

A Technical Approach to Implementing A/P Wire Transfers

By Paul Hanson

EI *Editor's Note: Save money by changing the way you spend it. This article describes the process for working with your bank to complete automated payments so you don't have to spend your time (and money) printing paper checks and mailing them. The features described here are built in to your Enterprise One® software, but there are still some chores you have to do to make it work for you. This article should help you get on your way along the road to that Utopian paperless society we hear so much about.*

Introduction

Wire transfers are commonly used today to move money between bank accounts in a quick and efficient manner. The most common use for a wire transfer is direct deposit of a paycheck. Other common forms of wire transfers include online banking bill pay and checking account direct debit. At one time or another, most of us have experienced the convenience of wire transfers.

Does your business write many AP checks to pay your suppliers? Why not take advantage of some automatic payment features that are already built into EnterpriseOne?

Business Case

All businesses have suppliers that they pay each month. They regularly go through the process of creating purchase orders, receiving them, matching an invoice to the purchase order receipt, and entering payment vouchers. This is

all in preparation to create a payment to the supplier. While EnterpriseOne provides a streamlined payment process, you can further reduce the amount of time and effort required to handle paper checks.

EnterpriseOne includes the ability to use computer checks. These are really electronic checks that are in the form of a data file you send to your bank. In turn, the bank distributes payments from your checking account per the payment instructions contained in the electronic check file.

The only problem with what is provided by EnterpriseOne is that it needs a little bit of development work to extract and format bank-specific information that may be required by your bank.

The Solution

Your bank may have its own unique requirements for header and trailer records associated with the check detail contained in electronic payments. If this is the case, the following will show you how to apply some simple modifications that will satisfy your bank's requirements. The rest

of the standard EnterpriseOne check detail information is already in an accepted ACH (Automated Clearing House) standard format.

Start by contacting your bank and asking them for their ACH specifications. The specifications will include an ASCII file layout for ACH and the requirements for sending the file to them. While the content of the ACH transaction is standard, your bank may have their own unique requirements when it comes to header and trailer records.

Find and become familiar with the F04572OW - A/P Payment Tape File table. This is the table that is the core of the A/P wire transfer. It contains the content you will need to generate a text file to be sent to the bank. The Member ID and Line Number fields are unique identifiers for each payment group that is run through electronic payments. The File Name field will always be set to "F04572T" for all automatic payments. The A/P Bank Tape Record - OneWorld field contains the actual ACH data to be sent to the bank (See figures 1 and 2).

Table Design				
A/P Payment Tape File - OneWorld - F04572OW				
Description	Type	Len	Alias	Data Item
* 1. Member ID	String	10	MID	MemberId
* 2. Line Number	Number	6,6[3]	LNID	LineNumber
3. File Name	String	10	FNAM	FileName3
4. A/P Bank Tape Record - OneWorld	String	1500	APTA	APBankTapeRecordOW

Table Column Prefix: KN

A/P Payment Tape File - OneWorld Indices	
MemberId, LineNumber (Primary, Unique)	
Member ID	MemberId
Line Number	LineNumber

Figure 1 – F04572OW Table Layout

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