

Off-peak Period Definition Wizard

To manage the available off-peak periods, select **Off-Peak Periods** on the **Tariff Management** screen.

The screenshot shows the 'Tariff Management' interface with the 'Off-Peak Periods' tab selected. The search criteria are set to 'ANY' for Applied To, Service, and Managed By. The table below lists various rates:

Rates	Name	Currency	Applied To	Service	Managed By	Routing	Description	Delete
	DID supplier costs	USD	Vendor	Voice Calls		No		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Internet Access	USD	Vendor	Broadband		No		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Prepaid cards	USD	Customer	Voice Calls	Administrator only			<input type="checkbox"/>
	SIP Phone Subscribers	USD	Customer	Voice Calls	Administrator only			<input type="checkbox"/>

The screenshot shows the 'Off-Peak Periods' screen with a list of defined periods:

Name	Description	Managed By	Test Period	Delete
Night	OFF PEAK 1: From 01:00 until 02:00 any day of any month OTHERWISE PEAK	Administrator only	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Off-peak time	PERIOD: From 05:00 until 15:00 any day of any month	Administrator only	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The screenshot shows the 'Off-Peak Period Definition' wizard. The 'Name' field is set to 'Weekend' and 'Managed By' is 'Administrator only'. The 'Off-peak rate is used if' section has three radio buttons, with the third one selected: 'Session starts and finishes during the off-peak period'. The preview area shows the following definition:

```

OFF PEAK 1:
Weekend
of any month
OTHERWISE PEAK
  
```

Below the preview, the start/stop formula is shown as `startstop:wd(sa su)`. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Cancel', 'Delete', 'Skip', and 'Next >'.

The Off-Peak Period wizard provides users with a flexible tool for defining a new off-peak period. On a sequence of screens, the user may select time interval, day of the week, day of the month, and month; multiple select is allowed. The following example illustrates the process of creating an off-peak period that starts at 6pm every day and lasts until 6am the next morning. Another off-peak interval is on weekends. We will also include some holidays, i.e. January 1st and December 24-26.

In the first screen, select 6pm in the **From** column, and 6am in the **Until** column. Now click the **Next** button. The two text areas on the right of the screen give the user a display of the current period definition. The top text area displays a verbal definition of the period – From 6:00pm until 6:00am, and the bottom one contains this same information in a format that can be parsed by PortaBilling -- `hr(6pm-5am)`. This sets up the first period; in order to continue, skip the following screens by pressing the **Skip** or **Next** button until the “Period definition completed” message is displayed, then press the **Add** button to add another definition to this period. The wizard now returns to the first screen.

NOTE: PortaBilling® treats all formula elements as “inclusive”. Thus, in the example above, 6pm to 6am will be represented as `hr(6pm-5am)`. This is perfectly correct, since 5am actually means “all of the 5th hour – 05:00:00 ... 05:59:59”.

Now for the weekends: pressing the **Skip** or **Next** button, go to the second screen and select *Weekend*, or, holding down the <Ctrl> key, select *Saturday* and *Sunday* from the list. Select the **Next** button and skip until the "Period definition completed" message is displayed. Press the **Add** button to add another definition to this period.

To include January 1st in the off-peak period definition, skip to the Day of Month screen, and select *1*. Click the **Next** button. Now select *Janua* click **Next**, skipping forward to the next screen. Follow the same steps to select the December 24-26 interval. Hold the <Ctrl> key down to select multiple entries.

On the next screen, you can choose how the system will charge calls which overlap with your off-peak period, i.e. cover both peak and off-peak time. There are three options you can choose from:


- If the call starts in the off-peak period, it will be charged using off-peak rates (even if part of the call was made during peak time). This method is the easiest and most transparent for end-user authorization of outgoing calls.
- If the call finishes during the off-peak period, it will be charged using off-peak rates; it does not matter whether it starts within the off-peak period or not.
- Or, the off-peak rate will only be used if the call both started and finished during the off-peak period. In this case, any call which partly extends into the peak period will be charged at the peak rate.

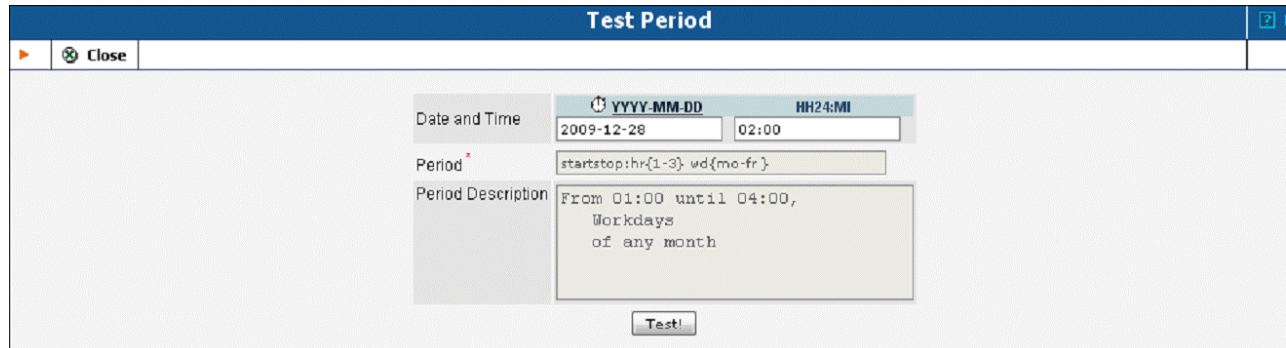
To evaluate your work, look at the top text area. The following text should be displayed:

```
From 6:00pm until 6:00am
  any day of any month
OR Sunday and Saturday
  of any month
OR 1
  of January
OR 24-26
  of December
```

If the definition is correct, click the **Finish** button.

Test the off-peak period

If you are unsure whether you have created a correct off-peak period definition, you may use the test utility to check if a specific moment in time fits into the period or not. In order to run the off-peak period test, either click the  icon on the off-peak periods page, or use the **Test Period** button on the last page of the off-peak period wizard.



Test Period	
Close	
Date and Time	<input type="text" value="2009-12-28"/> <input type="text" value="02:00"/>
Period	<input style="border: none; background-color: #e0e0e0;" type="text" value="startstop:hr{1-3} wd{mo-fr}"/>
Period Description	From 01:00 until 04:00, Workdays of any month
Test!	

Now simply enter any time / date and click the Test button to check whether this moment fits into the off-peak period definition.