



Extranets

SECURED INTERNET BUSINESS USE BETWEEN COMPANY AND CLIENT

Extranets are the next evolutionary level of Electronic Commerce for corporations and small businesses alike.

An Extranet is a network application that lets your company use the Internet for secure business relationships with partners, suppliers and customers. They provide the benefits of EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) and collaboration in a secure, yet surprisingly open and interactive way over the Internet. By allowing companies to extend internal systems to external business partners, they therefore deliver competitive advantages such as the following:

- Manufacturing companies can extend the benefits of inter-enterprise computing, traditionally served by EDI, to production and design partners.
- Companies can co-ordinate design, manufacturing, scheduling and delivery across the whole supply chain.
- Software and high technology firms can leverage the extranet to provide support to customers and partners, and to access remote workers all over the world.
- Financial services and banks can use secure extranet applications to dramatically reduce the cost of proprietary networks for financial transactions. Banks can use Extranets to provide services to business customers over the Internet.
- Digital media and publishing companies can use Extranets to dramatically accelerate the design and production cycles for film, video, multimedia and graphics.

With new business models and service opportunities emerging for Extranet-enabled companies all the time, this is a technology with great expansion possibilities.