# Options for Integrating with a 3PL

To help our clients better understand the different types of integrations, we have put together a brief overview demonstrating the data exchange paths, who the integrations work for, and the information needed for each integration type. Questions? Reach out to our team at info@beyondwarehousing.com.

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## ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI)
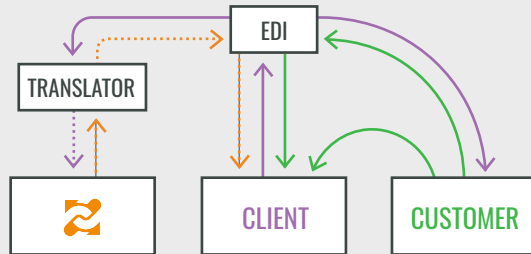
WHO TYPICALLY USES THIS INTEGRATION TYPE?

Companies that use EDI integration typically have a higher volume of sales through large-scale retailers. This type of integration best fits medium to large-sized vendors for retailers. EDI integration is often required of vendors by their retail trading partners. Generally, companies that use EDI also use an ERP, which collects and organizes key business information.

WHAT WE NEED FROM OUR CLIENT

1. Information regarding inbounds and outbounds — full SKU list, quantities/unit of measures, and destination/carrier
2. EDI service provider information
3. Established communication pathways:
   - Names of customers in ERP
   - Fields mapped for EDI
4. Customer requirements — routing and vendor guides for each customer

## APPLICATION PROGRAMMING INTERFACE (API)
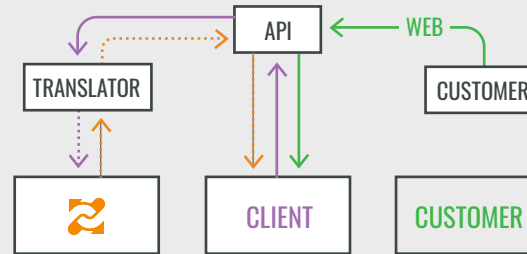
WHO TYPICALLY USES THIS INTEGRATION TYPE?

Companies that use API integration typically utilize an online shopping cart, such as shopify or shipstation. This type of integration is ideal for companies looking for a cost-effective way to aggregate orders from multiple channels. Companies may also use API to access potential shipping advantages (ex: shipping through Shopify's UPS account).

WHAT WE NEED FROM OUR CLIENT

1. Established communication pathways and preferences
2. Information regarding inbounds and outbounds — full SKU list, unit of measures, set up of customers
3. Access to shopping cart/API Key
4. Customer requirements if applicable

MANUAL / EMAIL / FLAT FILE
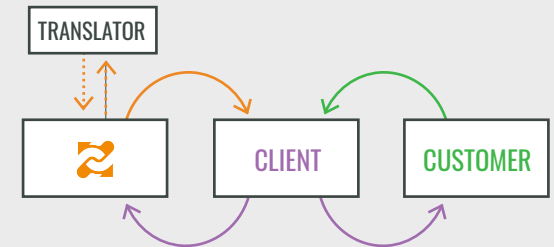
WHO TYPICALLY USES THIS INTEGRATION TYPE?

Companies that use manual integration typically have sales that don't involve a lot of large scale e-commerce, sell in more pallet quantities, and have lower order volumes. This type of integration best fits manufacturers and domestic producers/sellers.

WHAT WE NEED FROM OUR CLIENT

1. Established communication requirements/preferences for inbounds, outbounds, and inventory
2. Base level information regarding inbounds and outbounds — SKU data, quantities/unit of measures, and destination/carrier
3. Customer requirements if applicable