

Number Portability in The UK

What Next for Number Porting ?



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Number Portability in The UK

The issues

- 3 million Fixed and 2 million Mobile Numbers Ported in last 12 months – due to grow substantially
- 200+FCS members are affected by number portability
- Current fixed line process cumbersome, error prone and takes too long
- Mobile portability- new entrants cannot port yet !
- Certain number ranges in short supply - 0800 for example
- Bi-lateral agreements required between SPs
- Some customers unable to port numbers to chosen SP
- Unable to port numbers between different services

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Ofcom Number Porting GC 18 amendment issued in November 2007– now retracted

It said

- 2 Hour porting for mobiles
- CDB for both mobile and fixed line
- Recipient led
- New CDB to be ready in December 2008- in use for mobile by September 2009, fixed line by 2012

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The Process

UK Porting set up by industry with an independent chairman and project team

- Started January 2008
- 13 major players plus FCS and ITSPA
- Specification agreed by industry within NICC
- Holding company Port Co set up August 2008
- Out to tender – down to the last two
- Substantial resource investment by industry

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CAT Appeal by Vodafone

- Appeal against the Ofcom number porting directive
- Vodafone won the appeal on the basis of
 - Ofcom under estimated costs to industry
- The CAT commented on the work that had been undertaken by industry and “hoped it would not be wasted”

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Other Reasons ???

- Was there protection of Cash Cow business – transit and onward routing charges?
- Requirements to implement CDB did not fit within operators own plans to implement switch upgrades?
- Restrict competition?
- That's said the mobile sector in particular seemed keen to move away from current cumbersome processes

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Current Position

- Ofcom has gone back to first principles
- Cost benefit analysis needs to be more rigorous
- Reviewing position and speaking with Industry over the next 2 months
- Of the view that something needs to be done
 - EU also looking to implement 1 day porting

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View of FCS Members

- The CDB is central to an customer migration process and should be introduced as soon as is practicable
- Recipient lead porting for all numbers is essential
- The CAT did not take into account a failure of an incumbent network and that recipient led process would ease mass migration
- Number Porting is an important step in creating a truly competitive market place

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FCS Recommendation

- Work with the industry rather than dictate
- Set reasonable timescales – would reduce cost
- Involve UK Plc and the consumer – as neither group had a say last time around
- Keep the industry groups talking in a common forum



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Questions

Thank you

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