



DGI Update: Your Trusted Source for Interoperability Test Lab Services

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AS2 Restart for Very Large Messages - Painless, Secure, Reliable Large Payload Transfer

Have you tried to transfer a 500MB or larger payload recently using AS2? Were you successful the first time? Was it painful? If you are like others it was probably painful for you. You may have even had to resort to some other means of transferring these very large payloads. The challenge of sending very large payloads is a common complaint with AS2 applications. Even Odette (OFTP2) has used these problem areas as a reason against AS2 as they actively market that OFTP can handle large payloads but not AS2.

The reality is that transferring very large payloads using AS2 is difficult, but the reason is not due to deficiencies of AS2, but to the inherent problematic nature of the Internet. The Internet is not the most reliable network and connections can and do drop. The likelihood of encountering a connection drop rises significantly when transferring large payloads like 500MB, 1GB or more.

However, even OFTP and other transfer protocols experience the same connection drops. Again, this is not a problem of AS2 but of the nature of high traffic volumes and unreliable Internet connections.

To solve the large payload transfer, some AS2 vendors have designed proprietary technology to solve this issue. While a proprietary solution may work well within that vendor's product line, it won't address the problem when interoperating with a different vendor's solutions. What has been lacking from AS2 is an open standard that can be implemented among all AS2 vendors. However, just recently Drummond Group Inc. announced a new IETF standard specification to handle large payload transfer called AS2 Restart for Very Large Messages (VLM).

What is AS2 Restart for VLM? AS2 Restart for VLM is a draft specification submitted by Axway to IETF. AS2 Restart was Axway's proprietary way of transmitting very large payloads that they have offered to the AS2 community and which several AS2 vendors (Cleo, Inovis, and Seeburger) have committed to implement. Drummond Group Inc. expects many more, if not all, AS2 vendors will also implement AS2 Restart for VLM as the word gets out.

Technically speaking, AS2 Restart is a transfer protocol for VLM that detects connection drops. Currently with AS2, if a connection would drop after transferring only 75% of 500Mb file it would have to reconnect and completely restart the transmission, including resending the initial 75%. With AS2 Restart, the transmission would automatically restart, but commencing where the connection drop was detected with the last 25% of the payload until it completes. Therefore, the time used to transmit the first 75% of the payload (say 3 hrs.) would not be wasted. Why retransmit what has already been transmitted?

The beauty of AS2 Restart is its simple approach. Also, it will work with any size payload as

"restarting" a message transmission can occur as often as is necessary. Thus, even small businesses with low network bandwidth will benefit once their AS2 vendor implements AS2 Restart for VLM. Also, once the majority, if not all, AS2 vendors have implemented AS2 Restart, transferring any size payload between any trading partners using any AS2 product will be seamless - just like transferring small payloads is now. The pain you may feel now in transferring very large payloads will be a thing of the past.

Drummond Group Inc. is planning to offer its first AS2 Restart for VLM Interoperability Certification test in AS2 3Q10 (Sept/Oct 2010).

To receive more information on this important initiative contact DGI at info2@drummondgroup.com.

[For full press release](#)

[AS2 Restart Draft Specification](#)

Join us for a Drummond Group Webinar:

"AS2 Restart for Very Large Messages"

by Aaron Gomez, Principle, Drummond Group Inc.

Wednesday, Dec. 9th -- 11am central

Register for the webinar by sending an email to Joani@drummondgroup.com.

There is no cost for the webinar.

Drummond Group Plans to Certify Electronic Health Records

Fort Worth, TX - November 2, 2009 Drummond Group Inc., the trusted interoperability test lab, announced today that it will submit to become a certifying body upon the release of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) requirements for certifying bodies for Electronic Health Records (EHR). Drummond Group has been approached recently by numerous EHR software and services companies that need to be certified.

[For full release](#)

Drummond Group (DGI) is the trusted interoperability test lab offering testing services throughout the product life cycle. Auditing, QA, conformance testing, custom software test lab services, and consulting are offered in addition to interoperability testing. Founded in 1999, DGI has tested over a thousand international software products used in vertical industries such as automotive, consumer product goods, healthcare, energy, financial services, government, petroleum, pharmaceutical and retail. For more information, please visit www.drummondgroup.com.