

For more information, please also check out: <https://utilityweek.co.uk/market-view-edi-billing-and-multi-site-organisations/>

Edge Invoice Structure

The Edge invoice is structurally the same, whether it is for a single SPID or for a 1000 SPID Consolidated bill.

The Edge Invoice follows a three-page structure as follows:

Summary Page: This is the Invoice Summary with statutory invoice requirements such as Invoice Number, Date and VAT number etc and Charge Rows showing all Service Charges and the Total Amount owed

SPID Page(s): Here is a page for each SPID within the Invoice. Accordingly, there can be one or many SPID pages within the Edge invoice. The SPID Page provides a detailed breakdown of the SPID service charges for the billing period, any Volumetric Adjustments and a VAT breakdown

Info Page: This is a page that provides additional information to the Customer about the bill. It is generally fixed text as defined by the Retail Company. This is generally the final page of the Invoice.

Customer Account Billing Settings

When a Customer Account is created in Edge, several billing parameters are entered as follows:

- Billing Frequency: Monthly; Quarterly; Annually; Bi-Annually (for FAB billing only)
- Billing Day: Day of the month (for FAB billing only)
- Billing Method: In Advance / In Arrears
- Send Bill in Post: Yes / No
- XML via VAN: Yes / No
- PDF via eMail: Yes / No

Once the billing parameters are entered then Edge will calculate and send the next Invoice based upon the billing settings.

Related Customer Briefing Notes (CBN's)

You may also be interested in these related CBN's

- CBN001: "Edge Overview"
- CBN002: "ADC Billing"
- CBN003: "Volumetric Adjustment"
- CBN004: "Metered Billing"
- CBN005: "Block Tariffs"
- CBN006: "Consolidated Billing"
- CBN007: "Published Tariffs"
- CBN008: "Manual and Automated Billing"
- CBN009: "Bill Output Formats"
- CBN010: "Market Transactions and Data Items"
- CBN011: "Integrated Transaction Management"
- CBN012: "Bitemporal Updates"

- CBN013: "Market Data Set"
- CBN014: "Market Pricing"
- CBN015: "SPID Transfers"
- CBN016: "CRM Module"
- CBN017: "Data Quality"
- CBN018: "Meter Reading Management"
- CBN019: "Sub Meters and Complex Metering"
- CBN020: "Meter Exchange Management"
- CBN021: "Trade Effluent"

Further Information

If you require further information on any aspect of the Edge solution, please contact us at:

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