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OF ITU

D.231

**CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING IN INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES**

**CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES
RELATING TO THE USER - TO - USER
INFORMATION (UUI) SUPPLEMENTARY
SERVICE**

ITU-T Recommendation D.231

(Extract from the *Blue Book*)

NOTES

1 ITU-T Recommendation D.231 was published in Fascicle II.1 of the *Blue Book*. This file is an extract from the *Blue Book*. While the presentation and layout of the text might be slightly different from the *Blue Book* version, the contents of the file are identical to the *Blue Book* version and copyright conditions remain unchanged (see below).

2 In this Recommendation, the expression “Administration” is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

Recommendation D.231

CHARGING AND ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES RELATING TO THE USER-TO-USER INFORMATION (UI) SUPPLEMENTARY SERVICE

(Melbourne, 1988)

Preamble

The present Recommendation deals only with user-to-user information exchanged over the signalling channel in association with a communication on the information channel [B-channel(s)]. The question of the offering of services on the signalling channel independently of the use of the information channel is for further study.

The CCITT,

considering

(a) that a limited volume of user-to-user information may be exchanged over the signalling channel during the call set-up and clear down phases;

(b) that a limited volume of user-to-user information may be exchanged over the signalling channel during the call set-up phase, even if a call subsequently fails to mature on the information channel [B-channel(s)];

(c) that user-to-user information may also be exchanged over the signalling channel throughout the duration of a call over the information channel;

(d) that the exchange of user-to-user information over the signalling channel will occupy channel capacity, involve a degree of processing and will impact on signalling network dimensioning, and thereby represent an additional cost to Administrations;

(e) that the possibility to exchange user-to-user information over the signalling channel represents an additional, and chargeable supplementary service within ISDN for customers,

and recognizing

(a) that although collection charges are essentially a national matter, a harmonised approach towards charging and accounting principles is desirable;

(b) that initially, the volumes of traffic are likely to be small, and a flexible approach towards the options for raising a charge for this supplementary service is desirable until traffic patterns are established and experience gained,

recommends

1 Charging principles

1.1 User-to-user information exchanged over the signalling channel during call set-up and clear down as well as during clear set-up only, should be charged by one of the following methods:

- a) by inclusion in the subscription or rental charges raised against customers;
- b) by setting an appropriate minimum call charge for communications originated over the information channel;
- c) by a per call fee¹⁾ (for further study);
- d) when appropriate, by a combination of methods a) and b) or a) and c) above;

¹⁾ In principle, this charge should not apply to unsuccessful call attempts due to congestion or a fault in the Administration's equipment.

- e) for the user-to-user information exchanged during call set-up it may also be appropriate to charge according to the volume of information exchanged.^{2), 3)}

1.2 User-to-user information exchanged over the signalling channel while a call is in progress over the information channel should, in principle, be charged according to the volume of information (data) exchanged over the signalling channel.^{2), 3)}

2 Accounting

2.1 To minimise the costs associated with recording and processing, it is desirable that the traffic units used for accounting purposes should be compatible with those used for customer charging.

2.2 User-to-user information exchanged over the signalling channel during call set-up and clear down or during set-up only should be accounted for by one of the following methods to be agreed between Administrations, as a supplement to the normal accounting rates for the bearer service, or teleservice, with which the user-to-user information supplementary service is associated:

- a) a monthly flat rate (for further study),
- b) a per call rate.

2.3 User-to-user information exchanged over the signalling channel while the associated bearer service or teleservice communication is in progress should, in principle, be accounted for according to the volume of information exchanged over the signalling channel. Alternatively, Administrations may agree to adopt the method 2.2 a) or b) above for this category of user-to-user information.

2.4 The accounting rate established by agreement between Administrations should be divided into terminal shares and, when appropriate, into transit shares.

2.5 Administrations may bilaterally agree not to account for user-to-user information service (or mode).

²⁾ The determination of the volume unit is for further study. One simple solution would be to charge for the number of user-to-user data blocks exchanged.

³⁾ In practice, the introduction of a charge will be determined by the extent to which user-to-user information actually will be exchanged, and initially at least, Administrations may deem the facility to be covered by the normal bearer service or teleservice charges, or by the subscription or rental charges raised against customers.