

A close-up photograph of a hand placing a single blue puzzle piece into a larger assembly of white puzzle pieces. The puzzle pieces are arranged to form a map of the world, with the blue piece being a significant part of the landmasses. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

# Manual AS2 gateway

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 EDI and Internet

The Internet is a stable alternative for X.400. Authentication, security and reliability are no longer issues. Messages in various formats (XML, EDIFACT, ANSI X.12 etc.) can be transmitted via the Internet without difficulties.

Extensive information about EDI and the Internet is available on the InterCommIT website:  
<http://www.intercommit.nl>.

### 1.2 Go-secure

Go-secure is the safe and reliable solution to exchange messages via the Internet. Go-secure offers full functionality of the traditional X.400/EDI networks and is easily built in with existing software. The transmission of information is nearly real-time. When the receiving party is unavailable the information will be stored safely until the application is online again. Thus information does not disappear.

Go-secure provides end-to-end monitoring and guaranteed delivery times of the messages transported. All information is encrypted and the authenticity of business partners is ensured. Go-secure allows for secluded user groups to be used and for messages to be archived centrally.

### 1.3 Get started with Go-secure

It is easy to start the Go-secure service. You only need the following components:

- Internet access
- EDICON Connect software;
- A digital certificate.

InterCommIT is supplier of the EDICON Connect software. On request a digital certificate can also be delivered.

Please contact InterCommIT for more details:

- InterCommIT BV  
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P.O. Box 1736, 3800 BA Amersfoort  
The Netherlands  
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E-mail: [sales@intercommit.nl](mailto:sales@intercommit.nl)

## 2. AS2

### 2.1 AS2 protocol

With Applicability Statement 2 (AS2) users can communicate directly over the Internet without interference of a Value Added Network (VAN).

Communicating using the AS2 protocol poses high demands to automatization of the parties participating and they need to use specific software that has been certified by the Drummond Group. This company is an independent authority for testing and certifying software.

Part of the AS2 solution is a web server that is connected to both the Internet and the internal systems of the participants. It is utterly important that AS2 users possess a highly sophisticated security infrastructure, among which a firewall. The Internet connection of AS2 users needs to be “open” continuously.

The communication over the Internet can be protected using encryption and digital certificates. AS2 supports various possibilities which need to be tuned, configured and tested between participating parties.

Configuration of the AS2 connection is time consuming and organisationally demanding. Figures show that if various AS2 connections need to be maintained the costs for implementation and maintenance increase.

### 2.2 AS2 solutions from InterCommIT

Even though significant investments need to be made for the purchase and implementation of AS2 software, costs can be saved for companies that transmit high volumes of data. The savings are made since the services of a Value Added Network supplier are no longer needed.

AS2 Software from InterCommIT is available, specifically for ‘heavy users’. Of course this software is tested and certified by the Drummond Group.

For users of its Go-secure service InterCommIT offers an AS2 gateway to exchanges messages with partners utilizing AS2. Using this gateway requires no adjustments in the local infrastructure of the Go-secure user, the gateway takes care of the conversion.

### 3. Go-secure AS2 gateway

#### 3.1 Gateway service

Go-secure users can communicate with partners which are not directly connected with the Go-secure service of InterCommIT by using a gateway. A gateway is a link between the Go-secure network and the other networks and protocols.

Messages can be exchanged with partners that use other communication methods such as X.400, PGP (e.g. Superunie) or AS2 (e.g. Albert Heijn, Wal-Mart), simply by supplying the correct e-mail address.

This manual describes the communication with partners using AS2 such as Ahold (Albert Heijn, Gall & Gall and Etos), ASDA (Wal-Mart) and OBI.



*diagram Go-secure gateway*

Taking advantage of the AS2 gateway of InterCommIT for Go-secure users is easy. No additional adjustments in hard- and software are required for the postal box owner.

Transmitting messages to AS2 users is done by using the correct email address. Addresses of your trading partners are available at InterCommIT.

Receiving AS2 messages is just as easy. The AS2 gateway will deliver the AS2 files in your postal box and as soon as you collect your messages you will also received the AS2 data.

Example:

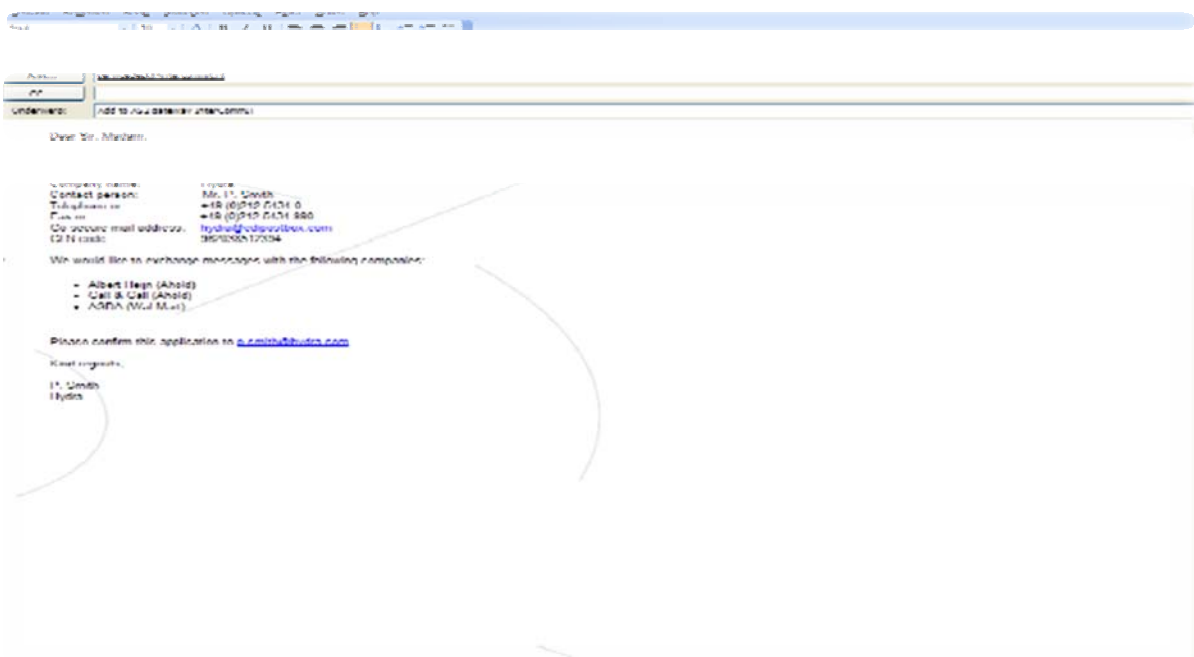
Sending a message to Albert Heijn is done by addressing it to: [albertheijn@as2.go-secure.nl](mailto:albertheijn@as2.go-secure.nl). The data is then delivered to the AS2 gateway and you will receive a notification. The message is then forwarded from the gateway to the AS2 recipient (Albert Heijn in this example).

### 3.2 Applying for the Go-secure AS2 gateway

Prior to using the AS2 gateway users need to send an application e-mail to the service desk of InterCommIT at: [servicedesk@intercommit.nl](mailto:servicedesk@intercommit.nl). The subject header needs to mention “Add to AS2 gateway InterCommIT

In the body of the e-mail please specify the following:

- Starting date for using the AS2 gateway;
- Company name;
- Contact person;
- Telephone number;
- Fax number;
- Go-secure e-mail address;
- GLN code
- (Ahold) companies whom you'd like to exchanges messages with; The application will be confirmed by the InterCommIT service desk by sending a return mail.





*Example application e-mail AS2 gateway*

### **3.3 Application to the Ahold EDI competence center**

Prior to exchanging AS2 messages with the Ahold concern an application to the Ahold EDI competence center is required.

Applying is easy if you use the InterCommIT AS2 gateway. You can send a copy of the application mail to InterCommIT to the EDI competence center at the following e-mail address: [edi@ahold.nl](mailto:edi@ahold.nl).

The competence center will confirm the application to the sender of the message. In the confirmation additional information is provided about the AS2 connection with the Ahold companies.