

TBlox-Purchase: Connection with webshop of the supplier

How does ordering work with a connection?

The TBlox-Purchase system has been connected with thousands of suppliers. When a TBlox-Purchase user wants to place an order, he or she will log in on TBlox, and enter the Purchase module. The user has an overview of all his connected suppliers in TBlox-Purchase.

The user has the possibility to visit several web shops of suppliers, before placing an order using the TBlox-Purchase module. When a supplier is connected with their own proprietary webshop, the TBlox Purchase-user clicks on the link of the supplier and will be automatically forwarded to the suppliers webshop. The user then places the order directly on the site of the supplier. When finalising the order, the actual order won't be created in the webshop of the supplier, but the order will be send to TBlox-Purchase for further approval. The TBlox-Purchase module receives the order information, and places it in the shopping basket. The order will be approved and finalized in TBlox-purchase, by the user defined purchase process workflow. For instance: in many cases, the finalized Purchase Order (PO) can only be created by a purchase department employee. The last step of the ordering process is sending the finalized PO to the supplier in a supplier preferred format (XML / EDI / E-Mail).

What is needed to create a connection?

In order to create a link to a supplier, TBlox uses the international standard **Open Catalog Interface** (OCI). This is a commonly used method for linking the catalog of the supplier a Procurement-system (in this case: TBlox-Purchase). This functionality is described in detail in part 1 of this document. The sending, and receiving of the finalized POs is a different process, which is described in part 2.

Part 1.

OCI is used by a lot of software-suppliers, so there is a lot of existing documentation. De documentation of SAP is the one that is used mostly, see:

http://www.attsuppliers.com/downloads/OCI_40_EN20030611.pdf

Here you can find the requirements related to the information that will be send to the procurement system).

The screenshot is an example of a shopping basket in OCI layout.

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ShoppingBasket.txt - Kladblok
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<html>
<head>
<meta http-equiv="content-type" content="text/html; charset=UTF-8">
</head>
<body background="white" text="black" >
<center>

</center>
<form name="ociForm" method="post" action="https://secure.tblox.com/cockpit/purchase/e-ordering.php?tbloxorderid=1485S2">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-DESCRIPTION[1]" value="POSITIVE-DISPLACEMENT PIPETTE 0.050 -...">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-MATGROUP[1]" value="41112012">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-QUANTITY[1]" value="4.000">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-UNIT[1]" value="1 * 1 item">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-PRICE[1]" value="229.000">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-CURRENCY[1]" value="EUR">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-LEADTIME[1]" value="1">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-VENDOR[1]" value="vwr">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-VENDORMAT[1]" value="MERC1.14685.0001">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-MANUFACTMAT[1]" value="1.14685.0001">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-EXT_PRODUCT_ID[1]" value="1.14685.0001">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-LONGTEXT_1:132[1]" value="POSITIVE-DISPLACEMENT PIPETTE 0.050 -...1 * 1 items">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-DESCRIPTION[2]" value="PIPETTE, FIXED VOLUME 100µL">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-MATGROUP[2]" value="41103103">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-QUANTITY[2]" value="6.000">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-UNIT[2]" value="1 * 1 item">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-PRICE[2]" value="90.200">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-CURRENCY[2]" value="EUR">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-LEADTIME[2]" value="1">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-VENDOR[2]" value="vwr">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-VENDORMAT[2]" value="VWRI613-0171">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-MANUFACTMAT[2]" value="613-0171">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-EXT_PRODUCT_ID[2]" value="613-0171">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-LONGTEXT_2:132[1]" value="PIPETTE, FIXED VOLUME 100µL1 * 1 items">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-DESCRIPTION[3]" value="PIPETTE, FIXED VOLUME 1000µL">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-MATGROUP[3]" value="41103103">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-QUANTITY[3]" value="5.000">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-UNIT[3]" value="1 * 1 item">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-PRICE[3]" value="90.200">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-CURRENCY[3]" value="EUR">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-LEADTIME[3]" value="1">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-VENDOR[3]" value="vwr">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-VENDORMAT[3]" value="VWRI613-0175">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-MANUFACTMAT[3]" value="613-0175">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-EXT_PRODUCT_ID[3]" value="613-0175">
<input type="hidden" name="NEW_ITEM-LONGTEXT_3:132[1]" value="PIPETTE, FIXED VOLUME 1000µL1 * 1 items">
</form>
<center>
<p>
Thank you for shopping at VWR International.
</p>
<input type="submit" value="verplaats boodschappenwagen naar procurement systeem" id="submit" name="submit" />
</center>
</body>
</html>
```

In the FORM you can find the complete shopping basket that will be send via POST to:
<https://secure.tblox.com/cockpit/purchase/e-ordering.php?tbloxorderid=1485S2>

All fields that are used are defined in the documentation of OCI 4.0.

But there are also other requirements related to the webshop of the supplier: It should be possible to log in via a link, in which the login and password details are included, for example:

https://secure.tblox.com/sales_new/tblox/index.php?login=tbloxwizard&password=tbloxwizard44&HOOK_URL=http://www.tblox.com

There is also a 3rd parameter in the link, the HOOK_URL. This link will be sent to the webshop of the supplier after logging in. This link should be stored on the web server when the user is creating the order. When a user has created the order, the shopping basket should be sent to this link, in this case: <http://www.tblox.com>. In this example the HOOK_URL is:

<https://secure.tblox.com/cockpit/purchase/e-ordering.php?tbloxorderid=1485S2>

Part 2.

The second part of creating an OCI link is choosing the preferred method of receiving a PO from TBlox Purchase. TBlox-Purchase provides the following options:

- HTML email
- XML email, the order will be sent by e-mail with the XML as attachment
- XML posting, the order will be sent to the system of the supplier directly
- EDI email, the order will be sent by e-mail with the EDI as attachment

In case of EDI and XML, many formats are available. But at TBlox, we prefer to use the commonly used standards like xCBL and cXML. Alternatively, we can also implement a custom XML format of a supplier into our software.

When a method is chosen, the OCI link can be tested. When the testing process is positive, the link can be created and provided to a user within TBlox Purchase.

Further questions?

For further explanation and information, you can always contact us via support@tblox.com.