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| ITU Member States, Members of the RCC | | | |
| DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [RCC-4] - Establishment of a global ITU‑T database of allocated/allotted national telephone numbering plans | | | |
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| **Abstract:** | This contribution proposes a draft new Resolution on the establishment of a global ITU-T database of allocated/allotted national telephone numbering plans. |

Introduction

Basic prerequisites, description of the problem:

1 SG 2 regularly receives reports from telecommunication operators concerning losses due to fraudulent activities on telecommunication networks involving the use of numbering resources – for example, the substitution of unallocated number ranges.

2 A further source of losses lies in the emergence of new premium-rate operators/services which initially use routes and prices for ordinary/fixed networks.

3 This is resulting in a general erosion of the reliability and security of communication networks.

The main problem for operators lies in the fact that they get to find out about such numbering resources long after the traffic is actually transmitted and are unable to react in time (by pulling the plug or negotiating new tariffs).

One possible option for resolving or at least mitigating the problem:

ITU-R’s Radiocommunication Bureau has the Radio Regulations to resolve similar problems in the area of frequency allocation including national allocations. TSB has no such generally accessible database of allocated (and unallocated) national numbering resources. If such a database existed and were kept up to date, operators could check their price lists against it (as regards traffic transmission) and thus significantly reduce the risks of receiving/transmitting traffic with unforeseen losses.

As organizing and maintaining such a database concerns many parties, including ITU, administrations and communication operators, the decision to establish and maintain such a database could be adopted at various levels and draw on a range of resources.

All the prerequisites (technical and legal) for establishing such a database are currently in place.

1 In accordance with ITU-T Recommendation E.129 (adopted by the traditional procedure of approval by national administrations), all national regulatory bodies are invited to inform ITU of their national numbering plans (that is, allotted and allocated resources).

2 Based on official replies from national administrations, a special section has been created on the ITU site with links to national open-source sites and documentation providing information on the principles of national numbering plans and specific allocations to operators. To date, data have been submitted by 229 administrations and a number of global operators. See <http://www.itu.int/oth/T0202.aspx?parent=T0202>.

3 On the basis of the official replies from national administrations, data on new numbering allocations to operators are published regularly (twice monthly) in the ITU-T Operational Bulletin.

Two unresolved issues:

1 Gathering all this information in electronic form (electronic spreadsheet format), which means improving purely electronic methods of work.

2 Requesting administrations to inform ITU in good time of new numbering allotments and allocations, as unfortunately at the present time by no means all administrations do so, at least not regularly, although the information in question is updated fairly regularly in their own national information systems.

The best approach might be as follows.

WTSA develops and adopts a new Resolution setting a number of objectives:

1 For TSB – organizing work as a whole including technical and organizational issues.

2 For TSB – the feasibility of carrying out that work in terms of finding the necessary resources (people, time, money).

3 For SG 2 – defining technical requirements (information to be gathered on resources/services) of such a database.

4 For administrations – requirements regarding (regular/timely) submission of information on the allocation of numbering resources in the country.

A short questionnaire (FAQ) can be based on discussions with representatives of state authorities and operators when the draft Resolution was discussed (many thanks to all participants in the discussions, those who raised questions and showed interest).

1 To what extent is it legal to gather such information? Recommendation E.129 concerning the presentation of such information to ITU was approved under the rules governing the traditional procedure of approval by consensus (unanimity) by all national administrations. A total of 229 administrations officially submit their data, which are published on the ITU site <http://www.itu.int/oth/T0202.aspx?parent=T0202>. A number of administrations regularly publish updates in the Operational Bulletin. This is completely legal and transparent.

2 Are major resources required to set up a database of this kind? No. Basically resources (interim) will be expended by interested delegates, who will have to agree on the format of the data submitted under Recommendation E.129. In order to elucidate this question we also suggest setting ITU-T appropriate objectives in the new Resolution. If the response received suggests that current ITU resources will not be sufficient, we will take a decision at a later date in TSAG or Council.

3 Will it take much in the way of resources to maintain such a database? No. To date the work of preparing and publishing the Operational Bulletin is already dealt with by the staff who will continue to do the work in the same way, but from now on recorded information will not only be published in the Bulletin but also entered in an electronic spreadsheet (database).

4 Who will be responsible for errors in the database? How legally sound and reliable will the information be? We are not proposing anything new. To date, responsibility for information published in the Operational Bulletin has been assumed by the administrations themselves and the ITU technical staff involved (in the event of technical errors). No information in the Operational Bulletin has the status of an approved law or contract. It is purely for information purposes, to assist operators in controlling traffic in the process of generation, transit and reception. We merely invite administrations to provide timely information on changes and trust that they will do so responsibly.

5 How many digits will be used in the database? Will this not violate personal data protection laws? In accordance with the current requirements of Recommendations E.164 and E.129, we would suggest using three digits for the country code in the database and at most four digits for the operator/geographical area code (depending on the country/territory, this can mean from two to four digits for the operator/area code, in accordance with the information received from the administration). No personal data will be affected.

Proposal

It is proposed to adopt a new WTSA Resolution on “Establishing a global ITU-T database of allocated/allotted national telephone numbering plans”, as set out in the text that follows.

ADD RCC/47A18/1

DRAFT NEW RESOLUTION [RCC-4]

Establishment of a global ITU-T database of allocated/allotted national telephone numbering plans

(Hammamet, 2016)

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (Hammamet, 2016),

considering

*a)* that the lack of a single database dedicated to telephone numbering for each country (within the terms of E.164) may result in financial losses for telecommunication operators;

*b)* that this ultimately has an impact on the reliability and security of telecommunication networks and on the services they carry;

*c)* the additional potential that such a global database could bring to the telecommunication sector;

*d)* the considerable interest in the use of such a database on the part of a sizeable number of organizations/entities and administrations,

noting

*a)* that the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) must play a lead role in the development and maintenance of the aforementioned global database;

*b)* that requirements and rules have to be established for the population of such a database in ITU-T,

recognizing

that ITU-T has undisputed advantages when it comes to the development of requirements for such a database,

instructs ITU-T Study Group 2

1 to study this matter on the basis of contributions received and to organize the necessary work to determine the requirements for such a database;

2 to report to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) on the results of that work,

instructs the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group

to consider the results of the work of Study Group 2,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to provide the necessary assistance for the ITU membership by providing details of existing information resources relating to the allocation of national numbering resources;

2 to assess the feasibility of organizing and maintaining such a database within the allocated budget,

invites Member States, Sector Members, Associates and Academia

to submit, to meetings of ITU-T Study Group 2 and TSAG, contributions with a view to the organization of such a database,

calls on Member States (requests Member States)

pursuant to the relevant Recommendations, to make available information on the allocation of their national numbering resources and amendments thereto in a timely manner, to ensure that the database remains up to date.