

[FACT SHEET] Roaming

Roaming

Take Control, Let Roaming Drive Profits

As communication evolves towards a global interoperable environment and competition becomes more intense, a guaranteed way to improve revenue is to open up the opportunity to facilitate and host-roaming capabilities on the network and charge back usage via the visitor's communications service provider. Never before have so many people traveled for business or leisure, wanting access to a service on their mobile phone 24/7. Roaming can yield over 50% of margins if the correct solution is in place.

The UshaComm Roaming solution provides complete charging facilities for roaming records for 2G, and next generation 2.5G networks that include GPRS. The Roaming Module offers full TAP 3 standard support and includes advancing pricing, re-pricing, TAP and RAP generation and reject file-processing capabilities. The usage record formatting and pricing functions are 'Rule' driven to enhance communications service providers time to market with new pricing plans and marketing opportunities. The rule driven processes allows access through a simple intuitive GUI reducing a communications service provider's dependence on billing vendors and database experts to make changes to the products and prices.

The UshaComm Roaming solution as part of the Unicorn billing solution supports TAP3 generation and TAP3 processing for GSM service providers and Data Clearing Houses (DCH). Earlier versions of the Roaming module support TAP 1.0 and TAP 2.0 standards and UshaComm is also able to customize roaming solutions to support CIBER standards.

The Roaming solution works seamlessly with the pricing and tariff plans of a third party billing system for processing Roaming usage records in the VPLMN and generating TAP 3 files. The system also capable of maintaining the tariff plans itself.

Roaming Features

Roaming Master Data

The Roaming module can work seamlessly with pricing and tariff plans of a third party billing System To Process roaming usage records in the VPLMN and to generate TAP 3 files. The system is also capable of automatically maintaining tariff plans, PLMN plans and codes, tax details, exchange rates and delivering queries on roaming data.

TAP Generation

The generation process prepares the TAP files, which contain the prices Call Data Records (CDRs) generated by visiting roaming subscribers that have used the network. The TAP files are then delivered to the clearinghouse for onward transmission to the home communications service provider (HPLMN). The home service provider then charges its service provider partner for the roaming usage generated by its partner's subscribers.

The relevant business data are formatted according to TAP3 standards following the Transferred Procedure Data Record Format Specification Version of GSMA TD. 57, 3.10.1. This file contains call event details with issues, resubmitting call events details, or both. The data used to generate the TAP 3 file is maintained in historical tables for future requirement or file regeneration.

TAP Processing

This functionality is used for the processing of the TAP file, which contains charge details of the home communications service provider's subscribers roaming on the other networks. The system has the advanced capability to identify and reject calls prior to a certain date within the TAP file. There are checks implemented in the system records with calls that were made prior to the available time-stamp on the file and rejects these records.

RAP Generation And Processing

During TAP processing the TAP files may be rejected during the validation process. The Roaming system has the capability to generate RAP (Returned Account Procedure) files. The RAP is embedded within the TAP processing capability of the Roaming system. The system supports both file level as well as record level rejections in accordance with the TAP 3.10 specification. The rejection may occur on account of errors at the file level or at the record Level. The system is capable of identifying both these errors and generating requisite RAP files. The error code, context and other information is stored in the RAP file.

The system can also handle RAP files from visited service providers, which contain error reports from previously sent TAP files. These files are re-processed so the correct TAP files are sent in future.

Pricing For Roaming

The Pricing process calculates the actual value of the calls by applying the long distance and the airtime rate codes. The priced records are stored in the database for the TAP generation process. The records are also maintained in the system for future reference or regeneration. Both the PRE-pricing and the Pricing process use flexible business rules to make it easy for the user to make changes to the charging and formatting processes.

TAP Regeneration

The TAP OUT files may get rejected from other operators via the DCH (data clearing house). When this occurs the home communications service provider needs to regenerate the file with the correct information. This module stages the data (i.e. put records from the history table to the temporary storage area with reference to the records from the rejected TAP File). After preparing the temporary data the system feeds the data for re-pricing (if required) and regeneration.

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