

## ARIBA BUYER WEB SERVICES MODULE

### *Introduction*

Web services represent a new opportunity to integrate disparate systems both internally and between buying and supplying organisations. The kenisys web services module offers a standard set of components to develop and deliver web services for your Ariba Buyer implementation. Examples of services possible include quote requests, availability checks and auto-creation of electronic documents within the Ariba Buyer application.

### *Concept*

For those organisations in the process of implementing Ariba Buyer there are a number of familiar questions and comments that appear during solution design phases, for example:

1. How do I get real time information from within my supply chain?
2. I want to implement a quote based pricing system but my suppliers don't have PunchOut websites.
3. I want external users or systems to be able to collaborate with processes within my Ariba Buyer system.

The Ariba Buyer Web Services module delivers a solution to allow implementation teams to answer these, and many other business process issues.

## Solution

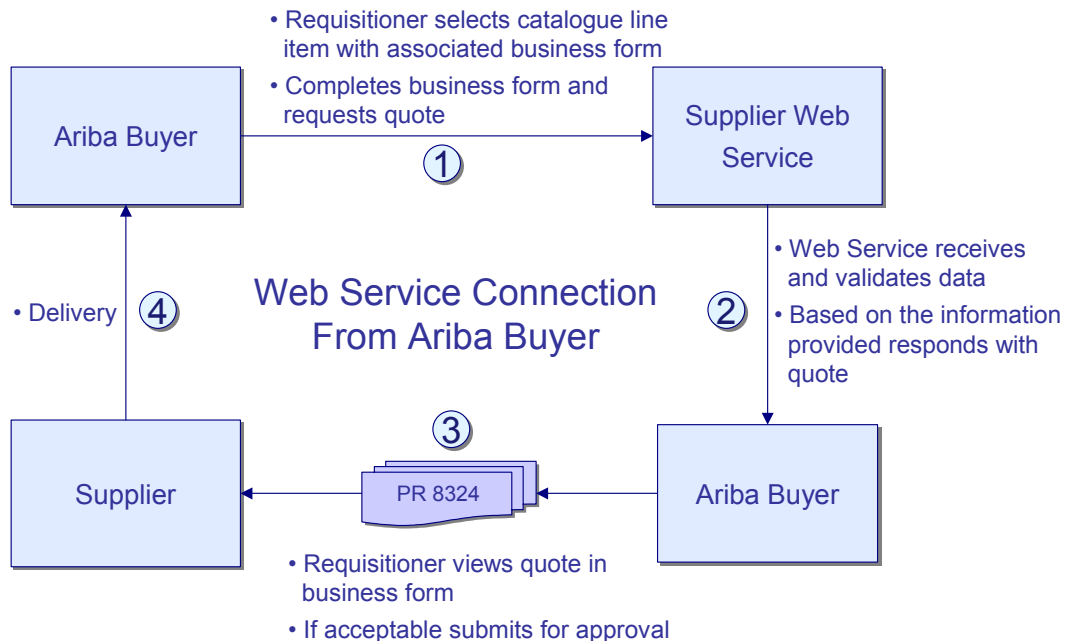
In order to implement web services within Ariba Buyer, kenisys have developed a standard web services framework deployed within the Buyer environment. A number of standard libraries have been created to simplify the tasks of implementing web services within the Buyer application.

The solution comprises two main components.

- i) Web Service Connections From Ariba Buyer – These can be either to an external system for example, a supplier's pricing system or to internal applications such as an ERP system or Asset Management databases.
- ii) Web Service Connections To Ariba Buyer – Supplier or external application calls a web service on Ariba Buyer. This concept can be used to support any number of queries to the Buyer application or for performing tasks such as automated creation of requisitions or automated approval.

## Web Service Connections From Ariba Buyer

Consider the example of requesting a real time quote request from a business form line item within Ariba Buyer. The process is represented in the diagram below.



The basis of this system is that real time information is obtained from the supplier in order to complete a requisition without the need for any manual processes such as a telephone call or the requirement for the requisitioner to access a supplier's PunchOut site.

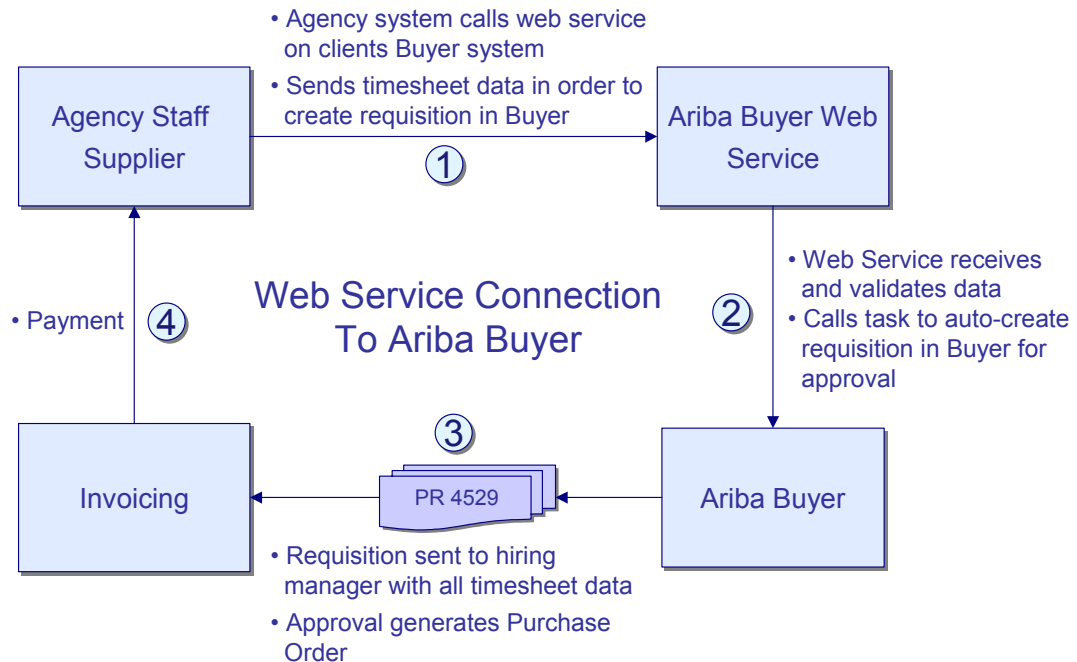
This is just one example of how supplier web services allow buyers and suppliers to interact in new and innovative ways whilst requiring minimal customisations to existing applications.

## Web Service Connections To Ariba Buyer

It is possible to provide web service connections to the Ariba Buyer application itself. A good example of this is the auto-creation of requisitions from external systems.

For this example we shall consider the use of Ariba Buyer for services procurement of Agency Staff. Agency staff tend to be billed for on a weekly period based upon data from personnel timesheets. The Agency collates this data and provides an invoice to the buying organisation more often than not in paper format. The resulting manual process of matching approval and payment is notoriously laborious and often results in mistakes and delayed payments. The adoption of web services can solve many of these problems removing the paper trail and providing a fast and efficient process for submission, approval and payment of agency staff invoices.

The diagram below highlights the basics of the process.



This solution allows Agency Staff suppliers to send and create purchase requisitions within the Ariba Buyer application and route them to the appropriate approver. Created requisitions are fully evaluated by the business rules you set up in Buyer so you can guarantee that the requisition is approved correctly prior to being turned into a purchase order. The solution provides a fully closed loop procurement process with no re-keying of data by either buyer or supplier.

This example of web services within Ariba Buyer could apply to a whole range of individual commodity solutions or procurement processes.

## *Technology*

The web services solution employed will depend to a certain extent on the version of Ariba Buyer that has been implemented. Version 7 does not include native support for web services and it is therefore necessary to deploy the web service module on a separate J2EE application server. A range of deployment options exists depending on your requirements and existing systems in use.

The Web Services module is tested for use on Ariba Buyer versions 7.0x, 7.1 and 8.

Customisations to both Ariba Buyer and the Web Services Module can be carried out by kenisys upon request.

## *kenisys*

kenisys is an Ariba Solutions Delivery Alliance Partner offering packaged solutions and consultancy services to global clients.

With a focus on Enterprise Spend Management solutions, kenisys works with clients to deliver the strategic, process, technology and change components of an implementation. kenisys provides highly trained consultants offering a wealth of technical skills combined with deep functional knowledge of the Ariba Enterprise Spend Management Platform.

kenisys are committed to providing innovative solutions to their clients. We believe in working with our clients and partners to develop leading edge solutions that deliver real business benefit.

kenisys ltd,  
107-111 Fleet Street,  
London EC4A 2AB

Tel. No. +44 (0)20 7936 9045  
E-mail [information@kenisys.com](mailto:information@kenisys.com)  
Website: [www.kenisys.com](http://www.kenisys.com)