

FLEXIBLE ONLINE CHARGING (FOC)

Flexible Online Charging (FOC) Solutions from Integrated Telecom Solutions (ITS) enables mobile operators to gain optimal value from their investments in billing and prepay systems. By augmenting existing charging systems with Flexible Online Charging solutions, operators can design unique services and compelling charging packages for groups of subscribers, or offer individualized mixed mode charging plans with minimal changes to existing systems. This flexible charging approach gives operators new ways of providing attractive services to subscribers that create loyalty, reduce churn and attract new users.

FEATURES

The telecom market is changing fast and competition is tough. Providing voice, text (SMS), content, and individualized value added services with flexible pricing plans are essential. The Flexible Online Charging solutions provide flexible and rich service plans with multiple mixed charging options, giving mobile operators an edge against the competition.

Friends and Family Plans

Flexible Online Charging solutions allow for the development of such unique packages as the Friends Calling Circle. The Friends Calling Circle is designed for a group of subscribers. The Friends Calling Circle could have a collection of friends and family as members of the group. The dial plan and charging rules are then set up with preferential tariffs for calls among the group members. Any calls to numbers outside of the member group, would be charged a different tariff. All members may receive special rates under the plan's charging rules.

Flexible Online Charging flexibility allows operators to limit the size of the friends circle to a small group or create a large group for an entire campus.

Family plans, friends calling circle, couples and campus plans are just some of the ways this feature can be fashioned to provide compelling services for the subscriber base.

A distinctive feature of this plan is that group members may be both postpaid and prepay subscribers.

Mobile operators may offer subscribers a hybrid charging solution such as having one, or both parents, as contract subscribers but their children as prepay subscribers. Under this plan, parents may give children the ability to dial family members anytime even with a zero balance. But if that same child dials outside the group, for instance to a friend, then the child's prepay account balance is used to pay for the call. Family plans may have spending limits for pre-defined time periods. This is a particularly attractive solution for many parents who are looking to better manage expenses and teach children fiscal responsibility and discipline.



Individualized Charging Plans

Not all people, families, or businesses are alike. Individualized and flexible charging plans allow an operator to tailor pricing plans to meet unique requirements and individual needs.

Mobile operators may offer plans for subscribers to be both post-pay and prepay, such that a person


may carry one mobile handset for both business and private use. Flexible Online Charging solutions make it easy for the operator to configure automatic bill-splits for business and private use, or have business use charged to a business postpay account while charging private usage to the subscriber's prepay balance.

Flexible Online Charging solutions result in seamless integration with existing systems, are easily customizable and highly configurable.

Flexible Service and Charging Attributes

Flexible Online Charging solutions are enriched by an abundant variety of attributes that result in compelling services and charging options. The attributes may be a combination of time of day, day of week, special day, call type, on-net/off-net, or physical location.

The resulting functions can apply to both Prepay and Postpay subscribers. Subscribers may be offered plans where usage from pre-defined zones (home zones) will be charged at lower tariff. Usage tariffs may also be based on, or can be further refined, by time of day, day of week, and date. As a result subscribers may be offered plans where they choose their own peak and off-peak times.



Loyalty plans can be defined based upon spending limits in which the cost of calls decreases as the usage increases. These may be based upon contractual minutes at a set rate with extra minutes charged at an exception rate. Promotional minutes may

be awarded for purchasing bundles of minutes. Rollover balance is also supported so that subscribers can receive the full benefit of purchased bundles rolling over unused minutes or currency amounts to the next month.

The Flexible Online Charging solutions' attributes are not restricted to just calls but may seamlessly apply to data or content.

BENEFITS

- Provides mobile operators tremendous flexibility for charging subscribers
- Allows subscribers to have multiple charging solutions associated with one handset
- Reduces time to market for new services and pricing bundles
- Unique, practical and attractive charging plans are now possible for the entire subscriber base
- Protects past investments by augmenting the existing billing and prepay systems with flexibility and control
- Reduces operational costs by automating tasks
- Gives operators the ability to offer subscribers innovative loyalty and bonus programs which lead to reduced churn and higher profits

STANDARDS COMPLIANCE

- ETSI Core INAP/CS-1
- CAMEL - Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4
- CORBA IIOP interface
- HTTP - Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Version 1.1
- SSL - Secure Sockets Layer Version 3



Proven Reliable Telecom Solutions