

[FACT SHEET] Interconnect Billing System

UshaComm Interconnect Billing System

Secure Revenue, Reduce Costs

Interconnect is the second largest source of revenue for established communications service providers. For start-up communications service providers, interconnect accounts for almost 50 % of their revenue.

Interconnect is a significant revenue generator, but it can also have significant costs. UshaComm Interconnect Billing System (UIBS) will increase the revenue and reduce the costs- and risks.

There are significant revenue opportunities for service providers in wholesale interconnect billing. Innovative interconnect agreements with competitors can improve margins and generate new revenue to compensate for uncertain growth in retail markets. However, powerful charging capabilities, reciprocal traffic agreements, accurate verification and the calculation of true costs are required to truly boost revenue.

UIBS provides a complete and flexible solution to produce Interconnect revenue and verify costs. From constructing data, processing network usage to invoicing and verify invoices from partners. UIBS is highly flexible because it utilizes rules-based configuration, which enables easy and fast changes to rates and charging mechanisms.

Accelerates Return on Investment

Manage Third Party Relationship And Activities

- Enables reciprocals and accurate traffic agreements with other communications service providers
- Compares and verifies partners invoices and charged event records with the UIBS Users copy of the incoming invoice (pseudo invoice) and event records
- Rates and invoices re-filed or-originated traffic, and mutual traffic commitments

Quick Time To Market

- Empowers the UIBS provider with the ability to easily and quickly reflect agreement changes, modify charging and accounting mechanisms and rates; and accept network configuration and CDR layout changes.
- Optimum routing recommendations based on route costs and route capacities keeps operational costs at a minimum

Low Total Cost Of Ownership

- Supports multiple and converged technologies to keep total cost of ownership to a minimum.

Technology Driven

UIBS is based on a three-tier distributed architecture: the application layer and the client-layer both use CORBA. The processing engines utilize a multi-threaded design and are built upon a unique multi-piped rating architecture.

The rating Anchors support multiple formats and rating instances in the processing engines and can set up parallel processing pipes to greatly enhance performance and ensure future scalability. The number of running process threads can increase or decrease dynamically as the CDR/EDR load rises or falls, thus offering the utmost flexibility.

The Rating process utilizes rules for interpreting and formatting event records. This rules-based design ensures that the UIBS Rating engine can accept and process events records from different technologies including fixed, mobile, voice and data.

- Ability to process traffic records from multiple technologies based on a rule based interpretation of event record layouts
- Combined capability of real-time rating as well as batch rating of event records. For instance, international terminating calls into the home records can be bulk rated whilst national outgoing calls can be rated near- real time
- Innovative discounting features such as 'reciprocal commitment agreements', whereby if a partner meets minimum traffic commitments it is rewarded with higher discounts or lower band rates
- Three-level comparison and verification capabilities for partner invoices and charged records. UIBS can also aggregate charge and individual charge record levels through the interconnect reconciliation process
- Ability to quickly update partner agreements through bulk update tools such as "Auto Loader"
- Highly scalability of processing 296 Million event records in an 8 hour day

UIBS Modules

System Administration-Maintaining Order

Responsible for maintaining master reference data, system parameters and managing access control workgroups and privileges. Master reference data examples include country master, currency master, and city master.

Partner Agreements-Ensure Long-Term Relationships

Partner Agreements is the main user interaction module. It provides a user-friendly GUI and an "Auto Loader" facility through which users at the home communications service provider end can construct the reference data required for processing. The reference data is maintained through flexible agreement structures. The agreements data consists of details of the home network configuration and the connection of the home network with partner networks. The following data is included in the agreements:

- Agreement validity date range
- Point of Interconnect (POI) information
- Switch and Trunk information in relation to POI
- Rate information
- Charging Number Prefix information

The agreement data can be amended online, and these changes become effective when the rating cache is next refreshed, which is normally before starting the next CDR/EDR file-processing block.

UIBS Central Manager-Ensuring A Healthy Performance

The UIBS central Manager remotely manages all real-time and batch processes. Through an easy-to-use GUI, users can monitor the health and performance indicators of all the real-time and batch processes such as Rating, Billing, Discounting and Bulk Rating. Through the GUI, which acts as the console for the Central Manager, users can set parameters and start up and shut down processes remotely. They can also view statistics about the process instances that are currently running

Reports-Tracking Success

UIBS Reports module can be used by Call Service Representative (CSR's) to view different management and revenue reports. It has the capability of reporting on a variety of Interconnect activities, Interconnect traffic volume, revenue and costs, and details of financial transactions the partners.

Accounts And Payment- Keeping A Healthy Bank Balance

The Accounts and Payments module is responsible for managing invoices, pseudo invoices, invoice level comparisons and all financial transactions. It manages all accounts receivables and payables for the Home communications service provider. Users can use the GUI to make and receive payments, pass credit and debit adjustments and perform other financial transaction.

Rating- Guaranteeing Revenues

UIBS rating is scalable and flexible in near real-time. It is capable of processing events from technologies providing the event records are provided in an ASCII readable layout format.

UIBS Bulk Rating enables communications service providers to price traffic in batches. Different bulk pricing can be applied on different types of Interconnect traffic. For example, all national mobile terminating calls can be bulk rated using bulk rates different from international mobile terminating calls. The Bulk rating process works on accumulated charged

or accumulated zero charged records based on the near real-time rating process. The Bulk Rated output is posted on final accumulated tables, which are utilized in the Billing Process.

Discounting-Keep Relationships With Additional Bonuses

The discounting module helps operator's setup mutual commitment plans in their agreements based on reciprocal traffic arrangements. Discounts can be provided in money or in kind (Minutes or data units).

Billing – Collecting Money

UIBS billing prepares outgoing invoices for partner communications service providers and pseudo invoices for verifying incoming partner invoices, The Billing Process generates a billing report at the end of the bill cycle and is issued at the carrier level according to the carrier's agreement and settlement definitions. The billing process is based on fixed frequency cycles.

Reconciliation – Keeping It Fair

UIBS Reconciliation compares incoming partner invoices or settlements with pseudo invoices produced by the UIBS for the home communications service provider. In addition to comparing invoices and aggregated event settlements the Reconciliation module also supports event (CDR) based reconciliation. In event level reconciliation. In event level reconciliation all events (CDRs) are matching using defined field attributes. All unmatched CDRs are extracted into a report for further investigation.

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