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Infor XA ERP System-Link

Daniel R. Miller,
Senior Consultant, September 12, 2007

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Infor XA ERP System-Link

- Learn how Infor XA ERP System-Link can be used to automate file maintenance processes in the Infor Development Framework (formerly "Power Architecture").

- Learn how to use System-Link as replacement for Offline Load. You will learn why System-Link is superior to Offline Load, what XML looks like, how to construct XML, how to process XML with System-Link, how to organize the processing of System-Link requests, how to retrieve System-Link responses, how to organize, present and resolve errors and how to troubleshoot XML. The examples are System i based, but the concepts are useful for any System-Link implementation.

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Daniel R. Miller, Senior Consultant, Guide Technologies

- XA technical consultant for twenty-five years
- Attended and presented at four previous conferences
- Dan has taught hundreds of users in many user and technical topics
- Dan has implemented System-Link solutions for loading customer orders, bills of materials, routings and various other XA objects.
- Dan has extensive experience with XA Integrator and has developed integrator applications for seven years

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Why use System-Link?

- Most Infor Development Framework (Power-Link) objects can be loaded or maintained
  - Only certain files are available for offline load
- System-Link has a standard interface
  - Every application has a different flavor of offline load
- Secondary objects can be loaded
  - Extra fields defined by user
- Primary objects can be loaded
  - Non-XA files
- Add, Change and Delete are supported
- Infor Development Framework edits are enforced
  - Including user defined edits

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What is System-Link?

- System-Link is a bridge between outside systems and Infor XA.
- Outside system could be
  - Web page
  - RPG program
  - JAVA program on an iSeries or auxiliary machine
  - Other ERP systems on other platforms
- Ways to call System-Link
  - Web page of JAVA program via your web server
  - RPG program via web server or local program call
  - WebSphere MQ

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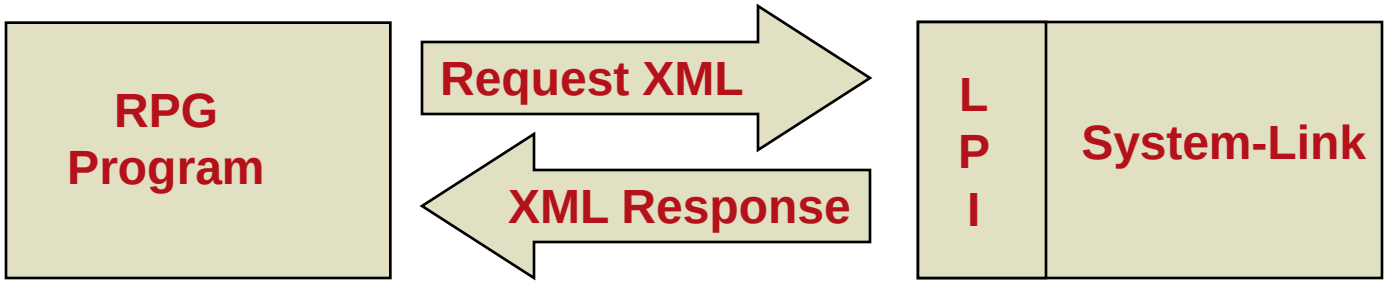
Local Program Interface Steps

- Application program creates System-Link request
- LPI is called with the System-Link request as parameter
  - Size of request is limited to 64K characters
- System-Link server processes request and returns the System-Link response to the LPI
- LPI sends the System-Link response back to the application program
  - Message is returned if an error condition is encountered



Server must be running at time the call is made

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Local Program Interface Parameter List (PSVPSR1R)

Parameter	Description	Usage	Size	Type
P#XREQ	System-Link Request	I	65,535	A
	Request from application program			
P#XRSP	System-Link Response	O	65,535	A
	System-Link response			
P#MRQR	More query results	O	8	A
	*YES if more records than returned			
P#ERFD	Internal errors	O	8	A
	*YES if response contains error(s)			
P#MSID	External errors	O	7	A
	PSX0122 - Error in processing (server not started)			
	PSX0130 - Response too large			

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Basic XML

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='ISO-8859-1'?><!DOCTYPE System-Link SYSTEM
  'SystemLinkRequest.dtd'>
<System-Link>
  <Login principal='UUUUUUUUUU' credentials='PPPPPPPPPP' maxIdle='900000'
      properties='com.mapics.cas.domain.EnvironmentId=P0,
      com.mapics.cas.domain.SystemName=system.domain.com,
      com.mapics.cas.user.LanguageId=en'/>
   <Request sessionHandle='*current' workHandle='*new' broker='EJB'
      maxIdle='900000'>
   <Update name='update_req_1' domainClass='com.mapics.pm.Requisition'>
     <DomainEntity>
       <Key><Property path='requisition'>
         <Value><![CDATA[1234]]></Value></Property></Key>
       <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
     </DomainEntity>
    </Update>
    </Request>
</System-Link>
```

Case does matter

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Parts of the XML Request

- Request Header

  <?xml version='1.0' encoding='ISO-8859-1'?><!DOCTYPE System-Link SYSTEM 'SystemLinkRequest.dtd'>

  - XML level and DTD

- System-Link tag

  <System-Link>

  - Beginning of System-Link Document

- Login Tag

  <Login principal='SYSLNK' credentials='X361' maxIdle='900000' properties='com.mapics.cas.domain.EnvironmentId=LD,

  com.mapics.cas.domain.SystemName=aaa.sna.com,

  com.mapics.cas.user.LanguageId=en'/>

  - User ID, Password, Environment, System

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More Parts of the XML Request

- Request tag

<Request sessionHandle='*current' workHandle='*new' broker='EJB' maxIdle='900000'>

  - New session, thus *current and *new
  - Session handle and work handle can be retrieved from initial response and passed to subsequent requests
    - Improves performance

<Request sessionHandle='4a6cbf:106b44ddd23:-5e99' workHandle='4a6cbf:106b44ddd25:-57a9' broker='EJB' maxIdle='900000'>

  - Maximum idle time must not elapse between requests
    - 900,000 milliseconds = 15 minutes

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Identify Object in XML

- Action tag

  <Update name='update_req_1' domainClass='com.mapics.pm.Requisition'>

  - Action to be taken
    - Update update
    - create new
    - delete old

    Text ->
    - addToBeginning
    - addToEnd
    - replace

  - Domain Class identifies the object

- Domain Entity

  <DomainEntity>

  Begin object (record)

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Attributes in XML

- Key attributes

  <Key>

  - Bracket the key attributes

- Property path and Value

  Property path='requisition'><Value><![CDATA[1234]]>

  - Property path is the attribute name
    - Visible in integrator
  - Value
    - Numeric values passed in edited format
    - Date in *ISO format
    - Token must be passed as HEX value
      - cvthc API

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End Tags in XML

- Tags have matching end tags

  </Value>

  </Property>

  </Key>

  </DomainEntry>

  </Update>, </Create>, </Delete>

  </Request>

  </System-Link>

Logout Tag

<Logout sessionHandle='4a6cbf:106b44ddd23:-5e99'/>

- Force a session to logout

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Constructing XML in RPG

- Send a message / Receive a message
  - Create message descriptions for XML requests
  - Send the message, substituting variables by passing message data
  - Receive the message with the QMHRTVM API
- Build the request by hand
  - Use concatenation and trim to build the string
- Write procedures to construct XML
  - Hide the complicated and repeatable stuff in a service program
  - Write programs that are easy to understand and modify

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XML Procedures (Free Format RPG)

```
// Build XML string
Request = XMLHeader(SessionHandle:WorkHandle) +
  XMLBegin(ACDA:'CustomerOrder':'csm') +
  '<Key>' +
  XMLNumeric('company':%trim(%editc(AENB:'Z'))) +
  XMLAlpha('orderType':DCCD) +
  XMLAlpha('order':CVNB) +
  '</Key>' +
  XMLEntry(ACDA:XMLNumeric('customer':
    %trim(%editc(CANB:'X')))) +
  XMLDate('orderDate':ACDT) +
  XMLAlpha('warehouse':%trim(A3CD)) +
  XMLNumeric('shipLeadTime':%trim(%editc(EENB:'X'))) +
  '</DomainEntity> ' +
  XMLEnd(ACDA:*On);
```


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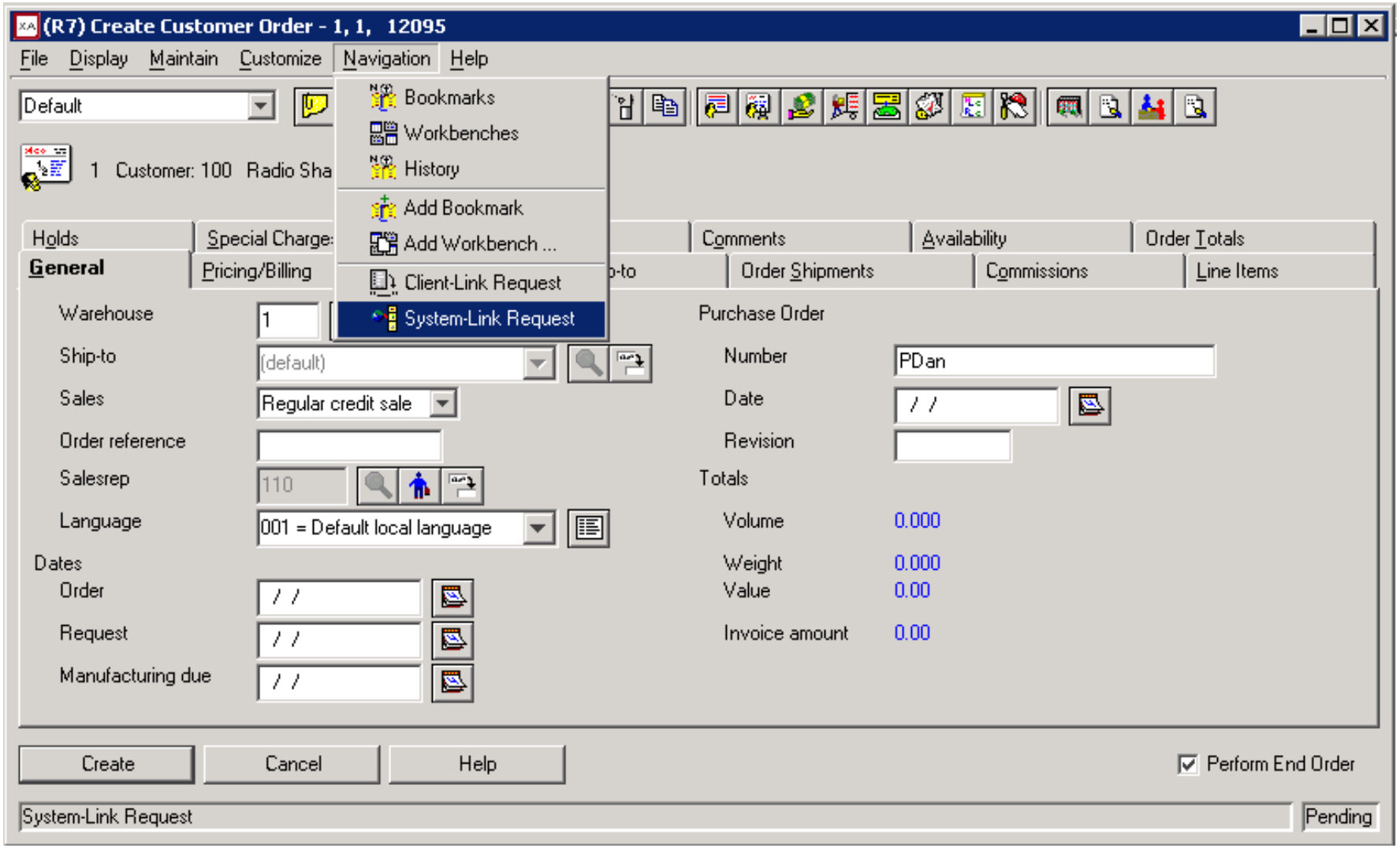
Copying a System-Link Command



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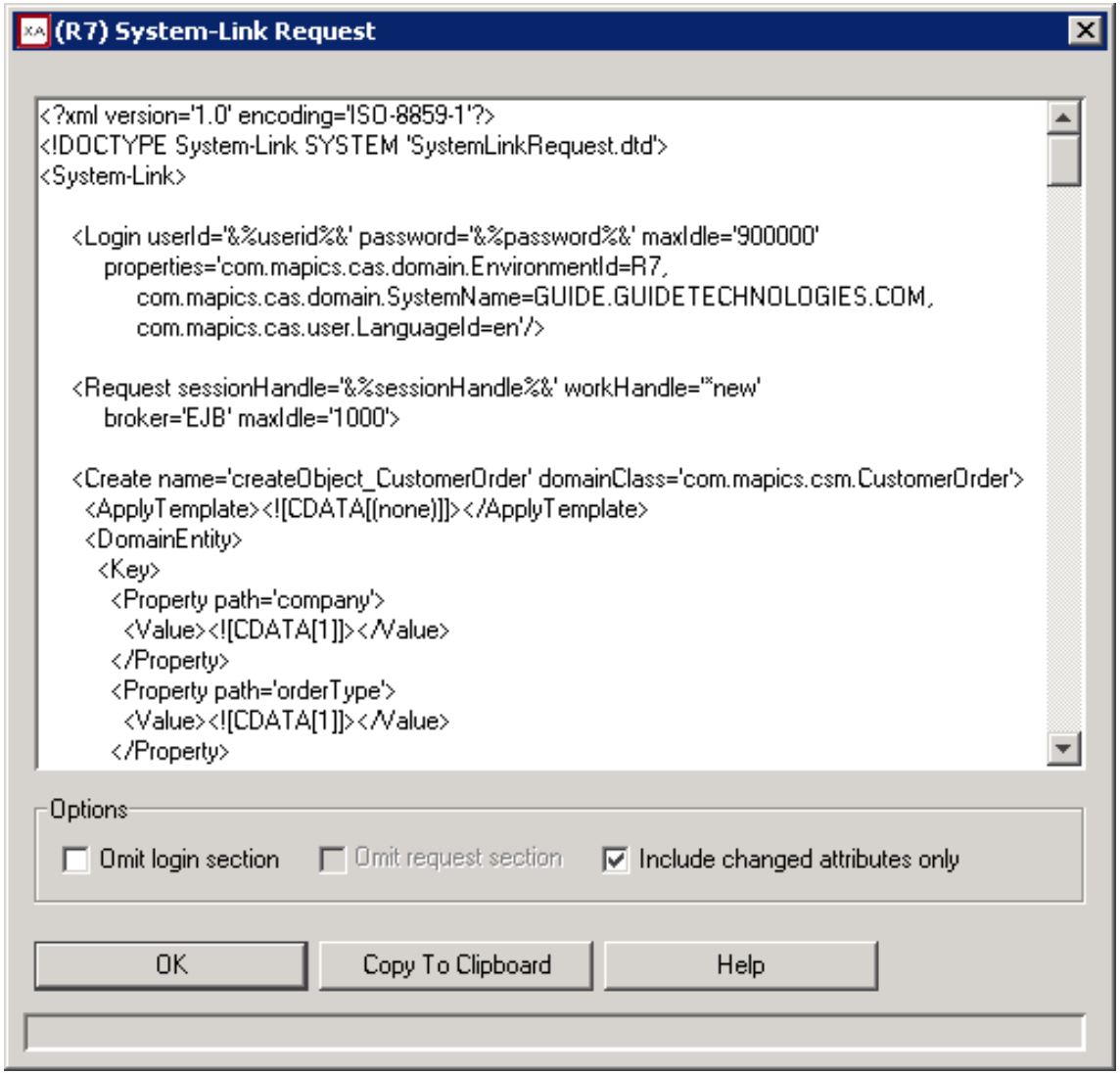
Copy XML to Clipboard



- Copy to Word document or directly to RPG program
- Copying is much safer than keying
- Case errors can be difficult to diagnosis

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Manage System-Link Requests (and Reponses)

- Consider generating and processing XML requests from transaction files
  - Think offline load file or TRDATA
  - Load can take place as background job
    - Freeing up interactive session
- Incorporate control features
  - Group ID - to group multiple transactions
  - Status code - ready, error, processed
  - Action code - add, change, delete
- Track processing
  - Date, time, user, program
  - Link to error messages

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Sample XML Response - Error

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<System-Link version="1.0" hostVersion="1.0">
<LoginResponse><SessionHandle value="-6816b5eb:f0aa27ee6b:-7e4c" /></LoginResponse>
<Response sessionHandle="-6816b5eb:f0aa27ee6b:-7e88" workHandle=
 "-6816b5eb:f0aa27ee6b:-7e4a">
<UpdateResponse name="updateObject_Requisition">
<Exception name="com.pjx.eScript.RequestDataException">
<Text><![CDATA[ Error occurred during update]]></Text>
<Message type="error">
<Text><![CDATA[ Error occurred during update of com.mapics.pm.Requisition object]]></Text>
</Message>
<Message type="error">
<Text><![CDATA[ (E) Requisition 1234 no longer exists.]]></Text>
<DetailedText><![CDATA[Explanation . . :  The record you are trying to change or delete no longer
  exists in the database. It might have been deleted by another user or job. Your action: Refresh
  your screen and the record should disappear from the list. If not please contact your MAPICS
  support representative.]]></DetailedText>
</Message>
</Exception>
```


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XML Error Messages

- Errors are returned in XML format in the Response
  - Error needs to be parsed out
- Can be found by scanning for:

  < Message type="error"><Text><![CDATA[
- Multiple messages can occur for one request
- In V5R4 native RPG commands aid XML parsing
  - %XML, XML-INTO, %HANDLER, XML-SAX
- How are errors managed?
  - How are they presented, organized, resolved?
- Watch for external errors
  - These do not show up in response
  - P#MSID parameter in parameter list

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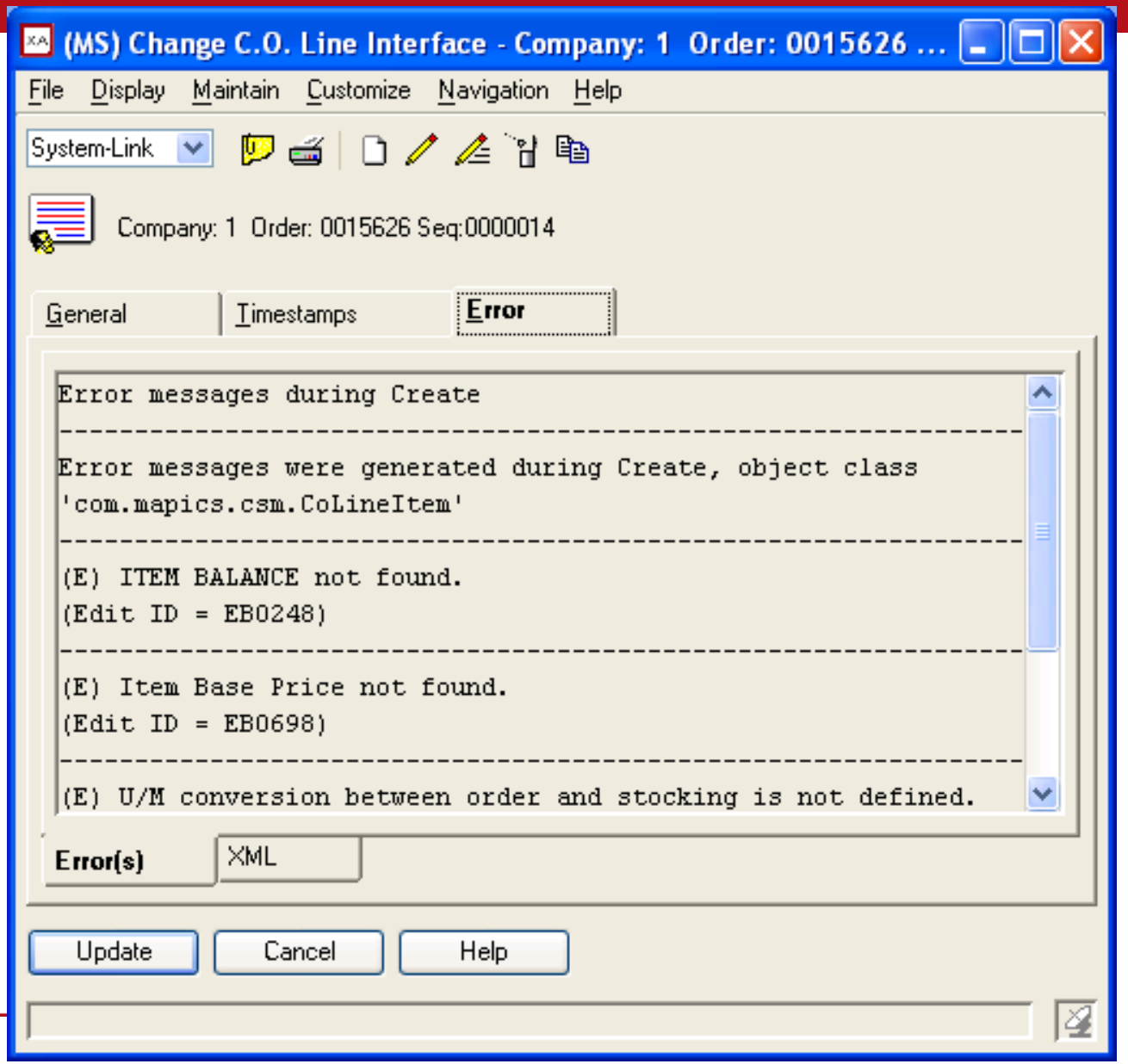
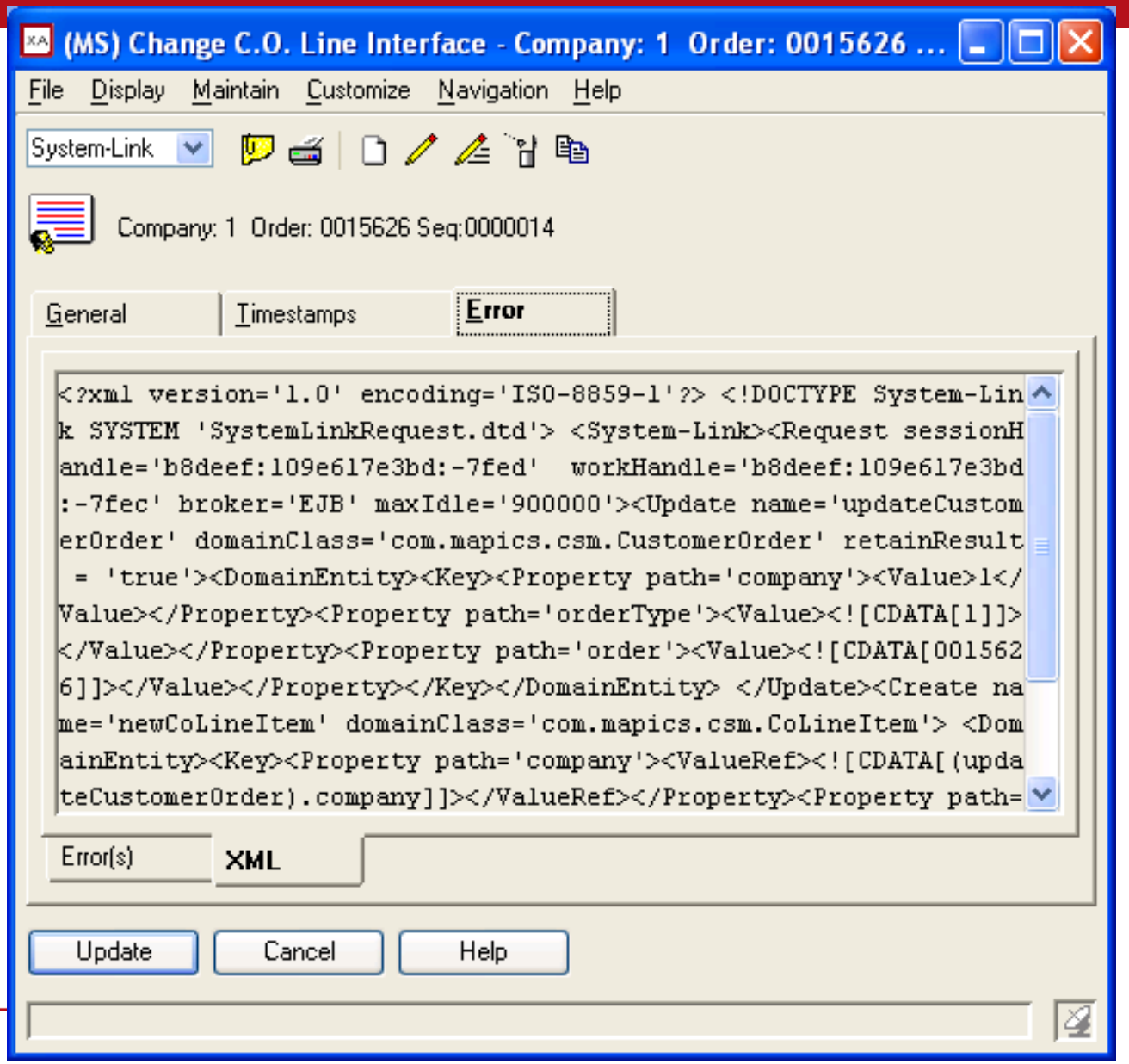
System-Link Transaction Detail

- Error(s) returned from System-Link
- Error messages are formatted as text
- Can be linked to transaction



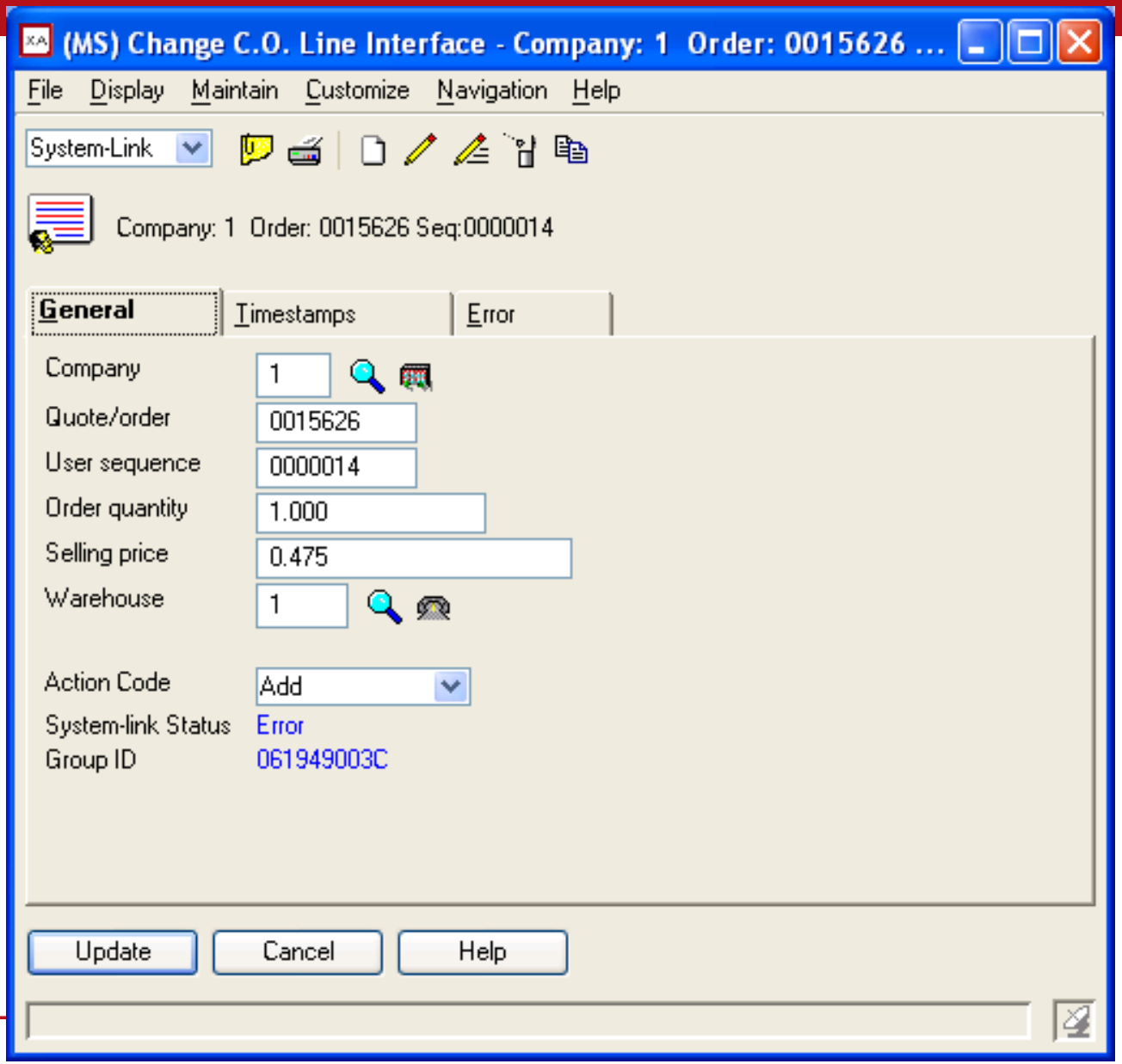
System-Link Transaction Detail

- XML that was passed to System-Link
- See if what you thought you sent is what was sent
- Not meant for user



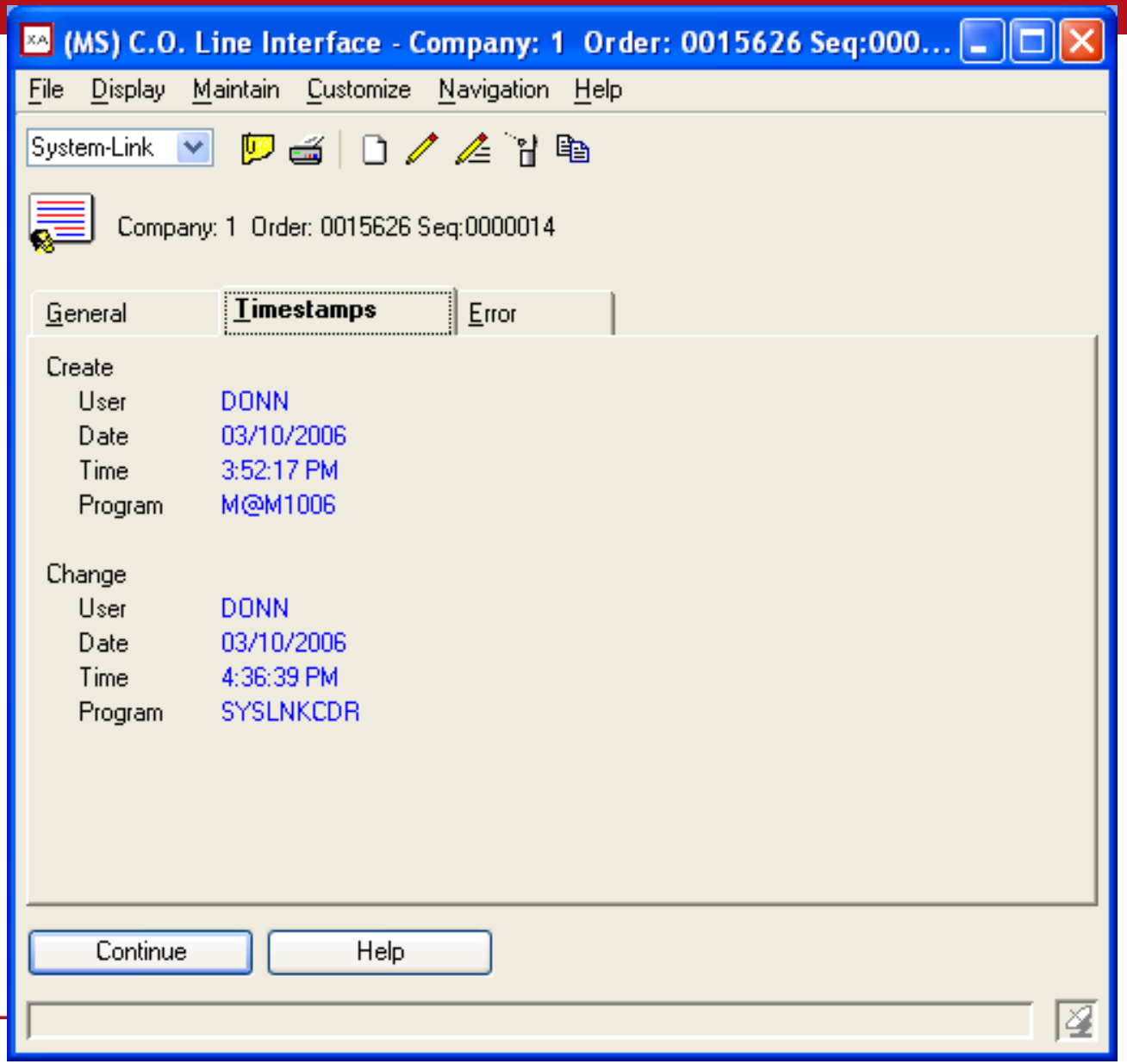
System-Link Transaction Detail

- Fields passed to System-Link
- Errors can be fixed here
- Error transactions can be processed again



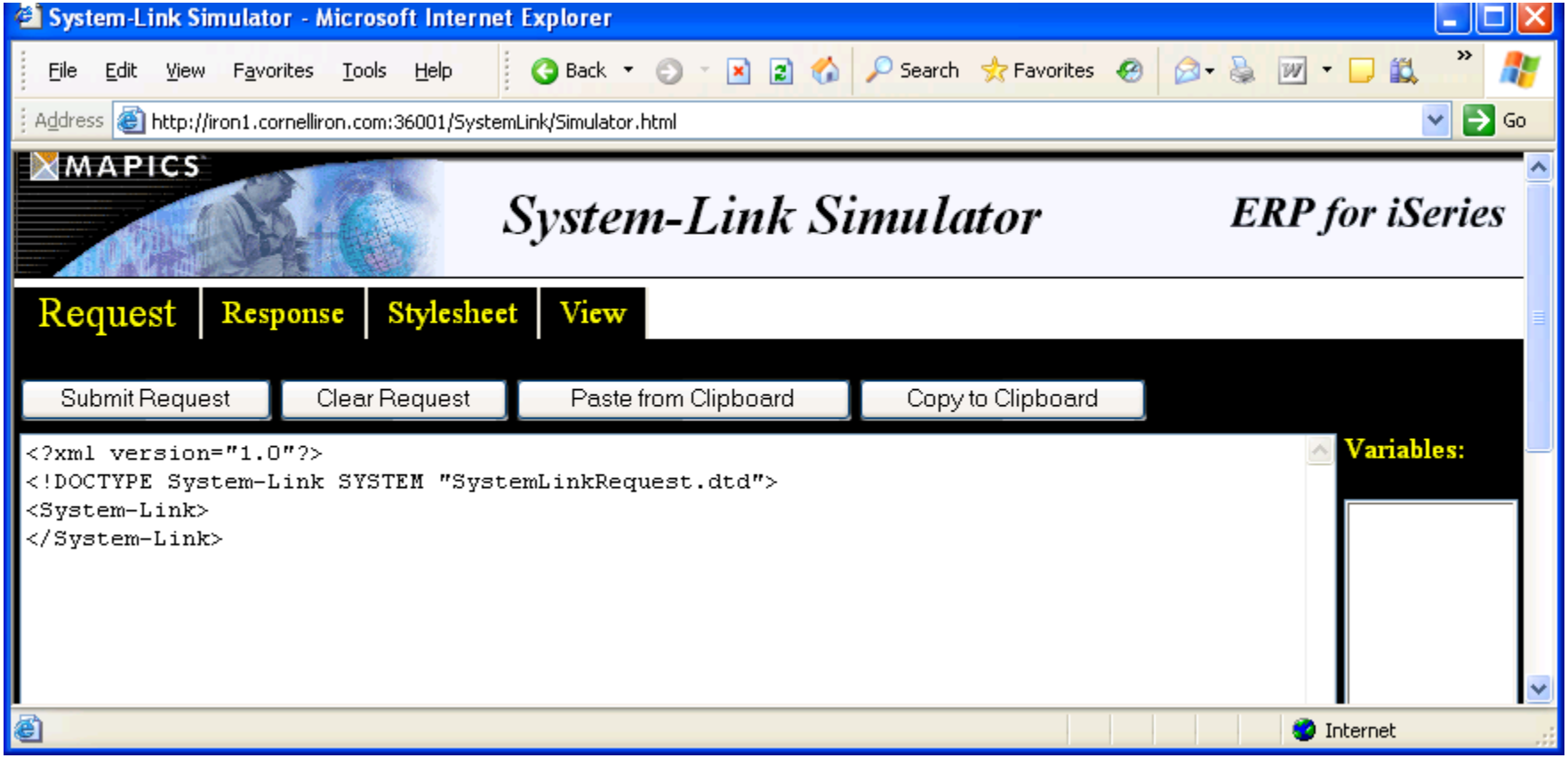
System-Link Transaction Detail

- Who initiated this transaction?
- When was it initiated?
- What program created the transaction?
- When was the transaction processed?



Troubleshooting

- Response will attempt to tell you what is wrong
- Simulator can be used to test XML code



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Summary

- System-Link can automate many XA processes
  - Any object you can maintain in Infor Development Framework, you can maintain with System-Link, including integrator customizations
- XML Creation can be simplified with the right tools
  - Learn the basics
  - Copy from Power-Link
  - Use ILE RPG features
- The processing of XML requests needs to be managed
  - Advantages of a file to manage the process
- The handling of XML responses needs to be managed
  - Collect the errors, present the errors, fix the errors, reprocess the transaction

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Questions?

Session Evaluation

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Basic XML

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='ISO-8859-1'?><!DOCTYPE System-Link SYSTEM
  'SystemLinkRequest.dtd'>
<System-Link>
 <Login principal='UUUUUUUUUU' credentials='PPPPPPPPPP' maxIdle='900000'
     properties='com.mapics.cas.domain.EnvironmentId=P0,
     com.mapics.cas.domain.SystemName=system.domain.com,
     com.mapics.cas.user.LanguageId=en'/>
  <Request sessionHandle='*current' workHandle='*new' broker='EJB'
     maxIdle='900000'>
  <Update name='update_req_1' domainClass='com.mapics.pm.Requisition'>
    <DomainEntity>
      <Key><Property path='requisition'>
        <Value><![CDATA[1234]]></Value></Property></Key>
      <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
    </DomainEntity>
   </Update>
   </Request>
</System-Link>
```

Request Header

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Basic XML

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<System-Link>
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       <Key><Property path='requisition'>
         <Value><![CDATA[1234]]></Value></Property></Key>
       <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
     </DomainEntity>
    </Update>
    </Request>
</System-Link>
```

System-Link Tag

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Basic XML

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<?xml version='1.0' encoding='ISO-8859-1'?><!DOCTYPE System-Link SYSTEM
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     maxIdle='900000'>
  <Update name='update_req_1' domainClass='com.mapics.pm.Requisition'>
    <DomainEntity>
      <Key><Property path='requisition'>
        <Value><![CDATA[1234]]></Value></Property></Key>
      <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
    </DomainEntity>
  </Update>
  </Request>
</System-Link>
```

Log in tag

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Basic XML

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='ISO-8859-1'?><!DOCTYPE System-Link SYSTEM
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<System-Link>
  <Login principal='UUUUUUUUUU' credentials='PPPPPPPPPP' maxIdle='900000'
      properties='com.mapics.cas.domain.EnvironmentId=P0,
      com.mapics.cas.domain.SystemName=system.domain.com,
      com.mapics.cas.user.LanguageId=en'/>
   <Request sessionHandle='*current' workHandle='*new' broker='EJB'
      maxIdle='900000'>
   <Update name='update_req_1' domainClass='com.mapics.pm.Requisition'>
     <DomainEntity>
       <Key><Property path='requisition'>
         <Value><![CDATA[1234]]></Value></Property></Key>
       <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
     </DomainEntity>
    </Update>
    </Request>
</System-Link>
```

Request tag

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<?xml version='1.0' encoding='ISO-8859-1'?><!DOCTYPE System-Link SYSTEM
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  <Update name='update_req_1' domainClass='com.mapics.pm.Requisition'>
    <DomainEntity>
      <Key><Property path='requisition'>
        <Value><![CDATA[1234]]></Value></Property></Key>
      <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
    </DomainEntity>
   </Update>
   </Request>
</System-Link>
```

Action tag

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Basic XML

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='ISO-8859-1'?><!DOCTYPE System-Link SYSTEM
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<System-Link>
 <Login principal='UUUUUUUUUU' credentials='PPPPPPPPPP' maxIdle='900000'
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  <Update name='update_req_1' domainClass='com.mapics.pm.Requisition'>
    <DomainEntity>
      <Key><Property path='requisition'>
        <Value><![CDATA[1234]]></Value></Property></Key>
      <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
    </DomainEntity>
   </Update>
   </Request>
</System-Link>
```

Domain entity

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Basic XML

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<?xml version='1.0' encoding='ISO-8859-1'?><!DOCTYPE System-Link SYSTEM
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<System-Link>
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      <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
    </DomainEntity>
   </Update>
   </Request>
</System-Link>
```

Key attributes

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Basic XML

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='ISO-8859-1'?><!DOCTYPE System-Link SYSTEM
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<System-Link>
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      <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
    </DomainEntity>
   </Update>
   </Request>
</System-Link>
```

Property path and value

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<System-Link>
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     com.mapics.cas.user.LanguageId=en'/>
  <Request sessionHandle='*current' workHandle='*new' broker='EJB'
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```

</Value>

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<?xml version='1.0' encoding='ISO-8859-1'?><!DOCTYPE System-Link SYSTEM
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</Property>

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</Key>

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      <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
    </DomainEntity>
   </Update>
   </Request>
</System-Link>
```

</Domain Entity>

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Basic XML

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='ISO-8859-1'?><!DOCTYPE System-Link SYSTEM
  'SystemLinkRequest.dtd'>
<System-Link>
 <Login principal='UUUUUUUUUU' credentials='PPPPPPPPPP' maxIdle='900000'
     properties='com.mapics.cas.domain.EnvironmentId=P0,
     com.mapics.cas.domain.SystemName=system.domain.com,
     com.mapics.cas.user.LanguageId=en'/>
  <Request sessionHandle='*current' workHandle='*new' broker='EJB'
     maxIdle='900000'>
  <Update name='update_req_1' domainClass='com.mapics.pm.Requisition'>
    <DomainEntity>
      <Key><Property path='requisition'>
        <Value><![CDATA[1234]]></Value></Property></Key>
      <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
    </DomainEntity>
   </Update>
   </Request>
</System-Link>
```

</Update>

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      <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
    </DomainEntity>
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</System-Link>
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</Request>

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      com.mapics.cas.domain.SystemName=system.domain.com,
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         <Value><![CDATA[1234]]></Value></Property></Key>
       <Property path='quantity'><Value><![CDATA[101.000]]></Value></Property>
     </DomainEntity>
    </Update>
    </Request>
</System-Link>
```

</System-Link>

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