

Account Generator

The Account Generator should be used when large numbers of accounts are to be generated (for example, when issuing prepaid cards) so that individual accounts need not be entered manually. The account IDs will be generated either sequentially or randomly, as will the web password, as to prevent possible defrauding. The generation process will run offline, so that the accounts are not visible from the Account Management page until the process is complete. The customer will then receive an e-mail notification regarding completion of the task, as well as another e-mail listing all the accounts in CSV format, including the values “Batch”, “Control Number” (a sequential index), “PIN” (account ID), “Web login” (default identical to the account ID) and “Password” (web password).

The screenshot shows the 'Account Generator for Customer 'EasyCall Ltd'' interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Generate', 'Close', 'Objects', and 'Logout'. The main form area contains the following fields and options:

- Number of accounts:** 10
- Opening Balance:** 10
- Blocked:**
- Account Info tab:**
 - Type:** Debit, Credit, Voucher
 - Inactive:**
 - Generation method:** Random, Sequential, DID Inventory
 - ID Prefix:** 12
 - ID Length:** 11
 - Service Password:** Empty, Auto Generated, Auto Generated Digits Only
 - Customer Site:** None
 - Batch:** EasyCall, New batch

The **Account Generator** interface is very similar to [Add Account](#), with the following exceptions:

Field	Description
Number of Accounts (replacing Account ID)	The number of accounts to be generated.
<i>Account Info tab</i>	
Type	The account type may be “Debit”, “Credit”, or “Voucher”. Debit is usually associated with prepaid cards. Credit is an account that will be invoiced for incurred costs. Voucher accounts are “refill coupons” for other types of accounts.
Balance Control	<p>In most cases a customer makes a unified payment for all accounts and controls the credit limit at the customer level. Here you select whether to display the balance of individual accounts on a web interface:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subordinate – no individual account balance and credit limit. Select this if balance management is done for a whole company (a customer); Consider the following example: a company has several phone lines (accounts). The users make calls, thus the balance of the whole company increases. At the end of the billing period the company receives a consolidated invoice for the activities of all the accounts and sends a single payment which is then applied for all accounts. The payment is made and the balance of the company decreases. Individual Credit Limit – individual account balance and credit limit remain. Select this if you still want to operate with the balance of individual accounts.

Credit Limit	Only available when the account type is set to “Credit” and Balance Control to “Individual Credit Limit.” Defines the credit allowance in the account’s currency.
Generation method	Random will produce unique unpredictable account IDs with a specified length and prefix. Sequential will create accounts with incremental IDs, e.g. if the starting ID is specified as 55540000, it will create accounts 55540000, 55540001, 55540002 and so on; see below for more details. DID Inventory will generate accounts by assigning account IDs from the available DIDs in a specific DID batch; the user has the option of choosing the starting DID.
Inactive	Only available when the account type is set to “Debit” or “Voucher”. Check this box if you’d like to create an inactive account.
ID prefix	Preset leading digits in the account ID; leave empty to make the account ID totally random.
ID length	Total ID length, including ID prefix.
Starting ID	The initial digit set you would like the generated accounts to start with. Thus, if you enter 5553000, the account IDs (PINs) will look like this: 5553000, 5553001, 5553002 and 555300N, where N = subsequent digit. (This is only available in Sequential generation method, and is always numeric.)
Service Password	Can be generated automatically, or left empty to allow end-users to login using account ID only (typically used for prepaid cards). The “Auto-generated digits only” option allows you to create sufficiently secure passwords (with a specified password length) consisting of digits only, so that they can be entered from a phone’s touchpad.
Customer Site	Places this account (phone line) with a specific site so that the site parameters (e.g. number of simultaneous calls) will apply.
Batch	Accounts are grouped into batches. If a new batch name is provided in the text field, a new batch will be created when you add the account. Otherwise, an existing batch should be selected from the drop-down list. <i>Web Self-Care tab</i>
Login	Can be set as identical to the account ID, or left empty to disable access to the account self-provisioning interface.
Password	Can be generated automatically, or left empty to allow end-users to login using account ID only.

Assigning an account ID

Choose Random if you want a relatively small amount of unpredictable IDs within a large enough range of possible numbers. Please note that “random” means not only “generated randomly” but also “difficult to guess”; therefore, the ratio between the number of generated PINs and the number of total possible PINs should be sufficiently low. For instance, PortaBilling® will refuse to generate 5,000 PINs with ID prefix 33333 a ID length 9, because in this case there are 10,000 possible PINs; if we generate 5,000 actual pins, there is a 50% chance of using someone else’s PIN just by entering one wrong digit. Thus, in the example above, the PIN length should be set at 10 or even 11 digits (with a 5% or 0.5% chance of guessing the PIN, respectively). Note that random account PINs are never generated with leading zeroes, as these zeroes could be truncated when working with PIN data in programs like Microsoft Excel.

Choose Sequential if you want to generate a large number of accounts at once. You can choose the starting ID for the first account to be generated, and the system will generate IDs sequentially by an increment of one. If a given account ID is already used, it will be skipped and the system will continue until it generates the specified number of accounts. For example, if you requested 100 accounts with the starting ID prefix “1000000”, and there are already three accounts within the defined range (1000010, 1000011, 1000012), the first generated ID will be 1000000, the second 1000001, and the last 1000103. Account ID length is always the same for all generated accounts. So if there is not enough room to generate the specified number of accounts (e.g. you request 1,000 accounts with starting ID 999900), generation will not begin and a warning e-mail will be sent immediately.