





New Features Guide

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PortaSwitch: New Features Guide, July 2012 Maintenance Release 27 V1.27.3

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Preface

This document describes new features found in PortaSwitch® Maintenance Release 27.

Where to get the latest version of this guide

The hard copy of this guide is updated upon 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

The **exclamation mark** draws your attention to important information or actions.

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 here.

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Tips provide information that might help you solve a problem.

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Routing override

PortaSwitch® provides excellent capabilities for real-time routing (LCR, profit-guarantee routing, individual routing plans, etc.). The key factor for determining routing is that a rate in the vendor's tariff contains the necessary attributes (such as cost, preference, etc.). During the routing calculation, PortaBilling® will automatically search for all available carriers and the applicable rates and then produce the optimal routing list. This allows the routing for any customer to react dynamically to even the slightest change in a vendor's rate, so there is no need to "rebuild" the routing table or do any other manual operations after a new tariff for the vendor is uploaded. This is one of the features of PortaBilling® most appreciated by people who manage carriers/routing, since it significantly reduces the amount of manual work.

Sometimes, though, it is necessary to make a minor adjustment for a single route only (e.g. traffic to Vietnam-Mobile from customer A should always go to carrier XYZ).

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Another common example is percentage-based routing: for instance, when sending out calls to UK-Proper 20% of the traffic should go to carrier A, and 80% to carrier B.



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Configuration of these scenarios has now become easier with the LCR override functionality. The administrator can create a list of connections for a destination group in the desired routing order, and the call will be routed according to this sequence before (or instead of) applying "normal" LCR routing. An entry in the override list can be a percentageshare connection pool, where each connection has a chance to be the first route proportionate to the assigned percentage value.

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This new tool will simplify some of the day-to-day routing configuration tasks and allow PortaOne customers to create even more flexible routing policies.

GUI for Geo profile management

This is an additional module for the VoIP Fraud Protection system introduced in MR26. It allows the administrator to conveniently create multiple profiles and then assign individual countries to a risk group inside each profile. This will be of great help to customers who provide products in different countries.

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Integration with Asterisk RADIUS module

The PortaBilling engine includes a new interface plug-in module which allows real-time collection of CDR data from Asterisk (Asterisk v1.8 using the "native" RADIUS client).

This enables ITSPs to offer an "outsourced" billing service to those customers who not only deliver outgoing calls to the service provider via a SIP trunk, but also need to distinguish the activity of individual users inside their PBX.

Auto-provisioning for new phones

The list of IP phones which are auto-provisioned by PortaSwitch has been extended to include the Siemens A580IP phone.

Improved transaction types for manual adjustments

Sometimes the administrator needs to intervene in the billing process and amend charges automatically produced by the system (xDRs for voice calls or Internet sessions, subscription charges, etc.). PortaBilling Maintenance Release 27 offers an improved set of transactions for adjusting a customer's bill. The main changes are:

- Reorganized set of transaction types for greater clarity;
- Ability to apply a transaction to a specific service for improved financial reporting;
- New "Refund" transaction type, which is the exact opposite of a "Payment" transaction, and is used to record an event that cancels out a previously made payment.

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The currently available set of balance transaction types includes:

Transaction	Description	Effect On	Opposite
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	TT 1'	Balance	
Manual	Use this transaction to	Increase	Manual
Charge	manually charge a		Credit
	customer for a specific		
	service they used.		
Manual	Use this transaction to	Decrease	Manual
Credit	manually give		Charge
	compensation related to a		
Due 10 - 1	specific service.	D	
Promotional Credit	Use this transaction to	Decrease	Manual
Credit	give the customer credit,		Charge
	for example, as a sales promotion. The difference		
	between this and "Manual		
	Credit" is that this		
	transaction applies to a		
	special "Credits /		
	Promotions" service, and		
	not to any actual service.		
	Basically, it provides some		
	"virtual" funds to the		
	customer for future use.		
Manual	Use this transaction when	Decrease	Refund
Payment	receiving a payment (e.g.		
	cash or check) directly		
	from the customer.		
Refund	Use this transaction to	Increase	Manual
	refund an earlier payment		Payment
	received from the		
	customer (e.g. a check		
	returned by the bank).		
E-Commerce	Use this transaction to	Decrease	E-
Payment	charge the customer's		Commerce
	credit card and apply the		Refund
	amount to the customer's		
E Can	balance as payment.	т	E E
E-Commerce	Use this transaction to	Increase	E-
Refund	reverse a previous E-		Commerce
	commerce payment. It withdraws funds from		Payment
	your company's merchant		
	account and applies them		
	as credit to the customer's		
	credit card. The amount is		
	cicult card. The allount 18		

	added to the customer's		
	balance.		
Authorization	Verifies that the	N/A	N/A
Only	customer's credit card is		
	valid and reserves a given		
	amount. Returns a		
	transaction ID to be used		
	in a Capture Payment		
	transaction. Does not		
	affect the customer's		
	balance in PortaBilling or		
	his credit card balance.		
Capture	Charges the customer's	Decrease	E-
Payment	credit card and applies the		Commerce
	amount to his balance as a		Refund
	payment (decreases the		
	customer's balance).		
	Requires a transaction ID		
	from the Authorization		
	Only transaction. The		
	amount must be less than		
	or equal to the amount of		
	the corresponding		
	Authorization Only		
	transaction.		

Redesigned CDR import module

The CDR import tool has been redesigned to allow easy customization of the CDR data manipulation process.

Whereas previously tasks such as converting values of individual fields from one format to another, conditional processing of CDR data, or external mapping (e.g. between IP addresses and actual carrier names) required the creation of a dedicated plug-in module, now code "snippets" may be placed directly in the configuration file for a specific CDR import instance. This makes it possible to reduce the average time required for developing and troubleshooting a module to support a new CDR file format.

The collection of CDR processing plug-ins has been extended to include two new modules for parsing CDR files:

- BroadWorks (BroadSoft)
- Cisco Call Manager (Cisco)

These modules work in the same way as other CDR import plug-ins: the CDR files are uploaded from an external source to PortaBilling, where they are immediately processed and sent to the billing engine for rating. As a result, the customer's balance is updated and CDRs are produced practically in real time.