

In-Network Translation

This option allows translation to be performed by the VAN thus avoiding the need for subscribers to install translation software on their computers. Nevertheless, for the majority of situations, a company is wise to purchase its own translation software. (See Chapter 3.2)

There are two common forms of in-network translation: off-the-shelf and custom. Off-the-self translations are normally between a public standard and an older proprietary standard. The difficulty with most off-the-self translations is that they are not an exact fit and often custom programming is required. Custom translations, on the other hand, may address individual needs, but at the price of VAN fees for programming your requirements.

EDI-to-Fax, EDI-to-Report

These options allow EDI messages to be converted to human-readable messages. For most situations, these options provide little value.

Applications

Some VANs offer application functions: either access to shared applications or databases, or custom applications that make use of the EDI messages going through the mailbox.

Table 10 reveals each VAN's network-based services: