

GXS Company History

Milestones

- 1878** GE is founded in Schenectady, New York by Thomas Edison, Elihu Thompson and Edwin Houston.
- 1948** The Berlin airlift gives rise to a system that would later become the basis for electronic data interchange (EDI).
- 1965** GE launches its first computer time-sharing centers in New York, NY and Phoenix, AZ.
- 1967** GXS was founded as GE Information Services (GEIS). Focused on computer time-sharing, the company was a pioneer in the development and use of the BASIC language (with Dartmouth College).
- GEIS now has 35 time-sharing centers throughout the world.
- 1968** GEIS' time-sharing service becomes available in 61 metropolitan areas; GEIS enjoys an estimated one-third of the total time-sharing market.
- 1970s** The computer time-sharing service enjoys its heyday and achieves tremendous adoption throughout the United States and beyond; "Portable terminals" are made available in the form of an 80 pound suitcase with handles and wheels.
- Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft?, becomes one of the early users of the GE time-sharing system via the early Mark III platform; Gates is later quoted as saying his "favourite gift" he ever received was time on a GE Mark III time-sharing computer at his middle school in Seattle.
- 1980** As the "personal computer" gains adoption, computer time-sharing rapidly declines; GEIS migrates its business focus from time-sharing services to value added network services such as EDI—a service that enables businesses to transact electronically with its suppliers and buyers using standard data formats; GXS' primary competitor in this market is IBM.
- 1985** GEIS launches EDI Express, one of its EDI software products that later gains wide adoption.
- GEIS also launches GENie (General Electric Network for Information Exchange), a text based online service for electronic mail, discussion forums, games and shopping. A precursor to the Internet, GENie ran at the then high speed rate of 1200 bits per second and was £3-£4 per hour during the evenings (more expensive during the day).
- 1986** GEIS launches QUIK-COMM, an early electronic mail service that runs entirely on private networks, enabling internal email exchanges for businesses.
- PUBNET is launched, an EDI-based ordering and invoicing system for the American Association of Publishers, which GXS still supports today.

- 1987** GEIS adds new technology and capabilities to its Mark III platform, touting that it enables “users to access all their information needs in a single session, using just one terminal and viewing data on a multi-windowed screen.”
- GEIS begins to put a greater focus on international growth and becomes the first company to offer international value added network (VAN) services in Japan.
- 1988** EDI is taking off; GEIS’ EDI Express service is growing month to month at what equates to a 200% compound annual growth rate (CAGR).
- 1989** GEIS grows its focus on the financial services industry by enabling Australia’s Westpac Banking Corp and Spain’s Banco Bilbao Viscaya to achieve cross-functional corporate client integration.
- 1990** GEIS now offers QuikNews Express, a personalised electronic news clipping service integrated into the QUIKCOMM Service.
- GEIS expands its network into East Germany.
- 1993** GEIS establishes its first website and an Internet-based mail gateway. This gateway processes more than half a million email messages a month by 1995.
- 1995** The Internet begins gaining greater commercial adoption; extensible markup language (XML), a new format for document exchange, is created.
- GEIS and Microsoft announce an agreement to provide EDI services on the Microsoft Network (MSN)
- 1996** GEIS announces its first Internet-based, EDI-enabled Electronic Product Catalog service.
- GEIS and Netscape form a joint venture called Actra for the delivery of Internet-based B2B e-commerce applications.
- 1997** GEIS begins to innovate with EDI—now offering web-based EDI services, additional pricing options for lower-volume users and EDI outsourcing (later expanded in scope and called GXS Managed Services).
- 1998** GEIS’ global electronic trading community exceeds 100,000 trading partners.
- GEIS’ DESKTOP*EDI software exceeds 2,000 units sold within the first 30 days of availability.
- 1999** GEIS acquires RMS Electronic Commerce Systems, the creator of what became GXS Application Integrator, a software tool that enables any-to-any data translation.
- 2000** GEIS changes its name to GXS.
- 2002** GXS is spun out from GE as an independent company and purchased by venture capital firms Francisco Partners and Norwest Venture Partners; GE retains a 10% share in the company.
- GXS acquires Celarix, giving the company new supply chain visibility capabilities and services, both EDI and XML-based.

- 2003** GXS acquires HAHT Commerce, a provider of product information management software for retailers and suppliers.
- 2004** GXS launches GXS Trading Grid, its new global platform for e-business integration.
- 2005** GXS acquires IBM's Information Exchange business, the company's EDI services business.

GXS is ranked a leader in the Forrester Wave™ for integration suite vendors.

GXS begins laser focus on B2B outsourcing, moving customers from basic EDI services to broader, global B2B enablement programs, called GXS Managed Services.

- 2006** GXS named a leader in Gartner's Magic Quadrant for Integration Service Providers.

GXS Trading Grid named recommended global B2B network for Microsoft BizTalk Server.

GXS acquires product data quality service provider, UDEX.

- 2007** GXS adds 32 new customers to GXS Managed Services, bringing its B2B outsourcing customer count to more than 200; GXS Managed Services revenue grows 40 percent from 2006 to 2007.

Verizon Business and GXS team up to offer GXS Managed Services to Verizon Business customers.

- 2008** GXS Managed Services continues rapid customer adoption and growth with 30 new customers and 25% revenue growth.

- 2009** GXS acquires Brazil-based EDI services company, Interchange Services, adding 50 of the country's largest banks to GXS Trading Grid.



About GXS

GXS is a leading global provider of B2B e-commerce solutions that simplify and enhance business process integration and collaboration among trading partners. Organisations worldwide, including more than 70 percent of the Fortune 500, leverage the on-demand services on GXS Trading Grid® to extend supply chain networks, optimise product launches, automate warehouse receiving, manage electronic payments and gain supply chain visibility. GXS Managed Services, GXS' B2B outsourcing solution, empowers customers with the expertise, technical infrastructure and program support to conduct B2B e-commerce with trading partners globally. Based in Gaithersburg, Md., GXS has an extensive global network and has local offices in the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific regions. GXS can be found on the Web at www.gxs.co.uk.

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