

Draft

**Discussion on Flat File/EDM
from the Future Technology Task Force
to the EBB Internet Implementation Task Force**

During the course of the Future Technology Task Force meeting held October 19-20, we discussed the various models of Flat File/EDM that could be used. There were two very distinct categories that have cropped up in our discussion. The first, which will be referred to as "Batch Flat File/EDM" is automated in nature where the actual upload of a flat file occurs by use of a program or batch browser and the receipt of the response is expedited by the use of a Web CGI program waiting for incoming files. The second, or "Interactive Flat File/EDM" is conducted by the customer using an interactive browser to upload his/her file to the service provider Web site and should receive an initial HTTP acknowledgement of receipt immediately with a more complete response/confirmation of the success of the submission made available at a later point. The "Interactive Flat File/EDM" does not require a customer to maintain Web server capability, on-site or through an ISP-supported Web server. Even though the representatives from segments other than the pipeline segment seemed to indicate the preference for "Interactive Flat File/EDM", we felt that we did not have enough representation from customer segments or pipeline business personnel present at the meeting to formulate any conclusions about the elimination of one or the other. Hence, we made the decision to proceed with the drafting of definitions and standards for each. We simply felt that those decisions relating to which model would actually be utilized by customers should be made in the EBB Internet Implementation Task Force.