

Exchanging Billing Information for Roaming Services

a report by

Dan Net A/S

The role of the data clearing house has changed from being an interface partner to being an active partner for mobile operators optimising their roaming revenues. In the early days of roaming, operators could manage many of the tasks themselves. Now, the tasks have become more difficult due to a complex and turbulent environment with many roaming partners and the introduction of new mobile services on a regular basis.

The evolution of the file format to Transferred Account Procedure (TAP) Release 3, based on the introduction of new services, and the error handling procedure Rejects and Returns are major contributors to the data clearing houses more active and advanced role. Additionally, the pressure on the revenue generated from roaming has increased.

A solution to this is outsourcing to Dan Net A/S. By choosing Dan Net as their data clearing house, mobile operators can optimise their roaming revenues while focusing on their core business.

New Services and Standards

Due to liberalisation on many national markets, more mobile operators have entered into the industry as well as new countries. As a result, competition among mobile operators has increased and focusing on generation of revenue has become a more important aspect of the roaming business.

As services and technology have evolved, the Global System for Mobile communications™ Association (GSMA) has introduced a series of TAP formats that addresses the issue of standardisation. The aim is to be able to exchange billing information as quickly and cost efficiently as possible resulting in standard billing exchange procedures and file formats.

Outsourcing

Mobile operators who outsource their roaming data management to Dan Net benefit not only from outstanding services, but also from expert knowledge, accumulated since the start of all GSM roaming activities.

As a world-leading data clearing house, Dan Net offers a range of services including an advanced Conversion Service. Subscribing to this service allows clients to meet the requirements from the GSMA while avoiding costly annual updates of the billing system.

The Need for a Translator

The GSMA releases TAP updates on a regular basis. The annual TAP release includes additional information allowing usage of new mobile services across networks and related exchange of billing information.

These updates create a need for 'translators', which are vital links for supporting roaming services when operators refrain from updating their existing billing system after launch date of a new TAP version.

Dan Net offers such a translation service. Dan Net's Conversion Service provides reliable and efficient translators that contribute to coverage of existing roaming network investments and extend ability to exchange billing information with roaming partners.

Dan Net Conversion clients maintain their current billing system and TAP format by outsourcing conversion between own and latest TAP format to Dan Net. Subscribing to Dan Net's Conversion Service ensures that clients always support the latest TAP format and version as decided by the GSMA.

Dan Net is capable of converting between any existing TAP formats, and the service provides full compatibility between these TAP formats. This means that mobile operators subscribing to Dan Net Conversion are able to exchange billing information with all roaming partners irrespective of TAP format.

In addition to the Conversion Service, Dan Net offers a range of leading-edge roaming services ranging from efficient and reliable data clearing to consulting services.

Dan Net aims to maximise clients' opportunities and revenues. ■

