

[Fact Sheet] **Convergent Real Time Charging**

Real-time Convergent Charging

In Control

Real –time Convergent Charging system provides real-time rating, balance management and integrated customer management capabilities. It is fully integrated with the advanced Unicorn 6 billing solution to offer a complete pre/post paid convergent solution across all telecommunications verticals.

Real –time Convergent Charging system enables communications service providers to streamline operations, focus on subscribers and generate optimal revenue per subscriber. The traditional compartmentalized approach of running pre-paid and post-paid systems as separate businesses inhibits business efficiency by removing focus from the subscriber to the technology. Real –time Convergent Charging enables communications service providers to run their operations as a single business using its real-time, high-volume event handling and seamless subscriber management capabilities.

Importantly, subscribers both residential and corporate- can benefit from a service that suits their lifestyle. Corporations can better manage their overheads by having their staff's mobile phone's on a post-paid contract during the day, and then a pre paid contract in the evenings so employees are responsible for paying their own bills out of office hours. Resident subscribers such as a family can have hierarchy of accounts to help better manage finances. A child in a family can be on a pre- paid account, whilst a parent can have a post-paid contract.

UshaComm's Real –time Convergent Charging stands for equality. The mode in which a subscriber pays no longer dictates the services they can enjoy. UshaComm dismisses the belief that prepaid subscribers are not as 'cash-rich'. Real –time Convergent Charging enables a communications service provider to offer the same levels of service to subscribers regardless of how they pay.

Streamlined To Meet Life-Style Expectation

Ensures Optimal Revenue Generation Per Customer

- Assigns an appropriate pre-paid or post- paid plan to the subscriber based on their credit risk and usage pattern
- Opens up the opportunity to deliver all services to prepaid subscribers that were accessible to post-paid subscribers

Reduces Revenue Leakage

- Switches high-risk bad-debt prone subscribers to pre-paid plans and services
- Real time rating reduces the risk of fraudulent activity
- Provides high returns on investment through its seamless scalability to process higher event volumes

Improves Operational Efficiency And Overheads

- Eliminate disparate systems to manage billing and charging requirements through a single platform solution
- Requires fewer resources so team members can concentrate on core issues

Improves Customer Acquisition And Retention Rates

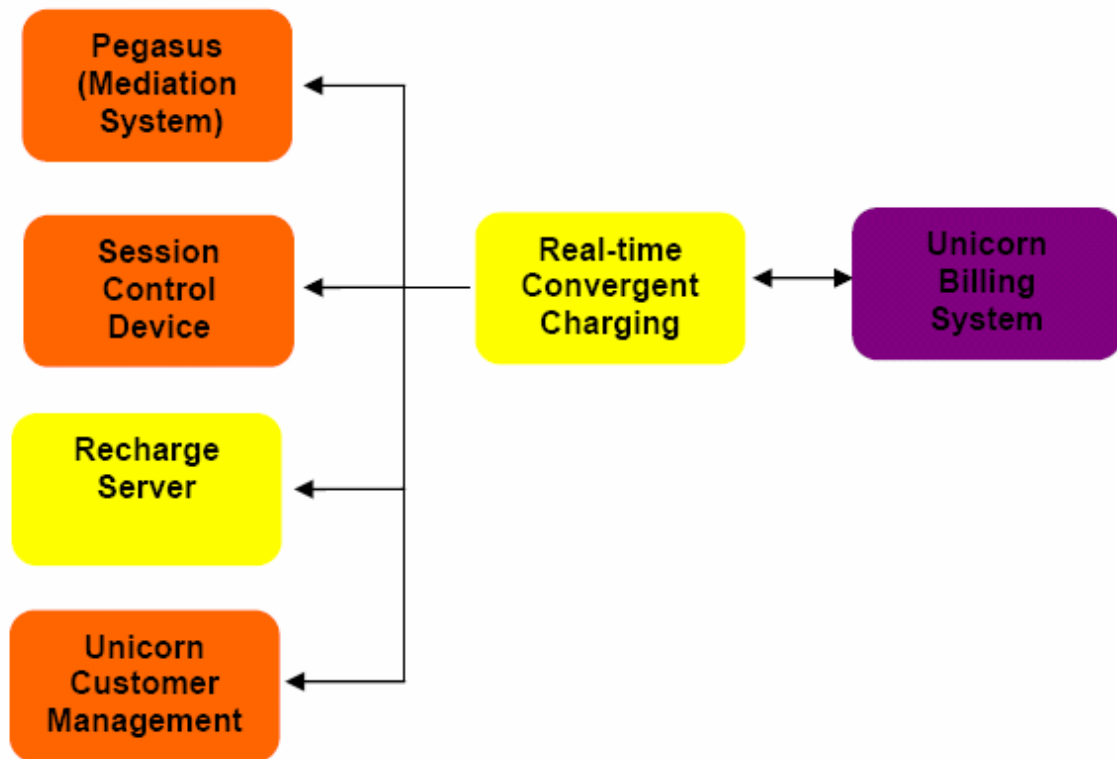
- Provides a zero risk approach to targeting and winning customers from new market segments e.g. students, temporary workers
- Increases customer satisfaction levels through an overall improved customer experience. All subscribers are treated equally regardless their payment mode.

Continuous Communication and Delivery

Real-time convergent charging delivers:

- Real-time event charging based on the information received via the network session control
- Real-time balance reservation based on a requested service event; event duration, or volume and balance reservation rules bases thresholds; and minimum balance chunks
- Interface to the:
 - Recharge function to automatically top up balances
 - Session control
 - Mediation devices for network service activation and deactivation
 - GUI driven service logic tool

Real-time convergent charging interacts with the following components:



Pegasus Mediation Is Responsible For Activating And Deactivating Services on the network. Real-time convergent charging interacts with Pegasus to provision subscriber services on the network. Depending on the subscriber life cycle Real-time Convergent Charging also interacts with Pegasus to deactivate subscriber services

Session Control Device (SCD) is responsible for session control. The SCD sends charging and authorization requests to Real-time Convergent Charging. It also sends session end EDR(event data records) information to Real-time convergent Charging. The other interaction that Real-time Convergent Charging has includes the uploading of service logic reference information into the SCD based on how the SCD controls a session.

Recharge Server manages balance recharging. It interacts with Voucher and Card Management platforms, Credit Card and Direct Debit Payment Gateways, and Unicorn Customer Management system to top up required account balances. It sends recharge operation outputs into Real-time Convergent Charging to top up available balances.

Unicorn Customer Management system supplies account and service information on subscribers to the Real-time Convergent Charging. Real-time Convergent Charging also synchronizes the real-time account balance with Unicorn Customer Management

Unicorn Billing is responsible for the processing and billing of all post-paid events. Real-time Convergent Charging is responsible for posting processed event charges and charge summaries to Unicorn Billing.

Real-time Convergent Charging Modules

Authentication & Authorization-Added Security

Responsible for sending charging information and authorization responses to the session Control Device, the Authentication & Authorization module: Authenticates service numbers; provides access control checks for what services are allowed for a specific service number; authorizes a requested service session based on the available balance.

Real Time Rating- Assure Revenue

Real-time Rating is responsible for the real-time charging of transaction events that are passed on by the session control device. The rating module charges event requests and sends message to the Authorization and Authentication Module for event authorization. The Rating module

interacts with balance manager to update balances in real time. Real-time Rating also incorporates online accumulation capabilities for discounts and unit credits for real time event consumption.

Balance Management- A Balance Sheet That Makes Sense

Balance Management is Responsible for all balance operations including real-time balance updates, balance recharges and balance reservations. Balance reservations are operated at the account down to the event level, Balance reservation rules that define balance allocations at the account, service and event levels are user defined through friendly Rules based GUI. The Recharge function in the Balance Management module interacts with the Recharge Manager to update balances.

Batch Charging Interface

The Batch charging Interface interacts with Unicorn Billing to post rated events.

Network Interface Controller-Keep In Control Of Information

The NIC insulates the Real-time Convergent Charging from the session control complexities that are particular to the Session Control Device. It supports different interfaces with the SCD including Parlay, CORBA and maintains context information for each session.

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