

High capacity, scalable billing system for telecom operators

Comarch Convergent Billing

The increasing need for collaboration between business partners leads to a requirement for a business-to-business gateway solution that reduces business process complexity. The reduced complexity can be achieved by replacing the manual, time-consuming processes, with automated versions which can be linked to external business partners.

The Comarch B2B Gateway solution integrates external systems into the operator's own BSS environment, and provides unified communication between all integrated services, thus reducing complexity and increasing the level of platform automation. The operator's business partners are able to integrate their own systems with the operator's BSS platform.

What business areas can be optimized

- Enable access for business partner systems to the underlying BSS system
- Optimize business processes by automating the communication between the operator and its business partners
- Adapt to changing market situations and shorten the time-to-market for new services

Benefits

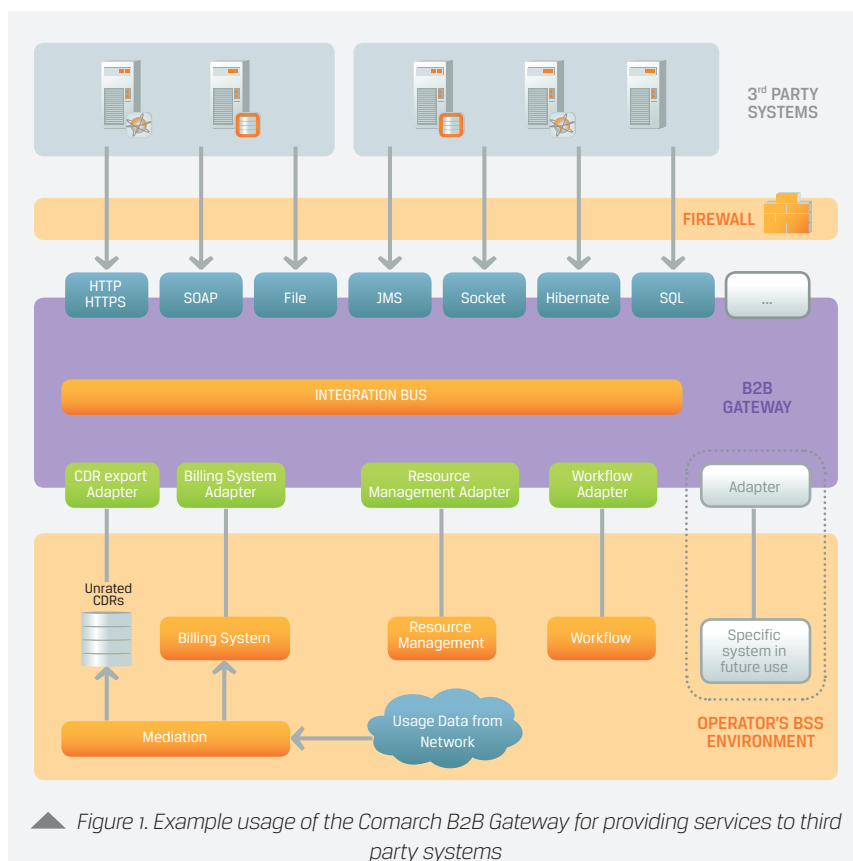
- › Increased business partner satisfaction
- › Reduced maintenance costs
- › Service updates do not impact existing services
- › Business partners can reuse their own applications
- › Support for new service additions
- › Business process automation

Key features

- › Workflow engine for business process automation
- › Reuse of existing business logic
- › ESB-based platform for integration of external, heterogeneous systems
- › Scalability
- › Secure communication channel for business partners

Selected references

- › 6Gmobile, the Netherlands



The figure below presents an example business case, in which the B2B Gateway acts as a central integration layer between the operator's BSS platform, and third party systems. The complexity of the individual interfaces that the operator's IT environment and external systems may have is concealed within the B2B Gateway. This way, the amount of interconnection points utilized between them is reduced to a minimum.

The business partners of the operator can perform e.g. service provisioning activities via web services provided by the B2B Gateway. The B2B Gateway can also be used for delivery of usage and billing data to business partners, for example, in situations where the MVNE has a B2B Gateway and hosts multiple MVNOs, with billing performed by the MVNO systems.

The B2B Gateway solution is based on the Enterprise Service Bus (ESB), meaning that the integration of internal and external systems is realized via implementation of system-specific adapters and interfaces, while communication within the ESB is unified.

■ Features

- **Workflow engine for business process automation** – the B2B Gateway provides fast and reliable web service access to the specific functionalities of the underlying BSS platform of the operator. Any actions that can be carried out manually using the BSS platform can also be conducted automatically via the B2B Gateway, in order to increase the efficiency of business processes
- **Reuse of existing business logic** – the solution enables reusing current workflow processes from already existing operator applications. Incoming service requests from business partners will be handled using identical workflow processes to those running successfully in the operator's own BSS environment. This enables protecting the integrity and consistency of the business processes
- **ESB-based platform for integration of external, heterogeneous systems** – when an operator's business growth brings demand for new services, the ESB-based Comarch B2B Gateway solution makes it possible to integrate new services upon request into the solution, one-by-one, without impacting those already running on the platform
- **Scalability** – the on-the-fly service update also applies to the solution scalability. Because the Comarch B2B Gateway keeps the service complexity concealed from the hosted business partners (e.g. an MVNO that is hosted by an MVNE), it is possible to upgrade the B2B Gateway transparently according to the business requirements, as the number of MVNOs and their subscribers grow
- **Secure communication channel for business partners** – the Comarch B2B Gateway solution is highly customizable. It is possible to define which services the given business partner (e.g. MVNO) has access to and what type of data is to be delivered to that business partner – e.g. usage data, billing data or both. File formats, frequency of data updates and other system parameters allow for optimal adaptation to the operator's business requirements

■ Benefits

- Increased business partner satisfaction
- Reduced maintenance costs
- Service updates do not impact existing services
- Business partners can reuse their own applications
- Support for new service additions
- Business process automation

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About Comarch:

Since 1993, Comarch has been specializing in designing, implementing and integrating solutions and services for telecommunications operators. Experience gained throughout this period, in addition to its knowledge of the latest industry trends led to the development of a wide customer portfolio that spreads across 4 continents and includes the biggest market players: T-Mobile, Telefónica O2, as well as MVNO operators such as Auchan Telecom, France. Comarch customers' satisfaction has always been the strongest confirmation of the quality of its solutions in the areas of billing and inter-partner settlements, as well as management of telecommunications networks and services. The Comarch offering for telecom operators is primarily addressed to Fixed, Cable and Broadband Operators, Mobile Operators, Wholesale Departments, MVNO/MVNE Operators, ISPs and VoIP Operators and Content Providers and IPTV Operators.

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