



Adding functionality in GDSN

GDSN Inc. is pleased to announce that Maintenance Release 4 (MR4) was deployed into the network on 23 October 2010. This release contains changes to the Trade Item, Catalog Item Synchronisation and Price Synchronisation messages.

Over the years GDSN has evolved the deployment and implementation of standards from major releases which may be several years apart, to annual maintenance releases. GDSN recognised the need to implement simple changes and enhancements more frequently into the network outside of a major release. Working with the Global Standards Management Process (GSMP), a process was developed to ensure that simple change requests could be deployed on an annual basis and not have to wait until a major release.

What's in MR4?

1. GDSN Messages

- a. The Trade Item and related standard contains over 60 change requests to improve existing functionality
- b. Changes to the Catalog Item message include updates to the Catalog Item Confirmation.
- c. The Price Synchronisation standard contains several minor changes for improved functionality.

2. GDSN Extensions

- a. New Capabilities for Food & Beverage, FMCG, Hardlines, Electronic Games, Apparel, Audio/Visual Equipment, Promotional Extension, Regulatory Extension, CIC Messaging, Price Messaging
- b. Healthcare: This release also contains support for healthcare data requirements. These attributes were developed to specifically address healthcare product data requirements that support implementations in a global environment as well as country specific needs.

3. GDSN Validation Rules

- a. Validation rules for price, trade item and to validate correct processing of GTINs and GLNs have been updated and added to improve processes. VR Rules can be found here: <http://gdd.gs1.org/gdd/public/gdsnvalidation.asp>

4. Global Product Classification (GPC)

Changes include (not exhaustive):

- a. Addition of missing and new GPC Structures/Brick codes for Citrus Fruits to the existing schema FBT
- b. Addition of attribute values to the Alcoholic Beverages class (50202200) (changes to beer, wine, cider and spirits/ liqueurs/ pre-mix drinks)
- c. Adjust the names of the Segment, Family, Class and bricks in the HomeCare segment to remove references to Home or Household –OR- create the same structure for Industrial or Commercial Cleaners, disinfectants
- d. Add a new brick added to classify latex or vinyl gloves (sterility and material as an attribute) used in the foodservice and healthcare industries to prevent the passage of germs from a person to a product

The schema will be available at the following link:

http://community.gs1.org/apps/org/workgroup/gsmg_g_gpcbrg/documents.php?folder_id=6671

To access the current standard click below: http://www.gs1.org/services/gsmg/kc/ecom/xml/gdsn_grid.html

How does the MR process work?

New business requirements are submitted as Simple Change Requests (CRs) and routed to the GSMP GDSN Business Requirements Group (BRG). The business requirement is added to a list of eligible changes to go into the next maintenance release. The requirement is defined including dependencies with other requirements and solution design, and given a level of impact on implementers. Only backwards compatible changes that affect mandatory functionality will be considered for a maintenance release. Requirements that affect optional functionality would be considered on a case by case basis.

Once the annual cut-off date has been reached, a Complex Work Order will be entered for the formation of a maintenance release work group. GSMP will send out a call to action to all GSMP members. This work group is tasked to build the solution for that release.

The GDSN Maintenance Release (MR) Work Group defines the scope of maintenance releases, builds Business Message Standards (BMS) for approved business requirements from the GDSN Business Requirements Group (BRG), and delivers the solutions to the various MR's that update the GDSN with enhancements. Membership comprises GDSN users, GS1 Member Organisations (MO's), and GDSN-certified Data Pools.

Once the standard is complete, the GDSN Operations and Technology Team (OTT) proposes the deployment dates. This team serves as an advisory body to the GDSN User Group, GDSN Inc. and GSMP on technical design and implementation, timelines and operations associated with business requirements submitted by the GDSN User Group and operations of the existing network. Membership is primarily comprised of GS1 MO's and GDSN-certified Data Pools.

The GDSN MR Work Group and the OTT are open to all GDSN users.

Questions?

For more information, please contact us at gdsninc@gs1gdsn.org.