PORTA ONE

Porta⧅Switch™

New Features Guide
Maintenance Release 20

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Preface

This document describes new features found in PortaSwitch Maintenance Release 20.

Where to Get the Latest Version of This Guide

The hard copy of this guide is updated at major releases only and does not always contain the latest material on enhancements introduced between major releases. The online copy of this guide is always up-to-date and integrates the latest changes to the product. You can access the latest copy of this guide at: **www.portaone.com/support/documentation/.**

Conventions

This publication uses the following conventions:
- Commands and keywords are given in **boldface**
- Terminal sessions, console screens, or system file names are displayed in `fixed width font`

Caution indicates that the described action might result in program malfunction or data loss.

NOTE: Notes contain helpful suggestions about or references to materials not contained in this manual.

**Timesaver** means that you can save time by performing the action described in the paragraph.

**Tips** provide information that might help you solve a problem.

1. New Features in PortaBilling100

Advanced ISP Billing

PortaBilling now includes extra features to give you maximum flexibility and a competitive edge when providing Internet access services. Your administrator can choose to charge Internet service customers based on either the time they spend online, or the amount of data they transfer:
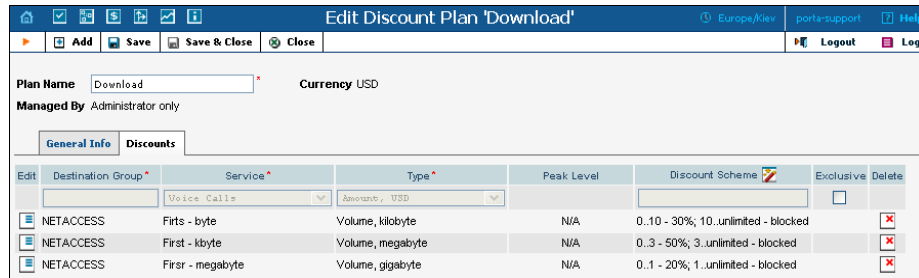
In both cases, billing happens in real time, and current use can be monitored via the PortaBilling web interface:
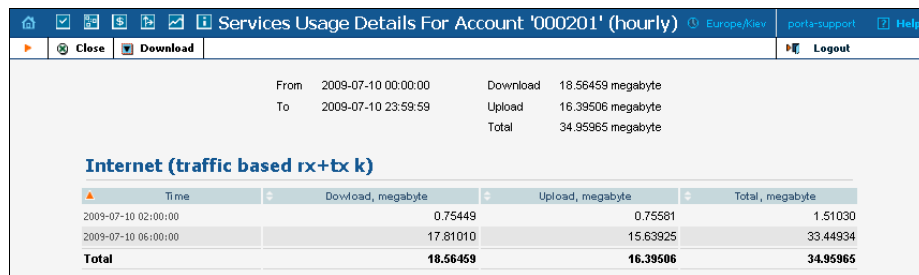

Other extra features include dynamic adjustment of available bandwidth based on the time of day, and flexible definition of peak and off-peak data transfer limits:
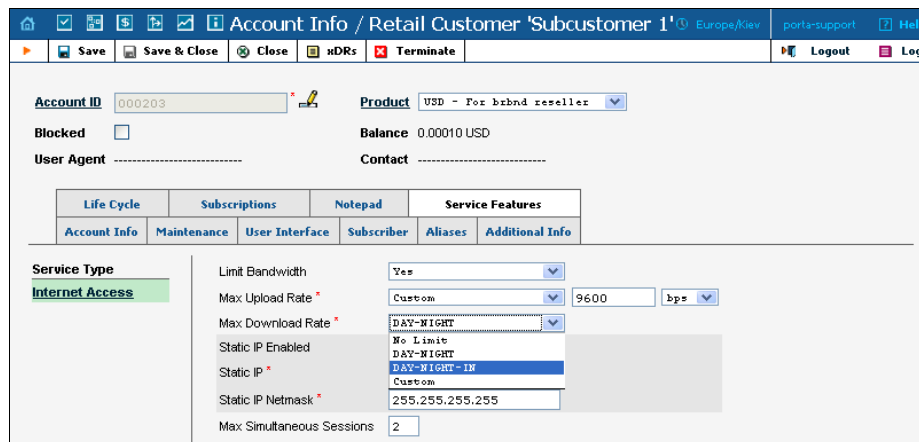
There is also the option of automatically terminating any sessions in progress when an account is blocked in PortaBilling; this can be done either via automated scripts, or by the administrator manually.

Access Number Routing

This gives you the ability to define on the web interface how calls to specific access numbers (DIDs) should be processed. For example, one access number may be routed to PortaUM for a prepaid card IVR, while another can go to PortaBridge for conferencing services:
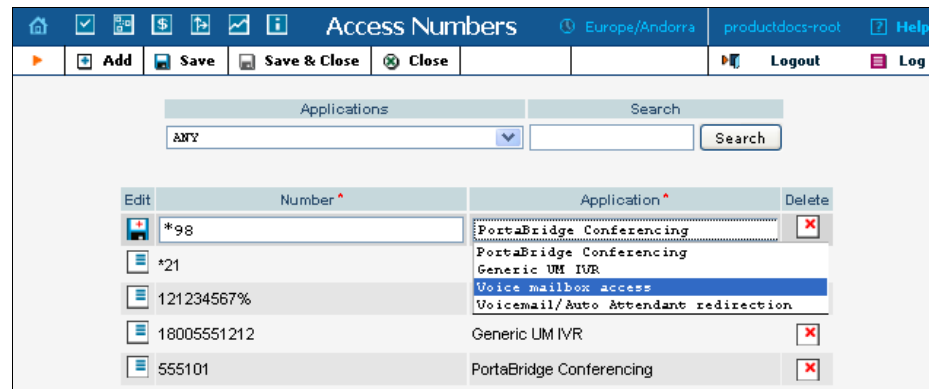
This greatly simplifies the management of different applications and services provided on your network.

Improved Tariff Upload Procedure

It is now possible to process rows in a data file which contain multiple prefixes in the same column. Also, a new configuration option allows a rate with an "effective from" date in the past (which thus cannot be uploaded) to be automatically mapped during upload to a rate which is "effective immediately":
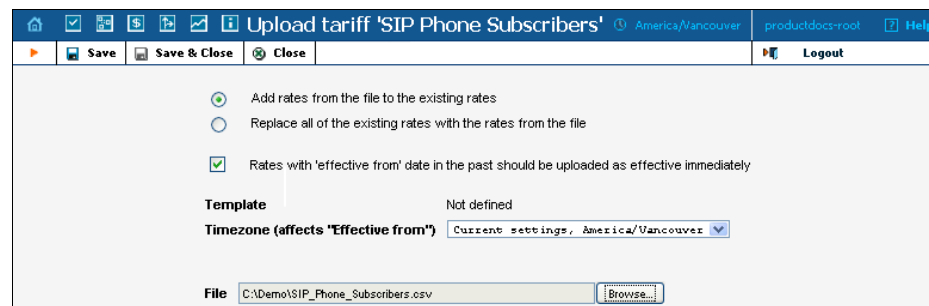
Improvements in the Invoicing Module

The "void invoice" and "invoice recalculation" tasks can now be performed directly from an easy-to-use PortaBilling web interface:
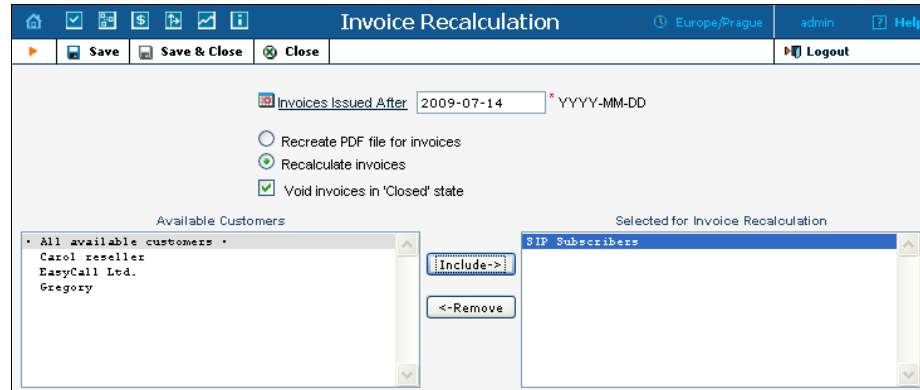
RT Integration for Call Detail Submission

Gathering all the required information regarding "problem" calls can be a tedious process. Having all the required information in the initial request would greatly speed up problem resolution. Now it is possible to submit a new ticket to PortaOne support directly from the PortaBilling call information screen, with all the required information automatically attached:
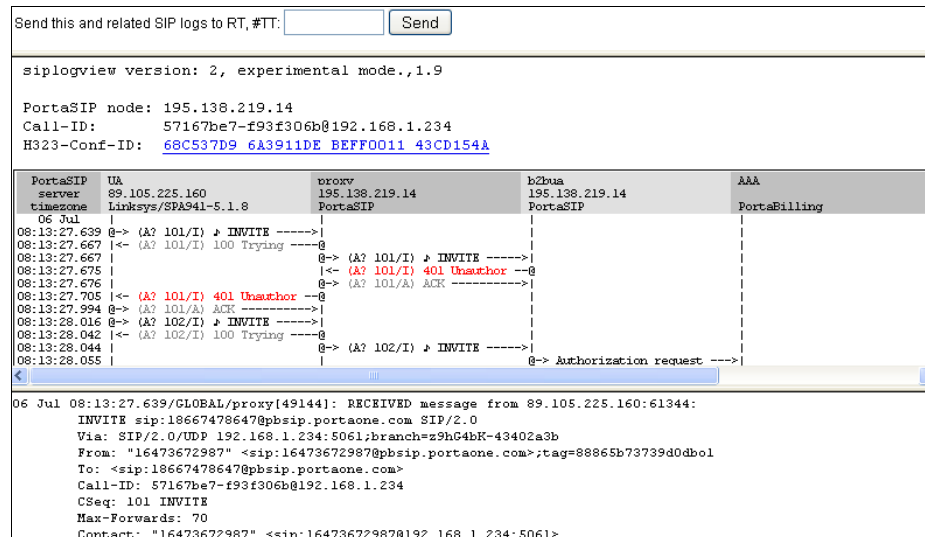
Node Management

The Node Management screen is now simplified for easier use:

Flexible Discount Plan Lookup

When searching for an applicable discount plan, PortaBilling can now pattern-match a dialed phone number against all destinations used in the volume discount definition:

This method disregards the destination used for rating in the tariff entirely, and simply performs a lookup of applicable destinations in the volume discount plan using the phone number dialed by the customer. This is done in the same way as a rate lookup is done in a tariff; thus if the customer dialed 4206021345678, the billing engine will choose a discount with a destination group that includes 420, 420602, or any other destination matching the dialed number. Since several matches can potentially be found (e.g. a first discount is defined for destination group A, which includes 420, and a second discount for destination group B, which includes 420602), the longest match is used (in our example, this would be the second discount).

2. New Features in PortaSIP

Call Scenario Management

Using a convenient web interface, your administrator can now manage the rules defining how PortaSIP handles incoming calls; for example, whether it should force the remote side to use digest authentication, or simply accept the remote IP address as the ID for authentication. Multiple rules can be defined, and various authentication methods can be employed. These include digest authentication, authentication by remote IP address, tech-prefix, CLI, and so on:

When the rule set is updated, the changes are automatically propagated to the PortaSIP server – no manual update or restart is required.
To simplify day-to-day operations even further, the rule set can be updated automatically whenever your administrator creates an account that seems to require IP authentication.

3. New Features in PortaUM

French and Portuguese Language Support

In order to allow ITSPs using PortaSwitch to expand their customer base even further, PortaUM now offers language support for French (all IVR applications and the web interface) and Brazilian Portuguese (applications such as calling card and balance recharge).