fcB2B Newsletter
Edition – 2023-04

FCB2B NEWS

This newsletter is created quarterly and contains all updates happening during that quarter. This will be your one stop for all things fcB2B. If you have suggestions for content, please contact Lewis Davis at ldavis@wfca.org.

INDUSTRY NEWS

NEW MEMBERS IN Q3 2023

We would like to welcome the following companies who have joined this quarter and decided to participate in fcB2B.

Software
- Measure Square

Retailer
- Tilemart

ANNUAL MEETING

The fcB2B Annual Meeting occurred September 19 – 20 in Nashville, TN. It was well attended with great discussion. Thank you to everyone that attended. The group helped develop an updated Mission statement "***Our mission is to utilize technology standards to enhance business relationships, performance and connectivity within the flooring industry.***" The website has been updated to include this on the home page. Another suggestion to make the website more informative was to include the discovery URL for suppliers who provide web services. That has also been added to each member page if known. Please contact Lewis if any of your information on the Connections page needs to be updated.

We had 3 software providers commit to being certified on v3.2 by the end of the year. They are Broadlume, Comp-U-Floor, and QFloors. Pacific Solutions indicated they would like to commit but couldn't at the meeting. Kerridge has an upgrade on their roadmap and RFMS is in final stages of internal testing.

A couple of new web services were discussed as being in process. PO Cancel / PO Modification is a new service just getting started. The group felt these may need to be delayed, accommodating a service to provide a link to the company's web portal. The link could provide better order status information or real time delivery tracking to provide a better user experience. Another new service in development is to provide links to images and product specifications. The ability to provide links exists in the catalog but isn't used extensively throughout the industry and could become outdated prior to a catalog update.

We also received an update on the SFTP adoption across the industry. It was reported there are 12 companies currently using SFTP and another 6 currently testing.

CURRENT COMMITTEE'S

Future Technology / Web Services – This committee is charged with coming up with solutions to opportunities in the industry. If you are interested in learning more or participating in the committee let me know.

New temporary committees formed at the meeting. If you are interested in participating in either or both of these committees, please let Lewis know.

- Defining the benefits of moving to v3.2 – Provide a list of benefits to provide to upper management to help get resources to move to v3.2. It is difficult for some companies to explain to management to allocate resources to the project. This committee will provide those benefits for all participants.
- 855 Order status – A gap was identified on how to provide multiple statuses for an order (i.e., backordered and price exception). This committee will determine if there needs to be a priority when communicating statuses and review the available statuses in v3 to ensure they identify the needs.

SOFTWARE MATRIX

fcB2B provided a survey to the software providers requesting information. The survey results were used to create a matrix for retailers looking for a software solution. The matrix would allow a retailer to easily compare several attributes across multiple companies to possibly narrow down their search. The survey is still open if you have software that you would like listed. The survey can be found here.

VALIDATION FOR 2.X DOCUMENTS

The tool we are using for validating the v3 documents during certification has now been configured to validate the v2 documents as well. If you are having problems or complaints about a document let Lewis know. It's a quick process to validate and provide the results. Currently there isn't a fee for this service.

FCB2B DID YOU KNOW?

The fcB2B website has several short videos related to different B2B subjects. To check them out visit the site (www.fcb2b.info), login, then hover your mouse over the MBR TOOLBOX tab and select Member Videos. If you have any suggestions for additional topics let me know.

Be sure to follow fcB2B on Linkedin.