

A Brief History of INTERCOPE Messaging

Dedication to mission critical high-quality development



Overview

A Single Window for financial messaging

Today INTERCOPE provides an outstanding ‘Single Window’ and multi-tenant solution for the financial messaging and gateway requirements of the financial services industry. “BOX Messaging Hub” (BOX) is used by many large financial institutions including central banks, market infrastructures and service providers throughout Europe, North America, and Australia– handling very large transaction and data volumes through hundreds of BICs.

High end “off the shelf” products in the past 36 years

For 36 years, the company has focused development on specialised key competences in high end, high performance, and high availability messaging systems. A broad scope of diverse functions has been implemented in standard “off the shelf” products, ensuring stability and minimising maintenance efforts. High quality, customer oriented, short development cycles and flexible implementations have been the major factors driving this ongoing success story.

Business continuity for the future

INTERCOPE was founded in 1982 by Reinhart Laumer, a software development pioneer and IT entrepreneur. Today the daily business of INTERCOPE is steered by an experienced executive Management Team of younger key players with long term commitment to the company guaranteeing business continuity for the future.

Reinhart has more recently concentrated his efforts on partner and customer relationship in addition to engaging with his management team on the global company strategy. The company was, and still is today, privately owned by Reinhart and several key employees and intentionally never went public.



Telex and Fax for IBM

Telex link for IBM’s SWIFT solutions

For large SWIFT users IBM’s mainframe based MERVA evolved during the 1980’s and 1990’s into a de-facto standard, yet MERVA did not have an appropriate Telex link,

which was required by many customers. Therefore in 1985 IBM chose INTERCOPE as their global partner to provide this missing functionality. INTERCOPE became an active player in the SWIFT community, participating in all SIBOS events since 1985 and countless IBM and SWIFT user group meetings.

One of the first computer-based fax solutions in the market

In the early 1990's fax and email started to replace telex as the main means of business communication in many business sectors. In 1992 INTERCOPE responded to customer requests by launching (in close cooperation with IBM) one of the first computer-based enterprise fax solutions available in the market. FaxPlus/Open enabled mainframe-based processes to directly transmit business data over public networks, without any manual intervention, and with obvious cost savings. It was one of the first fax solutions to also include a certified SAP integration.



MessagePlus/Open

A generic message processing engine

From 2000 INTERCOPE began designing and implementing the next generation of its communication products called MessagePlus/Open (MPO) - a generic message processing engine, capable of handling any type of content - in a very flexible way, providing extensive multi-client capabilities for service providers.

Fax, Email, and SMS for large corporations

In 2003 a large German Bank was the first to implement MPO. This installation handled all communication requirements complementary to SWIFT worldwide, replacing more than 25 individual solutions, which had previously been deployed for this purpose. Today MPO is used worldwide, mainly by large customers to handle Fax, Fax over IP, Email, and SMS traffic in an enterprise wide solution.



BOX for SWIFTNet

A comprehensive SWIFT solution

Based on the generic MPO message processing engine, and exploiting its proven capabilities in agility, scalability, availability, monitoring, and platform independence. In a very short timeframe INTERCOPE managed to develop "BOX for SWIFTNet" (BOX), which went live in 2005. BOX had been designed to provide MERVA-like functionality, such as back office integration, a user interface, manual message processing functions, routing and print services. In addition, BOX included an RMA application. During 2010 INTERCOPE obtained the SWIFT certification for the new BOX CBT function. In 2011 BOX was extended to also cover FileAct and InterAct for SWIFTNet 7.



The BOX User Forum

Close customer relationships

In 2011 the BOX User Forum was founded, with the first meeting hosted by Bank Austria in Vienna. The event has been organised on a yearly basis since, evolving into the most important event for the BOX user community and INTERCOPE itself. Close customer relationships and the early consideration of customer requirements in the development process, form an essential part of INTERCOPE's culture and have been a key factor in the success of the company. The BOX User Forum provides an excellent platform to maintain and to enhance these important relationships.



BOX Messaging Hub

Multiple network providers

BOX for SWIFTNet was further developed and became BOX Messaging Hub in 2013. With this INTERCOPE enhanced the solution for our customers to simultaneously support multiple financial networks beyond SWIFTNet. With these enhancements BOX users can connect to Systemically Important Payment Systems (SIPS) such as STEP2 via EBICS, SIANet, and SWIFTNet and to T2S, both via SIANet and SWIFTNet - out of the box. This guarantees complete redundancy of the networking infrastructure, with higher bandwidth to now handle peak traffic via load balancing.



SWIFT Customer Security Programme (CSP)

Community driven prevention against attacks long before the CSP

- together with the BOX community, INTERCOPE has repeatedly participated in various vulnerability tests and improved BOX to be shielded against attacks and threats

SWIFT CSP

- full scope, no compromise, BOX conforms to all mandatory and all advisory vendor controls (Embedded / Supported)
- self-attestation completed in 08/2017
- customer certification by Commerzbank in Frankfurt
- full attestation including customer certification in 12/2017 on swift.com

BOX is the first complete SWIFT interface to be fully compliant with the SWIFT CSP.



SWIFT global payments innovation (gpi)

BOX has implemented the necessary extensions for gpi and has been part of the initial pilot program

Tracker database update

- Manual MT199 and automated MT199/299 creation

Backward compatibility

- UETR generation when missing in SWIFT MT
- Matching of 202cov with MT103
- UETR / Service Type Identifier removal for FIN-Messages

MT199 tracking facility, which customers don't have to pay SWIFT fees for.

Several major banks are in full production with BOX for gpi today.



Instant Payments

Professional Instant Payments Infrastructure

Since 2016 BOX has been extended to the specific requirements of Instant Payments for messaging intelligence such as Active / Active for continuous operation with customer's choice of high-availability and providing multi-network and multi-CSM connectivity for emergency switching and load balancing.

By the end of 2018 BOX supports EBA CLEARING RT1 and ECB TIPS.
Supported networks and protocols include EBICS, SIANet and SWIFTNET.

Unlimited software scalability enables highest throughput and extreme peak handling. Complete monitoring can be fully integrated with the customer's choice of infrastructure.