World’s First Trade Facilitation System

TradeNet® enables businesses to apply for and receive trade permits in less than one minute via the Internet. This is in contrast to applications and approvals of permits before TradeNet®, which would take between 2 to 7 days.


TradeNet®: Pioneering Spirit, World Leader

“We implemented TradeNet® in 1989 when boosting external trade was identified as a major economic goal for Singapore. The innovative use of IT was recognised as a tool to enable Singapore to implement the concept of the single trade window, to position Singapore’s economy for long-term competitiveness. TradeNet® was the world’s first nationwide electronic single window,” said Director-General of Singapore Customs, Mr Fong Yong Kian.

“The original expectations for TradeNet® were ambitious. SNS (renamed CrimsonLogic) hoped to capture about 25% of the total trade document transactions in the first year of operation, with a subscriber base of about 500. In retrospect, these ambitious expectations looked conservative,” noted a 1990 study in Harvard Business Review of TradeNet®.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Processing time/permit</th>
<th>BEFORE TRADENET®</th>
<th>AFTER TRADENET®</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 – 7 days</td>
<td>1 min or less</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees charged</td>
<td>$10 – $20</td>
<td>Less than $5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of documents</td>
<td>3 – 35 docs</td>
<td>1 eForm/eDoc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documents processed per day</td>
<td>approx. 10,000</td>
<td>more than 30,000</td>
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</tbody>
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Figure 1: World’s first nationwide trade clearance system integrates 35 controlling units’ requirements

Figure 2: Before and After TradeNet®
Taking TradeNet® Overseas
Since TradeNet®, CrimsonLogic has taken its domain expertise overseas, including to countries such as Mauritius, Ghana, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad & Tobago, Madagascar and other parts of the world.

Mr David Siah, Senior Director, SEA & New Markets, shares his experience, “Countries are in different stages of growth, and have their own regulatory processes. We cannot simply export the Singapore model. Instead, we take our track record in delivering highly reliable systems to our overseas customers. TradeNet®’s ability to process 9 million permits annually is a testament of the high volume we are accustomed to dealing with.”

“We must constantly innovate to cater to local needs, adapt to indigenous cultural practices, business processes, regulations and a multitude of other unique requirements,” says Mr Siah.

Taking TradeNet® Overseas
Touted as “The Next-Generation of TradeNet®”, TradeXchange® has been in operation since 2007. This extended Single Window is aligned with global best practices and is internationally recognised with widely adopted standards, including the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) and the Organisation for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS).

Moving to a New Frontier
Ms Rachael Khor, Senior Director, Continuity & Operations, Trade Facilitation, sums up CrimsonLogic’s role in TradeXchange®: “Twenty years ago, we provided the technology and the trade domain expertise in our partnership with Singapore Customs for TradeNet®. Today, for TradeXchange® to be successful, we continue to call on the strong collaboration between Singapore Government agencies, such as Singapore Customs, Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) of Singapore, Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), and the trading community. This is necessary in order to drive up the active participation of key stakeholders and mass adoption of the e-Services by the trading community.”

Figure 3: TradeXchange® - A neutral and secure trade platform to facilitate connectivity for the trade and logistics community

Taking TradeNet® Overseas
Although TradeNet® and its variant iterations have made it around the world, the journey does not end here.

“Since developing TradeNet®, CrimsonLogic has continuously expanded on the trade facilitation domain over the last 21 years, and has now a comprehensive and holistic suite of offerings that includes Single Electronic Window, Customs Management System, Port Community System, Special Economic or Free Trade Zone Platforms, as well as Cross-Border Transaction Services. CrimsonLogic has to date, developed national trade facilitation platforms for over ten countries, from countries in Latin America to Middle East and even Africa, and has earned international repute as a leading solution provider in this area,” said Mr Jonathan Koh, Director, Trade Facilitation Centre of Excellence.

ABOUT CRIMSONLOGIC
CrimsonLogic is a trusted partner to governments worldwide. For over 20 years, we have worked with governments globally to design, build and operate end-to-end services for governments across trade facilitation, judiciary, tax, healthcare, and citizen-related domains. We have continued to set industry-standards by delivering world-first eGovernment solutions to optimise workflow, increase operational efficiencies, and improve decision-making.

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