



# Uploading Your GS1net Data - Key Supplier Choices

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## Introduction

As a supplier using GS1net to synchronise your master product data, you will have a number of choices as to how you get your data into GS1net.

These choices have consequences for:

- The amount of manual intervention / effort required for you to upload and maintain the data
- The accuracy and timeliness of your information on GS1net and hence to your customers
- The cost & time required to develop the way you get your data into GS1net

Your goal should always be total automation it is just a question of the steps/phases you take to get there.



## Different Approaches

1. GS1net Graphical User Interface (GUI) / Web Entry
2. GS1net Browser Upload Service (Formatted Spreadsheet)
3. GS1net DDF (Data Delimited File)
4. GS1net Middleware
5. GS1net XML

It is key to understand that no matter what choice you choose your Data is validated in some way. However using option 1. significantly reduces the amount of validation available and hence is not recommended.





## 1. GS1net Graphical User Interface (GUI) / Web Entry

- Enter your data directly onto the Web
- Lower comparative level of validation
- Not suitable unless you are have a small (<10) and stable product range





## 2. GS1net Brower Upload Service (BUS)

- Formatted excel spreadsheet called Browser Template (BT)
- All data fully validated on uploading to GS1net
- Limited functionality and requires some manual intervention to upload
- Requires you to download your information from GS1net prior to making changes to your catalogue
- Requires you to maintain all of your data in the BT versus your other internal systems e.g. ERP
- Popular place to start but only a long term solution if you have a small and stable range. e.g. <100 products, < 10% annual product variation, 1 annual price change.
- Requires disciplined processes and competent MS excel skills to manage data effectively and efficiently



## GS1net Data Delimited File (DDF)

- This flat file format is only supported via **manual upload** to GS1net.
- All files are validated via the GS1net
- Removes the requirement of dealing with the BT spreadsheet
- Has all of the common integrity pitfalls of flat-files vs structured EDI or XML messages
- If you are requiring Machine 2 Machine (M2M) integration you will need to investigate the XML or Middleware options
- Often used as a medium term approach while M2M XML capabilities are being developed





## GS1net Certified Middleware

- Certified products that provide among other things machine to machine (M2M) connectivity with GS1net
- Support various levels of automation and integration
- Offer value added functionality in terms of data generation, validation, and role based introduction and change workflow
- Some products focus on full Master Data Management (MDM) capabilities
- Solutions available in various levels of cost, functionality, complexity
- The organisation's that support the products have significant experience with GS1net. A recommended progression for companies wishing to advance from the BT and want to leverage well established solutions that product a path for continued automation





## GS1net XML (GDSN Standard)

- XML messages that are apart of the Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN) standards support Machine to Machine (M2M) connectivity
- Are being maintained as part of GS1's Global Standard Management Process (GSMP)
- Being used by suppliers, their trading partners, and GS1 Data Pools all over the world and across multiple industry sectors
- Tracks with the leading edge of functionality within maximum interoperability between versions
- Should be the end goal for all suppliers not wishing to leverage the additional functionality of Certified GS1net Middleware



## Recommended Approach

- Automation needs to be your goal
- No approach fits all
- Depends on a number of key things e.g.
  - Complexity of data to be supplied
  - Your applicable product range and how stable it is
  - The number of your customers asking you to use GS1net
  - The timing to be GS1net Ready for your initial customer
  - Your ability to maintain accurate GS1net data
- We encourage you to develop an Automation Roadmap that may involve you starting simple and enhancing functionality/automation over time.
- The Browser Template (BT) is often a great way to start and get up and running quickly but is not a suitable medium term solution for a lot of companies



For More Information

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