Wine and cheese. Music and lyrics. Peace and quiet. Some things work best when they’re used together. The same applies to B2B data transactions that use EDI and API. Here are 10 key reasons to combine your EDI and API data interactions into a single system that’s safe and sound.

**10 REASONS FOR INTEGRATING EDI AND API INTO A SINGLE SYSTEM**

**1. EDI is solid and secure**
EDI is great for exchanging things like invoices and purchase orders because it follows strict rules for capturing document content, making it a secure way to conduct B2B transactions. But EDI’s ironclad rigidity lacks the open cloud environment needed to connect consumers and the internet of things (IoT).

**2. API is open and flexible**
APIs open your digital business up to the web, mobile and cloud universe, but its use as a B2B exchange protocol is growing. Although they permit real-time access and visibility into business data interactions, APIs don’t provide the security or standards compliance of EDI.

**3. Separate but equal isn’t practical**
Managing separate EDI and API silos doesn’t make sense because it requires two systems, two support teams and two databases. It’s also missing the total visibility needed to comply with government standards and SLAs, meet security protocols, track inventory and pass audits.

**4. 1 + 1 > 2**
A single EDI and API system is greater than the sum of its parts. It centralizes data, which can be accessed in real time using cloud-based mobility, and offers deeper insight into B2B interactions and data exchange performance. It all adds up to greater responsiveness, better decision-making and new business opportunities.

**5. You have options**
You can go with API-enabled EDI, which uses APIs to open the EDI environment and access B2B services via other applications, portals and mobile apps. Or choose an interoperable EDI and API gateway that applies a combination of EDI and APIs to the same business transaction.

**6. Access to external apps**
An EDI platform with API capabilities allows external applications — such as customer portals and mobile apps — to access all the EDI services using APIs. REST APIs expose EDI platform services and unlock new “EDI as a Service” capabilities.

**7. 360° visibility**
With interoperable EDI and API gateways, you get real-time visibility into transport tracking, traceability, and performance statistics only available using APIs. But you can also use EDI to securely exchange purchase orders, shipment notices, invoices and other B2B documents.

**8. Centralized security**
By combining EDI and API into a single system, business partners can be centrally managed whether they use API or EDI data integration, or both. And that means security policies can be applied to data flows regardless of the protocols they follow or the channels they stream through.

**9. Easy on-boarding**
Centralized management enables single on-boarding of partners – and updating of their profile information and processing preferences – through APIs. Maintaining a single repository for all API and EDI partners avoids data duplication, redundancies and obsolescence.

**10. Axway can help**
Axway gets B2B 360° done right. Using Axway’s B2Bi and API Gateway products, enterprises get best-of-breed EDI and API data integration capabilities. Both are designed to be interoperable and provide exactly what you need to form a single system for governing the flow of data.

It’s time to combine EDI and API into a single, integrated data exchange solution for a competitive edge now and in the future. To learn more, download the white paper, “B2B 360°: A Revolution in EDI and API Integration.”