Ariel Server API Specification

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Introduction

This document presents the API for third parties to do trades and orders with the Ariel Deal Server directly, without using the Ariel Dealing Client program.

The current implementation offers a subset of existing Deal Server functionality (e.g. OCO/Contingent orders are not in the specification), although it is envisaged that the API will be enhanced in future phases to include these other features.

This document is in two parts. The first part presents the functions available and the values passed to and received from the server. The second part describes the interface currently implemented, which is via an ActiveX control. It is envisaged that different interface methods will be added in the future.

Implementation notes are shown in the text [like this].

Contents

Ariel Server API Specification	1
Introduction	1
Contents	. 1
Functions	2
Session Management	3
Summary of Session Management Functions & Events	. 3
Login Function	
Login Event	4
Logout Function	. 4
List Accounts Function	. 4
Account Event	. 5
Prices	. 5
Summary of Prices Functions & Events	. 5
Request Prices Function	. 5
Price Change Event	6
Trades	6
Summary of Trade Functions & Events	. 7
Flow of Trade Functions & Events	. 7
Request Deal Function	. 7
Deal Accepted Event	. 8
Price Quote Event	9
Dealer Interrupt Event	. 9
Deal Response Function	
÷	



Request Quote Function	10
Quote Expired Event	10
Trade History Function	11
Trade History Event	11
Get Trade Detail Function	12
Orders	12
Summary of Order Functions & Events	12
Create Order Function	13
Order Acceptance Event	14
Amend Order Function	14
Cancel Order Function	15
List Working Orders Function	16
Order List Event	16
List Cancelled Orders Function	17
List Executed Orders Function	17
Get Order Detail Function	18
Request Order Fill Notify	18
General	19
Summary of General Functions & Events	19
Get Minimum Trade Size Function	. 20
Get Maximum Trade Amount Function	20
Abort Request Function	21
Get Version Function	21
Get Server Address Function	21
Connected to Server Event	22
Dealer Allocated	22
Lost Connection Event	22
Status Message Event	22
Dealer Held Event	23
End of List Event	23
List Changed Event	23
Item Changed Event	23
Server Time Event	
Table of Error Codes	24
Interface	
ActiveX control	25
Changes to the API specification	25

Functions

The basic structure of the API is an asynchronous, event-driven architecture. Everything takes place in the context of a "session", which represents the activity of one dealing system user. Requests are made on the session, such as to get prices or make a trade and all progress and results of requests are returned as asynchronous events. Each event is tagged with the ID of the session and request that generated the event, allowing requests and responses to be tied together.

This section presents the trading functions available and lists the input and output parameters, events generated and possible errors raised. All the errors are summarised in a table at the end of the document (page 24).



Functions and events are split into the following categories:

- 1. Session Management.
- 2. Prices.
- 3. Trades.
- 4. Orders.
- 5. General Functions and Events.

Session Management

- [In the current implementation, only one session can be created at once. This means that only one Ariel user can be logged in at once to each instance of the API. However, that user can do multiple and concurrent trades and orders on any of the accounts managed by that user.]
- [It is envisaged that multiple concurrent sessions in a single instance of the API will be supported in the future.]

Summary of Session Management Functions & Events

Functions		
Login	Start a new session	
Logout	Terminate a session	
List Accounts	Get list of user's accounts	

Events		
Login	Login success or failure	
Account List	Information on an account	

Login Function

Initiate a new session with the server. Progress and confirmation of the login is done via the **Login** event described below.

Parameters	
String	User ID
String	User Name
String	Password

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error.
String	Session Id	Empty if error.

Errors	
18	No login details

Ariel API.sxw Page 3/25 07/09/04 10:51



Errors	
1	Already logged in

Login Event

Reports success or failure of the **Login** request.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	
Boolean	Accepted	
String	Failure Message	Empty unless login failed.

Failure Messages
"Login details are incorrect"
"Account has been disabled"
"Account has expired" (demo accounts only).
"API interface software is out-of-date"

Logout Function

Terminate a given session.

Note that **logout** is not allowed if a deal or other critical process is in progress (error **16** will be returned).

Parameters	
String	Session Id

Returns		
Integer	Error	
String	Error Message	Empty unless error.

Errors	
22	Not logged in
2	Invalid session Id
16	Abort not allowed

List Accounts Function

Get a list of the user's accounts. Account information is returned in a sequence of **Account** events. The list is terminated by receipt of the **End of List** Event.

Ariel API.sxw Page 4/25 07/09/04 10:51



If the account list changes, the **List Changed** event will be sent on this Request Id. The new list can be retrieved by calling **List Accounts** again.

Parameters	
String	Session Id

Returns		
Integer	Error	
String	Error Message	Empty unless error.
String	Request Id	Empty if error.

Errors	
22	Not logged in
2	Invalid session Id

Account Event

Information about an individual account.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event
String	Name	Account name
Integer	Trade Permissions	Trade types allowed on account. Bit flags: bit 0 – SPOT, bit 1 – EFP, bit 2 – CFD.

Prices

A continuous feed of prices is available. Prices are split into pages by trade type/exchange.

Summary of Prices Functions & Events

Functions	
Request Prices	Request a continuous feed of prices

Events	
Price Change	A price has changed

Request Prices Function

Request a continuous feed of prices. Prices are returned by the **Price Change** event, described below.



Parameters		
String	Session Id	
Integer		0 = Spot, 1=CFD, 2 = EFP FINEX, 3 = EFP IMM. Note: All these pages may not be available on the system. Please consult your vendor.

Returns	
Integer	Error
String	Error Message
String	Request Id

Errors	
22	Not logged in
2	Invalid session id
3	Invalid page no

Price Change Event

A price has changed.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event.
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event.
Integer	Market No	Unique market identifier (small positive integer).
String	Market	Market name (may not be unique across pages).
String	Bid	Bid price.
Char	Bid direction	'S' - steady, 'U' - up or 'D' – down.
String	Ask	Ask/Offer price.
Char	Ask direction	'S' - steady, 'U' - up or 'D' – down.
String	High	Day's highest Bid.
String	Low	Day's lowest Offer.
Integer	Market state	0 - Closed, 1 - Open, 2 - Indicative price only, 3 - "Request For Quote" Only, 4 - "Telephone Only"
String	Timestamp	Time of change in GMT.

Trades

There are two ways to do a deal. The **Request Deal** function allows an immediate buy or sell at the current advertised price (*aka* "Click & Trade"). The **Request Quote**



function requests a "two-way" (e.g. 0.9999-02) price provided by a dealer and the user can then decide whether to buy or sell.

[Bulk trades (aka splits) are not currently supported by the API interface]

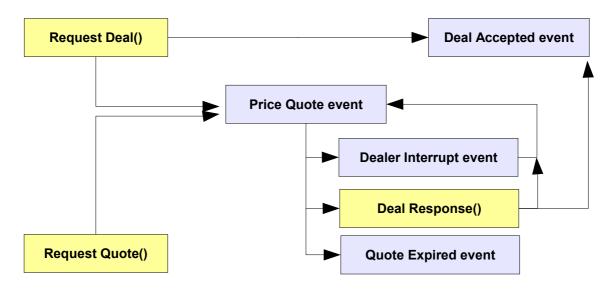
[Forwards are also not currently supported by the API interface]

Summary of Trade Functions & Events

Functions	
Request Deal	Request a trade on a market at the current advertised price
Request Quote	Request a quote for a trade on a market.
Deal Response	Accept or reject a (re)quote.
Trade History	Get a list of recent trades.
Get Trade Detail	Gets the details of a specific trade.

Events	
Deal Accepted	A deal has been accepted or rejected by the dealer.
Price Quote	Deal has been (re)quoted by the dealer.
Dealer Interrupt	The dealer has interrupted and is providing a new quote
Quote Expired	The current quote has expired
Trade History	Describes a single trade in the trade history

Flow of Trade Functions & Events



Ariel API.sxw Page 7/25 07/09/04 10:51

Request Deal Function

Request a trade on a market at the current advertised price. Progress and confirmation of the trade is done by the Trade events described below.

Parameters		
String	Session Id	
Integer	Market No	
String	Amount	Digits and/or "mill", e.g. "100000" or "0.1 mill".
Integer	Trade Type	0 – Spot, 1 – EFP.
String	Exchange	Empty for Spot, "IMM" or "FINEX" for EFP trades.
Integer	Buy/Sell	0 – Buy, 1 – Sell.
String	Account	
String	Client Ref	Reference number supplied by client (optional)

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error.
String	Request Id	Empty if error.

Errors	
2	Invalid session id
22	Not logged in
4	Invalid market no
7	Invalid amount (there are min and max trade limits)
5	Invalid trade type
6	Invalid exchange
19	Invalid buy/sell
8	No current trade-able price for the market
20	No permission to trade this trade type
21	Market is closed or showing indicative prices
25	Invalid account

Deal Accepted Event

Deal has been accepted or rejected.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event



Arguments		
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event
Boolean	Accepted	Deal was accepted or rejected
String	Dealer	Confirmation or rejection message from dealer
	message	
String	Accept Time	Time deal was done (GMT)
Integer	Deal Number	0 if deal not accepted
String	Price	Empty if deal not accepted
String	Cash Price	Empty unless an EFP deal has been accepted

Price Quote Event

Deal has been (re)quoted. The **Deal Response** function must be called within the timeout period to Buy/Sell at the new price.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event
String	Price	Price quote for trade This will be a two-way price if a quote was requested
Integer	Timeout	Time in secs that the new price is valid for (usually 5)

Dealer Interrupt Event

Whilst waiting for a Deal Response, the dealer has interrupted and will either provide a new quote or terminate the deal (via further events).

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event

Deal Response Function

Call to accept or reject a (re)quote. The trade will be automatically rejected if the timeout period has expired.

Parameters		
String	Session Id	
String	Request Id	
Integer	Buy/Sell	0 – Buy, 1 – Sell, 2 – NTG ("Nothing Done")

Ariel API.sxw Page 9/25 07/09/04 10:51



Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error

Errors	
2	Invalid session id
15	Invalid request id
19	Invalid Buy/Sell/NTG
9	No trade / quote in progress
10	Timeout period of the quote has expired

Request Quote Function

Request a quote for a trade on a market. Progress and confirmation of the trade is done by the Deal events described above. Acceptance of the quote is done by calling the **Deal Response** function.

Parameters		
String	Session Id	
Integer	Market No	
String	Amount	Digits and "mill", e.g. "100000" or "0.1 mill".
Integer	Trade Type	0 – Spot, 1 – EFP.
String	Exchange	Empty for Spot, "IMM" or "FINEX" for EFP trades.
String	Account	
String	Client Ref	Reference number supplied by client (optional)

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error.
String	Request Id	Empty if error.

Errors	
2	Invalid session id
22	Not logged in
4	Invalid market no
7	Invalid amount (there are min and max trade limits)
5	Invalid trade type



Errors	
6	Invalid exchange
25	Invalid account

Quote Expired Event

The current quote (timeout) has expired.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event

Trade History Function

Lists the last 14 days deals and executed orders. Trades are returned via **Trade History** events. The **End of List** event signals that all trades in the list have been received.

If the trade list changes, the **List Changed** event will be sent on this Request Id. The new list can be retrieved by calling **Trade History** again.

Parameters	
String	Session Id

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error
String	Request Id	Empty if error

Errors	
2	Invalid session Id.
22	Not logged in.

Trade History Event

Describes a single trade in the trade history.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event
String	Deal Number	Eg 801168, 801169O, 801170T etc
String	Market	
String	Amount	



Arguments		
String	Price	
Integer	Buy/Sell	0 – Buy, 1 – Sell
Integer	Trade Type	0 – Spot, 1 – EFP
String	Exchange	Empty for Spot, "IMM" or "FINEX" for EFP trades
String	Cash Price	Empty unless an EFP trade
String	Dealer Name	
String	Time	Time the deal was done (GMT)
String	Account	Empty for bulk trades
String	Client Ref	Reference number supplied by client

Get Trade Detail Function

Gets the details of a specific trades by deal reference.

The details are returned in a single Trade History event.

Parameters		
String	Session Id	
String	Deal Number	Deal Reference

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error
String	Request Id	Empty if error

Errors	
2	Invalid session id
22	Not logged in
28	Invalid deal number

Orders

Orders can be created, amended and cancelled, subject to confirmation by a dealer.

Current working orders can be listed, as well as orders executed and cancelled in the last 14 days.

Summary of Order Functions & Events



Functions	
Create Order	Create a new order
Amend Order	Amend an existing working order
Cancel Order	Cancel an existing working order
List Working Orders	Get a list of the current working orders
List Cancelled Orders	Get a list of recent cancelled orders
List Executed Orders	Get a list of recent executed orders
Get Order Detail	Get details of a specific order
Request Order Fill Notify	Requested notification of order execution

Events	
Order Accepted	A order has been accepted or rejected by the dealer
Order List	Information about a single order

[OCO/Contingent orders are not currently supported by the API interface, but it is envisaged that they will be in a future release]

[Bulk orders (aka splits) are also not currently supported by the API interface]

Create Order Function

Create a new order. Progress and confirmation of the New Order request is done by the Order events described below.

Parameters		
String	Session Id	
Integer	Market No	
String	Amount	
Integer	Buy/Sell	0 – Buy, 1 – Sell
Integer	Stop/Limit	0 – Limit, 1 – Stop
String	Requested Price	
Integer	Trade Type	0 – Spot, 1 – EFP
String	Exchange	Empty for Spot, "IMM" or "FINEX" for EFP trades



Parameters		
Integer	Good'Til	0 - Cancelled, 1 - IMM Open, 2 - IMM Close, 3 - GMT
String	Good'Til Time	"ddmmyyyyhhmmss". Empty unless good'til "GMT"
String	Instructions	Special instructions, usually empty
String	Account	
String	Client Ref	Reference number supplied by client (optional)

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error.
String	Request Id	Empty if error.

Errors		
2	Invalid session id	
22	Not logged in	
4	Invalid market no	
7	Invalid amount (there are min and max trade limits)	
19	Invalid buy/sell	
23	Invalid stop/limit	
24	Invalid price (must be the correct side of the current market price)	
5	Invalid trade type	
6	Invalid exchange	
12	Invalid Good'til	
13	Invalid Good'til time (must be at least 5 minutes in the future)	
25	Invalid account	

Order Acceptance Event

An order has been accepted or rejected by a dealer.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event.
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event.
Boolean	Accepted	Order has been accepted by a dealer.
String	Dealer Message	Usually empty, unless dealer rejected the order request.



Arguments		
Integer	Order Number	0 if order request not accepted.

Amend Order Function

Amend an existing working order. Progress and confirmation of the Amend Order request is done by the Order Acceptance event previously described.

Parameters		
String	Session Id	
Integer	Order Number	Of an already existing order.
String	Amount	New amount.
String	Requested Price	New requested price.
Integer	Good'Til	0 - Cancelled, 1 - IMM Open, 2 - IMM Close, 3 - GMT.
Time	Good'Til Time	Empty unless Good'til "GMT".
String	Instructions	New Instructions.

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error.
String	Request Id	Empty if error.

Errors		
2	Invalid session id	
22	Not logged in	
11	Order number does not specify a valid working order	
7	Invalid amount (there are min and max trade limits)	
24	Invalid price (must be the correct side of the current market price)	
12	Invalid Good'til	
13	Invalid Good'til time (must be at least 5 min in the future)	
27	No change to order was specified	

Cancel Order Function

Cancel an existing working order. Progress and confirmation of the Cancel Order request is done by the Order events previously described.



Parameters		
String	Session Id	
Integer	Order Number	Of an already existing order

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error
String	Request Id	Empty if error

Errors		
2	Invalid session id	
22	Not logged in	
11	Order number does not specify a valid working order	

List Working Orders Function

Lists current working orders. Orders are returned via Order List events described below.

If the working order list changes, the **List Changed** event will be sent on this Request Id. The new list can be retrieved by calling **List Working Orders** again.

Parameters	
String	Session Id

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error
String	Request Id	Empty if error

Errors	
2	Invalid session id
22	Not logged in

Order List Event

Describes a single order within the order history:

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event.
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event.



Arguments		
Integer	Order Number	
String	Amount	
String	Market	
Integer	Buy/Sell	0 – Buy, 1 – Sell.
Integer	Stop/Limit	0 – Limit, 1 – Stop.
String	Requested Price	
String	Current Price	
Integer	Trade Type	0 – Spot, 1 – EFP.
String	Exchange	Empty for Spot, "IMM" or "FINEX" for EFP trades.
Integer	Good'Til	0 - Cancelled, 1 - IMM Open, 2 - IMM Close, 3 - GMT
String	Good'Til Time	Empty unless Good'til time is set to "GMT"
String	Instructions	Special instructions, usually empty
String	Creation Time	Time order was created
String	Amendment Time	Time order was last amended
String	Execution Time	Time order was executed or cancelled, empty if not
String	Dealer Name	Dealer who executed or cancelled order
String	Account	Empty for bulk orders
String	Client Ref	Reference number supplied by client (optional)

List Cancelled Orders Function

Lists orders cancelled in the last 14 days. Orders are returned via Order List events described previously.

If the cancelled order list changes, the **List Changed** event will be sent on this Request Id. The new list can be retrieved by calling **List Cancelled Orders** again.

Parameters	
String	Session Id

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error
String	Request Id	Empty if error

Ariel API.sxw Page 17/25 07/09/04 10:52



Errors	
2	Invalid session id
22	Not logged in

List Executed Orders Function

Lists orders filled in the last 14 days. Orders are returned via Order List events described previously.

If the executed order list changes, the **List Changed** event will be sent on this Request Id. The new list can be retrieved by calling **List Executed Orders** again.

Parameters	
String	Session Id

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error
String	Request Id	Empty if error

Errors	
2	Invalid session id
22	Not logged in

Get Order Detail Function

Gets the details of a specific order by order number.

The details are returned in a single **Order List** event.

Parameters		
String	Session Id	
Integer	Order Number	Of an already existing working order

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error
String	Request Id	Empty if error

Errors	
2	Invalid session id
22	Not logged in

Ariel API.sxw Page 18/25 07/09/04 10:52



Errors	
11	Order number does not specify a valid working order

Request Order Fill Notify

Requests notification of order execution.

When an order is filled a single **Order List** event is sent, giving the details of the executed order.

Parameters	
String	Session Id

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error
String	Request Id	Empty if error

Errors		
2	Invalid session id	
22	Not logged in	

General

General functions and events which can be called or generated in multiple contexts.

Summary of General Functions & Events

Functions		
Get Minimum Trade Size	Get the minimum size for a trade or order	
Get Maximum Trade Size	Get the maximum size for a trade or order	
Abort Request	Cancels a request	
Get Version	Get the version number of the API	
Get Server Address	Get the host name or IP address of the server	

Events	
Connected To Server	A successful connection to the server has been made
Dealer Allocated	A dealer has been allocated to deal with the request

Ariel API.sxw Page 19/25 07/09/04 10:52



Events		
Lost Connection	The connection to the server has been lost	
Dealer Held	The dealer has put a request on hold	
Status Message	Provides a user-oriented status message	
End of List	Indicates that all the items in the list have been retrieved	
List Changed	A list has changed	
Item Changed	A list item has changed	
Server Time	Provides an indication of the current server time	

Get Minimum Trade Size Function

Get the minimum size for a trade or order.

-1 is returned if there is no limit.

Parameters		
String	Session Id	
Integer	Market No	
Integer	Trade Type	0 – Spot, 1 – EFP.
String	Exchange	Empty for Spot, "IMM" or "FINEX" for EFP trades.

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error
Integer	Min Size	

Errors	
2	Invalid session id
22	Not logged in
4	Invalid market no
5	Invalid trade type
6	Invalid exchange

Get Maximum Trade Amount Function

Return the maximum size for a trade or order.

-1 is returned if there is no limit.



Parameters		
String	Session Id	
Integer	Market No	
Integer	Trade Type	0 – Spot, 1 – EFP.
String	Exchange	Empty for Spot, "IMM" or "FINEX" for EFP trades.

Returns		
Integer	Error	0 if successful, otherwise error code.
String	Error Message	Empty unless error
Integer	Max Size	

Errors	
2	Invalid session id
22	Not logged in
4	Invalid market no
5	Invalid trade type
6	Invalid exchange

Abort Request Function

Abort or cancel a request.

Note that not all requests can be aborted. In particular, deals cannot be cancelled when they've reached the final stages.

Parameters		
String	Session Id	
String	Request Id	

Errors	
2	Invalid session id
15	Invalid request id
22	Not logged in
16	Abort not allowed

Get Version Function

Get the version of the API.



Returns		
String	Version	

Get Server Address Function

Get the host name or IP address of the server.

Parameters		
String	Session Id	

Returns		
String	Address	The host name or IP address of the server

Errors	
2	Invalid session id
22	Not logged in

Connected to Server Event

A successful connection to the server has been made.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event

Dealer Allocated

A dealer has been allocated to deal with the request.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event.
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event.
String	Dealer name	

Lost Connection Event

The connection to the server has been lost.

Note that all outstanding requests that haven't been committed by the server will have been cancelled. Depending on where in the process a request is, it may be necessary to list trades and orders upon reconnection to confirm whether a request has been done or not.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event

Ariel API.sxw Page 22/25 07/09/04 10:52



Arguments		
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event

Status Message Event

Provides a user-orientated message describing a change in the current state suitable for displaying on a status bar or for debugging (eg "Connected to server").

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event
String	Message	Status message

Dealer Held Event

The dealer has put this request on hold. The same or another dealer will pick it up again shortly.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event
String	Message	Hold message

End of List Event

There are no more items in the list being retrieved.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event.
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event.

List Changed Event

The list corresponding to the supplied Request Id has changed.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event.

Item Changed Event

The item in the list corresponding to the supplied **Request Id** has changed. The item is identified by it's reference (deal reference number or order number).



Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event
String	Request Id	Request that generated the event.
String	Reference	Item reference (deal reference or order number)
Integer	Change Type	0 = Item Added, 1 = Item Amended, 2 = Item Deleted.

Server Time Event

Provides an indication of the current server time.

Arguments		
String	Session Id	Session that generated the event
String	Time	Server time to the nearest second

Table of Error Codes

Number	Error		
0	Initialisation failure (eg couldn't find configuration file "API.PPC")		
1	Already logged in		
2	Invalid session Id		
3	Invalid page number		
4	Invalid market number		
5	Invalid trade type		
6	Invalid exchange		
7	Invalid amount		
8	No current trade-able price for market		
9	No quote in progress		
10	Quote expired		
11	Invalid order number		
12	Invalid good'til		
13	Invalid good'til time		
14	Internal error (shouldn't occur)		
15	Invalid request id		
16	Abort not allowed		
17	Not implemented		
18	No login details		
19	Invalid buy/sell		



Number	Error	
20	No permission for trade	
21	Market not open	
22	Not logged in	
23	Invalid stop/limit	
24	Price is too close to the market	
25	Invalid account	
26	Price has an invalid number of decimal places for the market	
27	No changes specified for an amendment	
28	Invalid deal number	

Interface

As stated in the Introduction, there are various ways the trading functions could be exposed to third-parties, but the current implementation is as an ActiveX control, which is described below.

ActiveX control

Ariel provides an ActiveX control (OCX), which third-party programs will use to invoke trading functions and receive trading events. The ActiveX control itself uses Ariel's trading protocol behind the scenes to talk to the Dealing System. By default, this uses port 1000 to talk to the Dealing System and this port will have to be opened up on any intervening firewalls.

Changes to the API specification

- Booleans are implemented as short integers.
- Errors are reported using the COM exception handler rather than returned by reference parameters. Error codes are offset by 1000 from those shown in the specification, eg "Already logged in" is error number 1001.
- Request functions return the request id as a string (BSTR).