IBM Managed File Transfer Suite

IBM delivers the industry-leading managed file transfer solution

Overview

In this solution overview, you will learn:

- Why you need Managed File Transfer (MFT)

- What are the disruptors to how you transfer files today

- How IBM innovation overcomes file transfer challenges

Benefits

With the IBM MFT suite you can:

- Speed the flow of file based information to fuel innovation

- Scale to handle hyper-growth

- Empower employees to provide better customer service

Why Managed File Transfer

Files deliver the information that drives today's business processes. Managed File Transfer (MFT) brings security, reliability and governance to the movement of these files inside and outside your business. Most organizations start their MFT journey because a compelling event, like a failed security audit, or a specific project that needs more than FTP plus IT scripting to handle.

But every organization transfers files today, and is therefore somewhere on their own MFT journey. While most start with a pressing project, they soon find they own several "project" based MFT products through departmental buying or acquisition. The next step on the journey is the move to an "operations" MFT which focuses on consolidation and modernization of all the point products for better control and delivery.

The third stage is implementing an MFT "Center of Excellence" that focuses on supporting enterprise level Service Level Agreements (SLA). This phase is usually is driven by a best practices approach to governance, scale and high availability technical requirements as well as business critical process support.

Regardless of where you are on your MFT journey, a new set of disruptors are going to challenge your current MFT solution.

The disruptors

The combination of IT trends like big data/analytics, cloud, social and mobile are creating a new set of challenges for managed file transfer. There is hyper-growth in file sizes/volumes as well as in the number of end-points/devices. As files get larger, the times to move them over global distances becomes longer and longer.

All these increased demands for file transfer come at a time of heightened security concerns. Tighter security policies and compliance requirements demand better governance over file exchange. These three key disruptors; hyper-growth, the need for speed, and better governance are driving a change in Managed File Transfer as you know it.

Speed the flow of file based information to fuel innovation

IBM has invested in specialized technologies like Aspera Fast Adaptable Secure Protocol (FASP™) to speed the delivery of large files and data sets across global distances. This technology has enabled the media and entertainment industry to rebuild their digital value chains and transform their business models.

In research that Vanson Bourne conducted for IBM, 88% of business leaders feel their business is challenged to move big data quickly enough to meet the business demands.[1] With FASP technology, IBM can handle your need for speed.

Scale to handle Hyper-Growth

The reality is that many project based MFT solutions cannot handle the volumes and platforms that your enterprise requires. This includes the all the new use cases and consolidation of your legacy point solutions into an enterprise wide MFT solution. As organizations look to bring security and control to all their file exchanges, they need a scalable solution that can start at the project level and grow to support a global enterprise.

As depicted in Figure 1 below, the IBM MFT Suite handles multiple use cases; system-to-system file integration, file gateways for B2B, and file sharing, with high-speed options for each. There are advanced edge security options and a full range of deployment and management choices as well. The IBM MFT suite meets your current needs as well scaling for the needs of the future.

Empower employees to provide better customer service

"Where is my file?" is the most asked question of the file transfer operations team. Whoever has to answer that question for the internal or external user needs actionable information tailored to their roles. IBM MFT provides different views for I.T. operations, line-of-business and governance-risk-compliance users.

Customized dashboards, alerts and reporting keep these users from sifting through the 1000's of events that are happening right now, to focus on the critical events that impact a key SLA, or policy deviation. This level of visibility and governance is what makes the difference between a happy customer and an escalation or missed SLA.
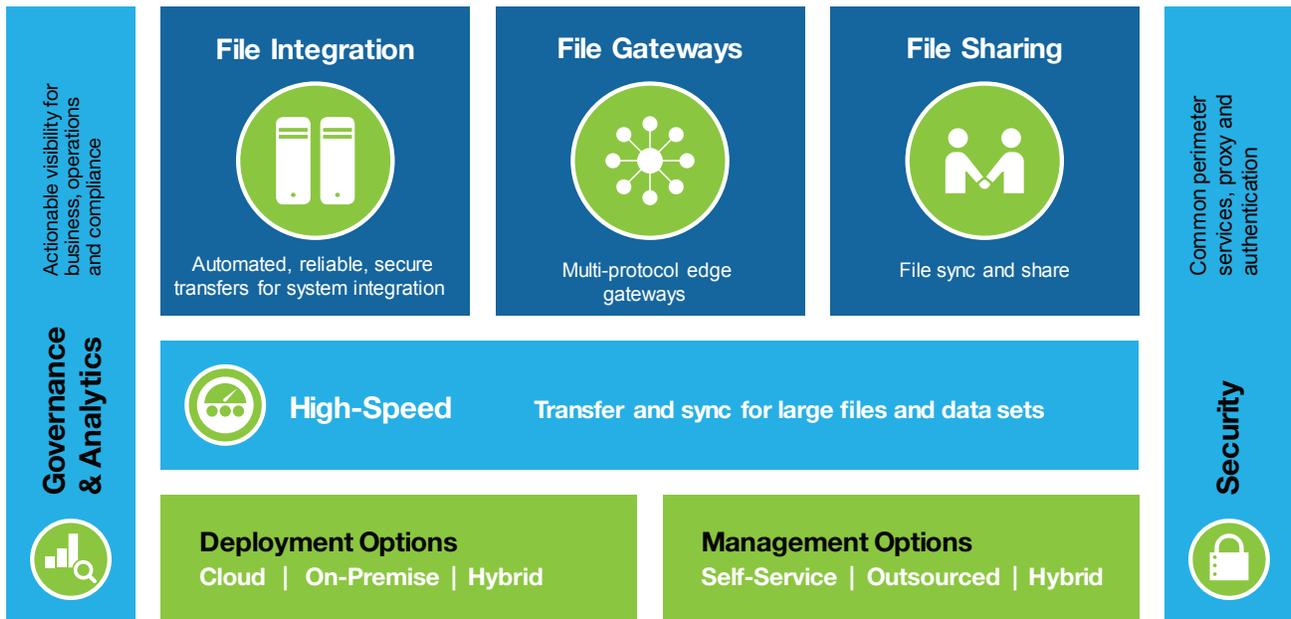

Figure 1: The IBM Managed File Transfer Suite

Products	Capabilities
IBM® Connect:Direct — Designed to automate and increase the security and reliability of application integration transfers	• Near-real-time integration for diverse applications across a full range of platforms • Proven reliability and scalability in demanding industries • Timely and accurate audit trails and reports for file transfer activity • High-Speed option that utilizes the FASP™ protocol to speed the transfer of large files over long distance • Built-in automation and checkpoint restart allows lights-out operation
IBM® WebSphere MQ MFT	• Utilizes WebSphere MQ to transfer files over a messaging infrastructure
IBM® Sterling File Gateway — Consolidated edge file gateway for all your B2B exchanges	• Pre-built templates simplify automation for file processes • Central management of user roles, responsibilities, and policies with auditing • Self-service portal for partner interaction • Comprehensive support for industry-standard protocols as well as specialized protocols
IBM® Control Center — Visibility and governance over critical B2B integration and MFT file exchanges	• Simple and powerful SLA management gives you notification in time to anticipate and correct problems • Manage file transfer activity across your file transfer infrastructure including Connect:Direct, Standard FTP servers, Sterling File Gateway, Sterling B2B Integrator, Sterling Secure Proxy, and WebSphere MQ MFT • Central configuration management allows you to create, update, and delete configuration objects with security and logging for Connect:Direct • Policy definition and auditing for better compliance • Customizable dashboards and workspaces
IBM® Sterling Secure Proxy — Strengthen the edge of the enterprise with this advanced proxy	• Session break in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) helps protect internal services against exposure to attacks • Secure protocols (including IBM Sterling Connect:Direct), encryption methods, digital signatures, and multi-factor identity management tools help reduce security risk • Firewall navigation best practices increases perimeter security for your file transfer infrastructure to comply with regulatory policies and pass tougher security audits • Dynamic Routing simplifies migration by keeping trading partners from having to change their configurations
IBM® Sterling File Transfer Service — A cloud service for file-based business interactions with trading partners	• File transfer automation in the cloud allows you to leverage existing partner protocols and standards • Leverage IBM's skilled personnel to offload your partner setup and support activities so you can refocus internal IT resources to services which are priorities to the business • Scalable cloud service enables you to respond to global trading partner expectations and marketplace conditions • Online visibility tool delivers capabilities to monitor, provide alerts and remedy transfers

Why IBM

An organization's success ultimately depends on the reliable, secure, governed flow of critical information. Whether a company needs to transfer batch transactions to an outsourced payroll provider, B2B files for procurement, or digital video for a new marketing campaign, it is looking for a way to do so more efficiently, with greater security and in a way that scales more quickly. The important difference between project based products and an integrated solution like IBM's MFT suite is a common visibility and governance layer that can let you see and control all file movement.

The IBM MFT Suite provides a comprehensive solution to facilitate virtually all types of file movement. It has been proven in the most demanding environments across the world, including financial services, telecommunications, retail and manufacturing. It can provide you the ability to handle any size file, in any format, via industry standard protocols, over any number of internal or external connections. It also offers the advanced capabilities of specialized protocols to overcome tough challenges like large files over distance or extreme reliability.

Whatever your data movement challenge, IBM can help you better connect, communicate, and collaborate with customers, partners, and suppliers. Our solutions are designed to enable seamless and secure integration of key business processes to help you innovate and differentiate your product or service.

1 Vanson Bourne 2014 Annual study of *B2B Integration and File Transfer Line of Business Priorities for IBM*.

Please Recycle