Astera Cloud: Data Solutions

Got complex data extraction or transformation requirements but lack the time or expertise?

Experience Astera's SaaS offering.

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Astera
DATA INTEGRATION MADE **EASY**

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Data Integration in the Cloud

Cloud based applications are evolving with technology and their growing dominance is shaping the way businesses are run. Forrester's latest forecast for public cloud market shows that it will grow to $236 billion by 2020, up 23% from 2014, and this growth will be largely driven by an increased demand for cloud applications like SaaS and platforms like IaaS.

One reason for the growing popularity of SaaS solutions is their ease of use. Managed SaaS solutions in the data integration space can play a significant role in reducing time-to-information. Business decisions need to be taken faster than ever today to stay on top of competition and maximize revenues, and the key to that is the right data, at the right time. Companies generate massive amounts of data in a variety of formats, and using this data for decision-making often requires extraction and conversion using Extract-Transform-Load software, which is mostly on-premises.

But does your business have the expertise or resources to manage an enterprise-grade ETL solution? Is SaaS a better option for you?

Opportunities: Data Integration with the SaaS model

Handling Disparate Formats

Incoming partner files can be in different formats such as PDF, text files, Excel spreadsheets, etc. With a centralized SaaS platform to process your extraction or conversion requirements, organizations can reduce IT dependency and instead let the platform deal with the complexities of handling the conversion and scrubbing of data in different formats.

Defragmentation of Data

In traditional systems, data is usually spread over emails and a number of other channels and platforms. A centralized SaaS portal can make file tracking and monitoring easier, consolidating all of your data files that need processing and providing dashboards for better visibility.

Faster Turnaround

Business users typically rely on their IT department or data professionals to design data maps for processing. Using a SaaS solution that manages the maps on the back-end can decrease processing time exponentially and free up IT.

Cost-Efficiency

For smaller processing needs, SaaS solutions are ideal, a monthly subscription model being the norm. Cost is usually based on the volume of data you're processing; this can mean immense savings when you're not dealing with enterprise-grade data volumes.

The Astera Solution

Astera Cloud: Data Solutions simplifies data integration by providing users an online interface powered by Centerprise's powerful and scalable ETL engine. You can submit, track, and receive your data after extraction or conversion, and the Centerprise API will handle your data processing automatically for you on the back-end.

We build the extraction models and data integration workflows based on your needs, freeing up your data stewards so they can utilize their time better. As long as you can explain your requirements to our solution architects, complexity of conversions or extractions becomes irrelevant. We do it for you.

The solution offers streamlined and secure file transfer, 360-degree visibility of all data files via a comprehensive dashboard, and extensive data extraction and integration capabilities. Once you upload a data file for extraction or conversion on the the Astera Cloud UI, a custom workflow built according to your exaction requirements will execute and prepare your data for immediate availability.

Astera Cloud: Data Solutions brings even the most complex extraction and conversion scenarios within the reach of everyone, regardless of technical prowess.
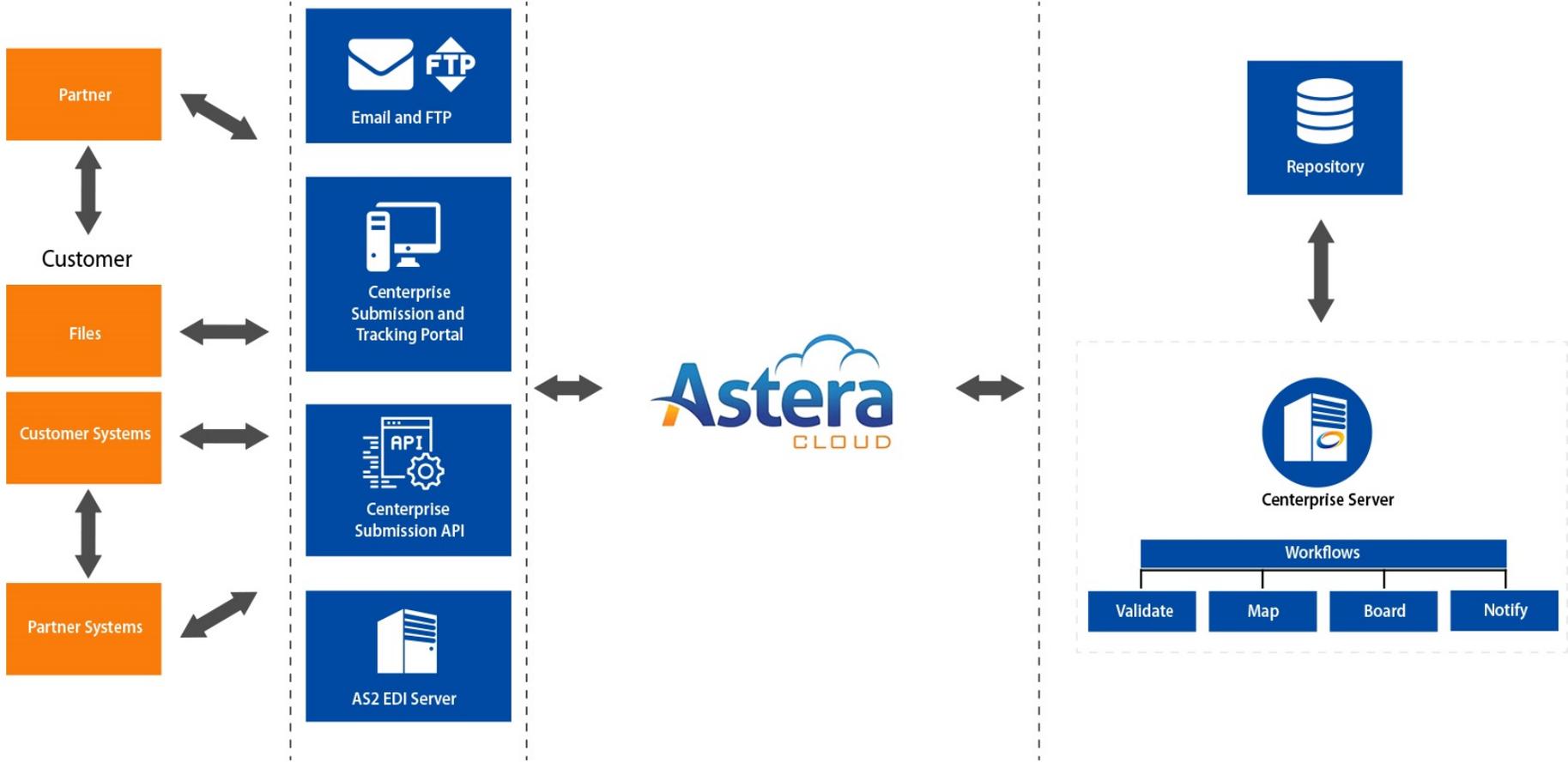
| Figure 1 | The Astera Cloud Journey |

Processing Your Data Effortlessly

Step 1: Consultation

Your company's subject matter expert collaborates with Astera's solution architect to define your extraction and integration needs. Astera builds custom extraction templates and integration flows based on the needs of each customer and deploys them on the cloud.

Step 2: Getting Started

Once your data processing maps are created, you can use your unique login and start uploading data. Depending upon the format you upload, Astera Cloud will execute an appropriate workflow on the back-end and prepare your data for use instantaneously. In cases where you need to provide your partners, suppliers, vendors, etc. the same capability, new accounts can be created under the same organization instance on Astera Cloud.

Step 3: File Submission and Tracking

Astera Cloud offers a number of options for users to submit files on the portal: Uploads can be performed by logging in directly to the portal, through email, via FTP integration, etc. All submitted files can be viewed on the Submission tab within the portal, providing users greater visibility as they can view whether their files have been uploaded successfully. This also ensures that everyone can see if the files are being uploaded in the correct format.
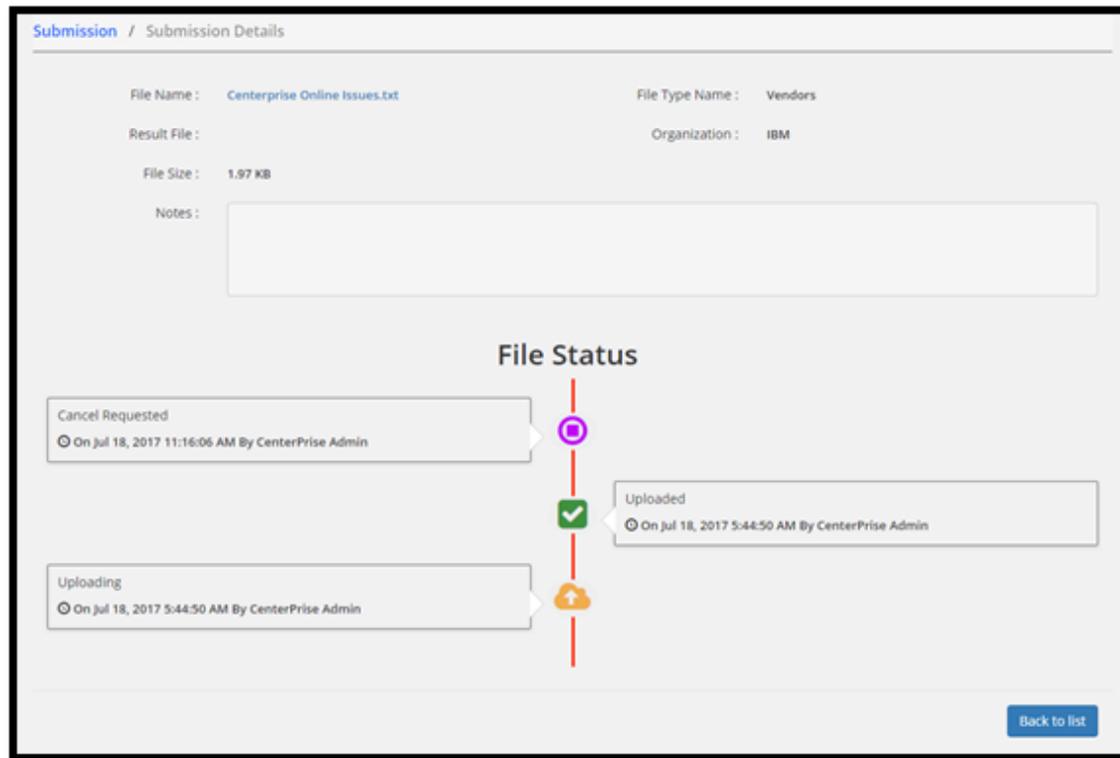
| Figure 2 | File Status | Astera Cloud |

Step 4: Data Processing

At the back-end, Centerprise processes any file uploaded within your organization instance files by mapping them to pre-built data flows designed by Astera solution architects. Within those data flows, report models are used for data extraction, data quality rules for validation, and transformation components for data integration; the processed data is finally sent to the channel of choice. This could be download link on the portal itself, an email attachment, file drop on FTP location, etc.

Step 5: Notifications

Monitoring is then done using the dashboard and the notification features. The Astera Cloud dashboard is updated in real-time, providing users a 360-degree view into the status of all files uploaded within the organization instance. Users can also specify the kind of notifications they want to receive.
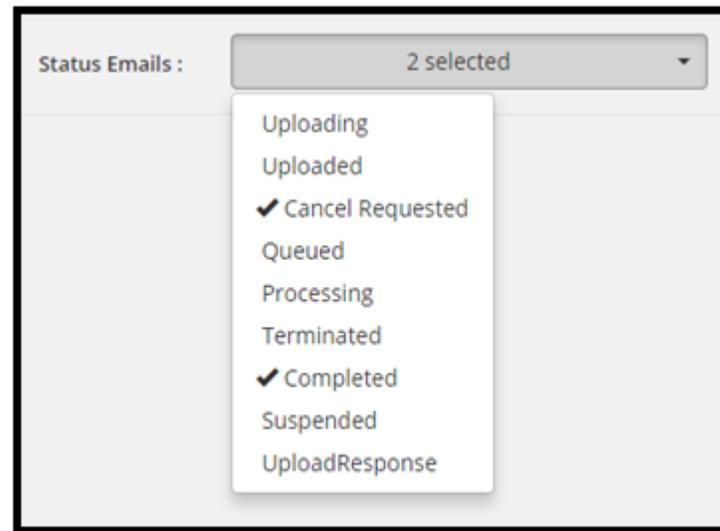

| Figure 3 | Notification Options | Astera Cloud |

Step 6: Your Data is Ready for Use

Processing is instantaneous, as long as the data is uploaded correctly. The extracted/converted data will be immediately available on your preferred channel for use.

Benefits of Astera Cloud

Scalability

The Centerprise ETL engine powers the Astera Cloud portal, lending its inherent scalability to handle high data volumes with ease.

Visibility

The comprehensive dashboard allows users to track files and monitor extraction status easily. The built-in notification feature adds another layer of convenience when bulk data is being processed.

Ease of Use

Files can be submitted on Astera Cloud via the online URL, through email, or any other custom submission channel, and received once extraction and transformation is done automatically on the back-end. No technical knowledge, coding, or scripting is required.

Zero Deployment Effort

The application is already installed and configured in the cloud. The user simply needs to consult with Astera to get their maps created, and start uploading.

Security

SSL and file encryption are supported. Encrypted files uploaded on the portal are automatically decrypted, processed, and then re-encrypted.

Conclusion

Powered by Astera's acclaimed Centerprise Data Integrator, Astera Cloud: Data Solutions is a cost-effective and intuitive alternative to a full-fledged enterprise level ETL solution, while offering similiar capabilities. All the user needs to do is upload their files and convey their data extraction and transformation requirements to Astera. The SaaS solution handles the rest on its own.

Now you can make use of Centerprise' powerful data quality, data transformation, and data extraction features through an easy-to-use cloud interface.

Request a live demo today.

About Astera Cloud: Data Solutions

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www.astera.com

Contact us for more information or to request a free trial
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