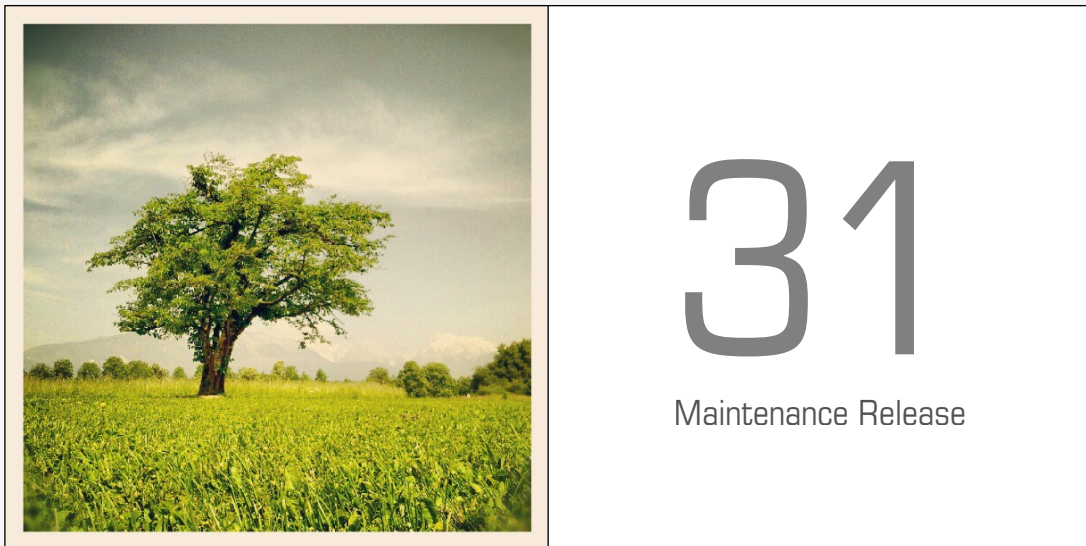


Porta  Switch[®]



New Features Guide

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Preface

PortaSwitch® Maintenance Release 31 is the next leap-forward release, consistent with the “fast releases, precisely on time” ideology introduced earlier in 2012.

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.



Tips provide information that might help you solve a problem.

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Direct Extension Dialing from Auto-Attendant

In addition to the existing mode that requires an end-user to select a “Dial extension” action first, PortaSwitch® now presents a new option for direct dialing an extension from Auto Attendant. Many service providers consider one of the sources of customer-base growth to be the migration of customers using legacy PBX systems or entry-level IP PBX systems to the IP Centrex service. Customers are motivated to make the migration because of the VoIP environment’s additional features offered by PortaSwitch®. These include easy centralized management, reliability and scalability. It is paramount to provide a smooth migration experience, i.e. by disrupting as few of the established procedures as possible, therefore allowing the customer to use the system in the way that they’re accustomed. A frequently used feature in legacy PBX systems is the ability to dial an extension immediately upon reaching an auto-attendant IVR menu (“If you know your party’s extension, you may dial it now...”). This is now available in the PortaSIP® auto-attendant application. The introduction of this feature should allow service providers using PortaSwitch® to migrate business customers to a hosted IP PBX service with ease.

JSON API (REST)

As an alternative to XML API, PortaBilling® now supports JSON API, thus providing your development department with a choice of methods and formats that can be used. Among the advantages of JSON API are the following:

- Simple data structures that can be easily read and written;
- JSON format is faster in parsing and generating data due to simple syntax, thus there is little influence on web server performance;
- Supports the same methods and structures as those in the SOAP;
- Simplifies the creation of front-end web sites that receive and modify data in PortaBilling® with minimum impact on performance.

Support for Contact Header in 180 Ringing Response.

PortaSIP® now sends a Contact header in the 180 Ringing responses for better interaction with certain gateways that are in strict compliance with RFC 3261.

OPUS Codec Support

PortaSwitch® is codec-agnostic regarding media stream content. A call can be connected between two devices using any codec (whether it is free, royalty-based, proprietary, encrypted, etc.) as long as both end-points support it and no special support is required from PortaSwitch®. The PortaSwitch® administrator may now filter out or enforce OPUS Speech and Audio codec (using the “Routing Filter” functionality of the “Routing Plan”) to provide better network utilization and ensure compatibility between customers and carriers.

The screenshot shows a web interface with three tabs: "General Info", "Connection Load", and "Routing Filter". The "Routing Filter" tab is active, displaying a table with two columns: "Codec Name" and "Requirement".

Codec Name	Requirement
CelB video codec	?
JPEG video codec	?
nv video codec	?
MPV (MPEG-1,MPEG-2) video codec	?
MP2T (MPEG-2) audio/video codec	?
H.261 video codec	?
H.263 (-1996) video codec	?
H.263-1998 video codec	?
H.263-2000 video codec	?
H.264 video codec	?
Theora video codec	?
UDPTL T.38 fax transmission	?
RTP T.38 fax transmission	?
Opus Speech and Audio Codec	?

At the bottom of the table is a "Set Requirement" dropdown menu. Below the table is a checkbox labeled "Enforce codec order".

Waiving Subscription Fees During Suspension

This new feature allows administrators to manage subscription charges applied to customers whose accounts have been suspended. Since customers cannot use the services while their accounts are suspended some subscription fees are therefore not applied.

Let's consider a few examples to see how the usage of this functionality can be beneficial:

- Subscription charges that are applied at the end of the billing period. Customer has a monthly subscription "ABC" of \$30. His October invoice was generated on November 1st with a due date of November 7th. The invoice was not paid and the customer was suspended on November 14th. Finally, the customer paid on November 20th and the suspension was lifted. When the invoice for November is produced on December 1st, the subscription charges will be \$24 (30 days - 6 days of suspension).
- Subscription charges that are applied in advance. Customer has a monthly subscription "ABC" of \$30 that is charged (1 month) in advance. On November 1st his invoice was generated that included subscription "ABC" charges for November 1-30, and the invoice total was \$30. The due date was November 7th. The invoice was not paid and the customer was suspended on November 14th. Finally, the customer paid on November 20th and the suspension was lifted. When the next invoice for November is generated on December 1st, the subscription charges will be \$24 (\$30 December charges - 6 days of suspension in November).
- Multiple subscriptions. Customer has a monthly subscription "ABC" of \$30 (with the **Charge Suspended Customers** option turned off) and an "IP phone rental" subscription of \$10 (with the **Charge Suspended Customers** option turned on). His October invoice was generated on November 1st with a due date of November 7th. The invoice was not paid and the customer was suspended on November 14th. Finally, the customer paid on November 20th and the suspension was lifted. When the invoice for November is produced on December 1st, the subscription charges will be \$34 (30 days - 6 days of suspension).

The “charge suspended customers” option can be enabled by ticking the **Charge Suspended Customers** check box on the **General Info** tab for individual subscription plans. For new subscriptions, the **Charge Suspended Customers** option is off by default, however, it is activated for all existing subscriptions during the update in order to ensure backward compatibility.

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Subscription Plan' interface for 'IP phone rental'. The 'General Info' tab is active. The 'Charge Suspended Customers' checkbox is checked and highlighted with a red box. Other fields include 'Name' (IP phone rental), 'Currency' (USD), 'Managed By' (Administrator Only), 'Invoice Line Description' (IP phone rental), 'Subscription Is Activated' (At the given start date), 'Activation Fee' (10.00000 USD), 'Minimum Subscription Period' (Months), 'Early Cancellation Penalty' (Fixed USD), 'Subscription Charges Applied' (At the end of the billing period), and 'Round Charged Amount' (xxxxx.xx000).