

THE 1SYNC™ DATA POOL SOLUTION



1SYNC™

The Leader in Hardlines Data Synchronization

Your company has decided to pursue data synchronization. You've received the retailer requests for participation and researched the benefits and realized that this is the move to make for your company and to support your trading partners. However, the questions have only grown now that you've made that decision. Questions such as "Where do I begin?", "What is the best option for my company?", "Do I have to join more than one Data Pool?" This paper investigates the three areas you should consider when choosing a Data Pool for your synchronization needs.

EXPERIENCE

The first thing to consider is the Data Pool's level of expertise. Companies have continually realized over the years that clean data is intrinsic to the supply chain, regardless of where the activity lies. From the moment the data is entered into a company's system it begins to feed other functional areas, such as Ordering, Merchandising and Logistics. Therefore, you need to ensure that the source system of this information is correct. A Data Pool should be able to answer the following questions affirmatively and provide examples of their accomplishments in these areas:

	1SYNC Capabilities
Do they have a proven solution for Hardlines customers?	1SYNC has over 1,100 Hardlines Suppliers utilizing its Data Pool solution and over 3,700 trading partners in total.
Is the Data Pool operating in a Production-level environment with multiple trading partners?	1SYNC has 716 Hardlines Suppliers with items registered in the GS1 Global Registry and 346 Hardlines Suppliers actively publishing to their retailers.
Do they have a level of expertise within the Production-level environment?	1SYNC has over 5 years of experience and over 3,500 trading partners accounting for over 1,000,000,000 items registered in the GS1 Global Registry.
Are trading partners actively synchronizing data within their Data Pool and with other Data Pools?	1SYNC has trading partners trading both within their Data Pool and within the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) to Trading Partners affiliated with other Data Pools.

	1SYNC Capabilities
Can the Data Pool work within the existing GDSN framework in order to solve the need for additional attributes?	1SYNC can support retailer specific attributes through the GDSN approved Attribute Value Pair transport mechanism which has been set up to help move requests quickly through the standards process.
Has the Data Pool assisted in the adoption and development of standards definitions for the Hardlines Industry?	1SYNC helped to develop the GDSN Hardlines Attribute Extension.
Has the Data Pool implemented the GDSN Hardlines extension?	1SYNC has several trading partners utilizing the GDSN Hardlines extension.
Can the Data Pool assist you in the development of attributes should it be determined that additional attributes are needed?	1SYNC is committed to working with industries to help drive their needs into standards as evidenced with their role in developing the GDSN Hardlines Attribute Extension and Office Attribute Extension.

TECHNOLOGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

Once you have determined a Data Pool's level of expertise you should then consider its technology. A strong point to consider is the need for the Data Pool to be GDSN-certified and to offer advanced data synchronization features, such as new item introductions and price and promotion. This will enable your company to synchronize additional supply chain information beyond core item data. In addition, the Data Pool needs to provide a secure environment and offer various implementation options. You can determine the above by asking the right questions.

	1SYNC Capability
Is the company active in the GS1 Global Registry?	1SYNC accounts for over 95% of the items in the GS1 Global Registry.
Has the company earned security certification, such as SysTrust?	1SYNC technology is SysTrust certified.
Does the Data Pool have several offering options with which to meet a company's needs?	1SYNC offers several scalable options through which a company can implement with the 1SYNC Data Pool.

Implementation should drive a more in-depth investigation. In order to begin that investigation a company must be aware that there are two main methods through which to connect to a Data Pool:

1. Hosted Solution – This is a solution that would mean no internal integration for your company. These solutions allow a company to provide the item information to a Data Pool through a variety of methods, Graphical User Interface (GUI), spreadsheet data import, or machine to machine.
2. Behind the Firewall Connection – This solution is a direct connect to the Data Pool either independently or by using a Solution Partner that will help to integrate the necessary schemas and technology directly into a company's internal systems. Companies that want to accomplish a full integration of data that is either being received or sent out will often choose this option.



Once you've determined the means through which you want to send and receive your data then you should consider which Data Pool has the best offering. Questions that would drive that determination include:

	1SYNC Capability
Does the Data Pool you are considering allow you multiple proven methods with which to connect?	1SYNC offers a variety of loading options including GUI, spreadsheet, flat file, EDI and XML which can be implemented via our Self Implement or OnBoard Support programs.
Does the Data Pool connect you to the GS1 Global Registry, allowing you to connect with trading partners in other Data Pools?	1SYNC is a GDSN-certified Data Pool.

The Data Pool should be able to provide you with multiple implementation options that will allow you to customize the perfect solution for your company no matter the size or needs. It will also allow you to continue to grow and develop with the growth and development of the data synchronization initiative.

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

How your Data Pool ensures that growth and development is through the final area a company should consider. How active is your Data Pool in developing and adhering to the standards? A Data Pool that is dedicated to driving the use of standards will have staff assigned specifically to work with their customers as well as with the standards organization in order to drive the standards that promote adoption across the industry.

	1SYNC Capability
Does the Data Pool have staff dedicated to developing GDSN Standards	1SYNC has staff dedicated to working with the standards community.
Has the Data Pool worked to develop a standard from start to finish within the GDSN Process?	1SYNC has worked on several standards initiatives including the three tier distribution model, the Hardlines Attribute Extension and the Office Attribute Extension.
Can the Data Pool offer you a custom solution in the short term while driving that solution to become a standard?	1SYNC will meet their trading partners' immediate needs while helping to develop a standard to meet those needs.

If a Data Pool is active in the development of standards definitions from the beginning, then it will have the opportunity to ensure that those standards meet the needs of their customers as well as the needs of the industry. An example of this would be how the Hardlines industry developed a Hardlines extension and worked through the Global Standards Management Process (GSMP) to have it become a standard within the industry. Each industry has specific needs. Your Data Pool should listen to those needs and work with you to not only offer a custom solution but rather to make your needs the needs of the industry and help to lower the costs for all trading partners.

A Hardlines company has many options for its Data Pool. However, once it begins considering the level of expertise, the technology and implementation methods that are offered and the level of dedication to the standards they will see the field narrowed considerably. 1SYNC is the one solution that meets all of your needs.



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