

Implementing AddressBase Premium - A Practical Strategy

AddressBase Premium is the most complete and rich address dataset that has ever been made available in Great Britain. With 36 million records, it provides a complete view of an address or property, including its full lifecycle from creation to demolition.

AddressBase Premium contains all current addresses, alternative addresses, provisional properties and even historic property information where available. With an unprecedented level of detail, AddressBase Premium is ideal for use in the emergency services and across the public sector, plus within the private sector in industries such as utilities and insurance.

However, introducing AddressBase Premium and using it to underpin address management in an organisation can present significant obstacles.

The main issue will be existing systems that will use different means of managing addresses and because AddressBase Premium is so new, these systems will be based on older address datasets or sometimes no structured dataset at all.

Legacy Systems

These legacy systems are often large, complex and critical to an organisation, forming part of the business culture since many working practices are based and dependant on them.

As such, changing the way these systems handle addresses to be based on AddressBase Premium is fraught with difficulty.

An organisation will usually be reliant on the supplier of these systems to implement a change to them, often at significant cost

and with many months lead time. Either because of this cost or a lack of practical support and technology, these changes can sometimes even prove to be impossible.

To surmise, the problems faced by moving to AddressBase Premium include:

- Current systems can use numerous different address datasets
- Some systems have limited structure for address data
- Current systems are critical to organisations' working practices
- Organisations are mostly reliant on system suppliers for change
- Change can be expensive and overly technical

Despite these difficulties, AddressBase Premium needs to be adopted prior to the withdrawal of existing datasets in 2014.

With all the main address datasets such as AddressLayer 2, AddressPoint and the NLPG being withdrawn in 2014, inaction is not a viable option.

Waiting for the last minute to work out how to adapt is a very risky strategy and it is better to start sooner with an iterative approach to change, rather than adopt a big bang last minute revolution that almost always ends in disaster.



The Practical Approach

To help, Aligned Assets has introduced a tool that makes the gradual and practical introduction of AddressBase Premium a possibility.

For those existing systems that are based on common address formats such as the Ordnance Survey's AddressPoint product, they will generally have an in-built mechanism to import changes in that same format.

Aligned Assets' iExchange product has the capability of converting AddressBase Premium changes to AddressPoint format, or for that matter any address format that can be derived from AddressBase Premium.

For those systems not based on an existing format, which are manually updated, the system will still hold them in a basic format such as Add1, Add2, etc. In many instances, iExchange can also be configured to convert AddressBase Premium into these bespoke formats.

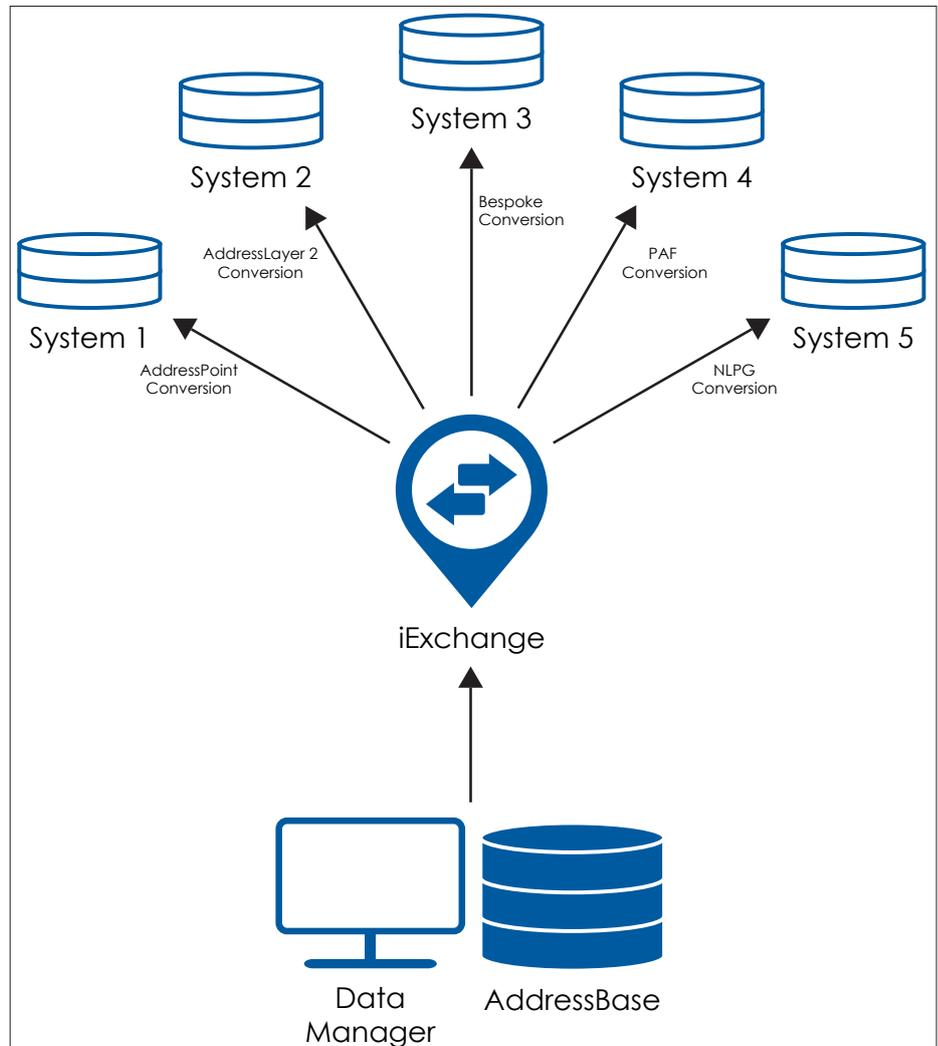
Stages to Take

The strategy takes a staged approach to implementing AddressBase Premium by:

- Installing the Aligned Assets AddressBase Premium gazetteer management system in isolation first
- Giving corporate access to the data via a browser based search engine
- Nominating a key system to receive address changes, for example one based on AddressPoint
- Set up iExchange to send changes to the system via its transformation engine
- Gradually introduce all the other systems that can take change files one by one to accept changes from iExchange
- This buys time for suppliers to modify their systems to take native AddressBase data. As they do, they can be switched over to using AddressBase Premium

iExchange

iExchange is an intuitive piece of software that allows you to export your AddressBase data to other systems in your organisation.



It enables you to synchronise all your departmental address data, meaning that everyone will be accessing identical and consistently up to date information.

Because every department in every organisation will have very different requirements, iExchange is fully customisable to allow you to:

- Configure who receives updates
- Configure the frequency of updates

- Configure which elements of address data are to be sent
- Configure the method and format of the updates

Every recipient can be individually configured and the whole process is designed so that you can simply 'set it and forget it'.

This gives an organisation the benefits of AddressBase Premium but in a staged and controlled manner that does not result in major upheaval by ripping the heart of all their operational systems at once.

