

Rate Import

[Upload Rate Data into a Tariff](#)

[Start the Import](#)

[Review File Parsing](#)

[Review Data Fields Definition](#)

[Review Rate Information](#)

[Managing New Prefixes](#)

[Summary](#)

[How to ...](#)

[...upload tariff rates with country code and area codes in separate columns](#)

[...upload US Inter- / Intra- State Rates](#)

When operating as a VoIP service provider, you will routinely receive rate updates from your partners. Each carrier may send you updates as frequently as several times per week, so you can expect to need to work on uploading new rates daily in order to keep your rating and routing consistent. Obviously, you want to be able to upload the files you receive and let the system process them automatically, instead of entering each rate manually.

Upload Rate Data into a Tariff


Unfortunately, each carrier uses a different format for rate presentation: some use CSV files, while others use Microsoft Excel format; the layout of columns in these files usually varies; some carriers will provide phone numbers in E.164 format, while others will provide them in the local dialing format. If you were to process the data in each file individually so as to convert it into a format acceptable to your system, it would require a fair amount of manual processing each day, and might result in data errors.

PortaBilling® offers the ability to program data processing rules (called templates) for each type of rate file you receive, so that you can eliminate the need for any manual data conversion and save yourself a lot of time. Also, the rate upload process is interactive and provides a comparison between new rates and existing ones, so that you can review the rates being uploaded for validity and accuracy.

Let's have a look at how a rate import is performed. We will perform the rate upload for the "X-Telecom" termination tariff, proceeding step by step. You can then use this as a model for uploading any other tariffs.

NOTE: In PortaBilling®, the proper name for the initial portion of the phone number (used to determine which location or type of phone network this number belongs to) is **destination** (e.g. 44 for the United Kingdom and 442 for London, United Kingdom). In the VoIP business the same entity is frequently called **prefix** – so we will use these terms interchangeably.

Start the Import

1. On the Tariff Management page, click on the tariff name.
2. In the Edit Tariff window, click the  **Upload** button. You will see a screen like the one below:

The screenshot shows a configuration form for a tariff named "Termination to X-Telecom". The form includes fields for "Name", "Applied To" (Vendor), "Routing" (Yes), "Currency" (USD), and "Service" (Voice Calls). Below these are tabs for "General Info", "Web Upload & Download", "Email Upload", and "Notepad". The "Web Upload & Download" tab is active, showing various rate-related settings: "Default Off-Peak Period" (NOT DEFINED), "Destination Group Set" (UK MOBILE), "Free Seconds" (0), "Post Call Surcharge" (0.00000 %), "Login Fee" (0.00000 USD), "Connect Fee" (0.00000 USD), "Round Charged Amount" (xxxxxx.xxxxx), "Default Formula", "Short Description", and "Description". A red dashed arrow points from the "Name" field down to the "Description" field.

The screenshot shows the "Rate Upload for Tariff 'Termination to X-Telecom'" interface. It features a "File Upload" section with a "File" field containing "New_Rates_X-Telecom.csv" and a "Choose File" button. Below this are three radio buttons: "Add rates from the file to the existing rates" (selected), "Replace all of the existing rates with the rates from the file", and "Rates with 'effective from' date in the past should be uploaded as effective immediately". There are also two checkboxes: "Skip rates with the same data" (checked) and "Rates with 'effective from' date in the past should be uploaded as effective immediately" (unchecked). The "Template" dropdown is set to "Create New Template" and the "Timezone" dropdown is set to "Current settings, America/Vancouver". A "Next" button is located at the bottom right.

Let's now discuss the available options and their effect.

Add or replace rates

This option controls behavior in respect to rates which were already defined in the tariff at the time of import. The default is to **add** new rates into the tariff. So when the new rates appear, and there is an existing rate for a certain prefix, the new rate will simply override the old one. If a rate for a certain prefix is in the tariff but is not given in the file you received from the carrier, it will stay unchanged. This mode is frequently used, since most of the time your partners will send you rate updates only, i.e. the file will contain only a small subset of prefixes for which the price has changed.

In some cases, however, you need to ensure following import that the tariff structure matches the provided file exactly, so that there are no "old" rates remaining. This is normally done when your carrier changes the structure of the prefixes and sends you a "replacement" rate update. In this case, you will want to use **replace** mode, which uploads all the new rates and then marks rates for all prefixes not present in the uploaded file as discontinued.

NOTE: To prevent a situation where some rates would be discontinued erroneously because a new rate was not uploaded due to a data error (e.g. a typo in the price column), discontinuation of rates will take place only if there were no errors in uploading

rates.

Effective from

PortaBilling® allows each rate to be assigned an “effective from” date, so that an automated rate change can be easily scheduled for the future. Thus if your carrier sends you a file which indicates the date when a specific rate becomes effective, this can be extracted from the file and added to the rate information in PortaBilling®. Sometimes it may happen, though, that you receive the file later than expected, when the moment at which the rate was supposed to become effective has already passed. In order to protect data integrity, it is impossible to upload the rate and assign an “effective from” date in the past, since CDRs for calls previously made will have already been rated according to the old rate and stored in the database (see the xDR rerating topic for more information about how this situation can be resolved). By default, a rate entry effective from a date in the past will be rejected and not inserted into the tariff. Alternatively, you may choose to insert these rates into the tariff, but effective from the current moment; to do so, please tick the appropriate check-box.

Skip duplicate rates

Sometimes carriers will include all prefixes in a rate update file, even if for some of them no change in pricing has occurred. If you upload the whole rate file, it will create duplicate rate rows. This has no effect on the way calls are billed, but it will increase the amount of entries in the rate table and, in the long run (if it occurs continually), have a negative effect on performance.

In order to prevent this, simply activate the option to skip duplicate rates. This will slightly increase the time it takes to upload the whole rate file (since PortaBilling® will have to check the already existing rates and compare them with the new ones). If rate parameters such as price, preference, and so on turn out to be identical, no extra (excess) rate will be inserted. We use this mode in our example (and certainly recommend using it whenever possible).

Finally, choose the rate file and click **Next**. The file is uploaded to the server, and we move on to the next step.

Review File Parsing

The purpose of this screen is to verify that the general structure of the file has been determined correctly, so that the data can be properly extracted. There are different ways to organize data files: for instance, CSV files, despite their name (comma-separated values) can use semi-colons or other characters as a separator. PortaBilling® attempts to make a best guess, but it is important to review the results and, if necessary, change the settings according to your preference.

Review File Parsing

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Destination	Price 1	Price N	Off-peak price 1	Off-peak price N	First Interval	Next In
2	1866	0.40	0.30	0.24	0.16	30	6
3	4411	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	30	6
4	44	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	30	6
5	446	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.04	30	6
6	445	0.043	0.043	0.04	0.04	30	6
7	4473	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	30	6
8	4470020	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	30	6
9	4470431	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	30	6
10	447060	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	30	6
11	4470775	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	30	6
12	551692	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04		
13	553392	0.09	0.05	0.09	0.05		
14	551580	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04		

Show more rows

Delimiter: ; (semicolon)

Text Qualifier: " (double quotes)

Delimiter For Multiple Destinations: , (comma)

Data Start At Row: 2

Back Next

Multiple prefixes in the same cell

Typically one row in the table contains the rate information for a single phone prefix (destination) such as 447 or 447527. Sometimes you may receive a file from the vendor where multiple prefixes are placed in the same table cell as shown in the screenshot below.

Microsoft Excel - x-telecom-verizon.xls

U.K.-Mobile Hutchison 3G

Destination	Time of Day	Effective Date	Curr	Rate Per Minute	Country Code	City/Mobile Codes
U.K.	STD	01/12/2009	US\$	0.0054	44	44
U.K.-Mobile Hutchison 3G	STD	01/12/2009	US\$	0.1066	44	447400,447401,447402,447403,447533,447575,447576,447577,447578,447588,447723,447727,447728,447735,447737,447782,447828,447830,447832,447838,447846,447848,447853,447859,447861,447862,447863,447865,447868,447869,447877,447878,447882,447883,447886,447888,447897,447898,447915,447916,447988
U.K.-Mobile Orange 05	STD	01/12/2009	US\$	0.1223	44	447527,447528,447529,447530,447531,447536,447556,447579,447580,447581,447582,447583,447772,447773,447779,447790,447791,447792,447794,447800,447805,447807,447811,447812,447813,447814,447815,447816,447817,447837,447854,447855,447866,447870,447875,447890,447891,447896,447929,447964,447965,447966,447967,447968,447969,447970,447971,447972,447973,447974,447975,447976,447977,447980,447989,4475320,4475321,4475322,4475323,4475324
U.K.-Mobile Others	STD	01/12/2009	US\$	0.1554	44	447
U.K.-Mobile T-Mobile 05	STD	01/12/2009	US\$	0.0856	44	44794,447504,447505,447506,447507,447508,447534,447535,447538,447539,447550,447572,447573,447574,447722,447726,447757,447758,447804,447806,447847,447852,447903,447904,447905,447906,447908,447910,447913,447914,447930,447931,447932,447939,447950,447951,447952,447953,447954,447956,447957,447958,447959,447960,447961,447962,447963,447981,447982,447983,447984,447985,447986,447987
U.K.-NGN 0844	STD	01/12/2009	US\$	0.4600	44	44843, 44844
U.K.-NGN 0845	STD	01/12/2009	US\$	0.0488	44	44845
U.K.-Ngn 0870 (BT Only)	STD	01/12/2009	US\$	0.2422	44	44870

something else) will be used to separate the individual prefixes in the **Delimiter For Multiple Destinations** field. This way, during the upload, the system will treat each occurrence as if there is a separate row in the table for each prefix.

In our case, it looks as if the file was parsed properly, so we can click **Next** and move on to the next step

Review Data Fields Definition

This is a very important step, since we need to identify where individual data elements (e.g. destination prefix or price) are located in the file, and map them to the attributes (data fields) for the rate. You can imagine what would happen if the system were to confuse them.

PortaBilling® applies some artificial intelligence, and usually guesses quite well where the specific columns are; but, obviously, you need to check whether the data fields have been assigned to the proper columns, and adjust them if necessary.

Review Data Fields Definition

Pages: 1 2 > > Jump to 1 Total: 2 1-20 of 21

	Destination	First Price	Next Price	Off-peak First P...	Off-peak Next P...	F
	A	B	C	D	E	
1	1866	0.40	0.30	0.24	0.16	
2	4411	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	
3	44	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
4	446	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.04	
5	445	0.043	0.043	0.04	0.04	
6	4473	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
7	4470020	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
8	4470431	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
9	447060	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
10	4470775	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
11	551692	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
12	553392	0.09	0.05	0.09	0.05	
13	551580	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
14	57591564	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	
15	57591562	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	

Pages: 1 2 > > Jump to 1 Total: 2 1-20 of 21

Back Next

On the right you see the **Available Fields** select menu, which represents all the attributes of the rate record. You can drag and drop fields from here to the table headers in order to associate a particular data field with a column. A blue label will then remain at the top of the column, signaling that the values in this column (e.g. column A) will be used for the specified rate data field (e.g. **Destination**). Also, the data field in the list will be highlighted – this allows you to quickly see which data fields are already assigned.

You can also drag a label to a different column (thus associating the data field with a different column) or back to the **Available Fields** menu (the data field will then not receive any input values from the file).

The **Format** select menu allows you to adjust the way PortaBilling® interprets the values in the table cells, e.g. whether a leading 00 should be stripped off or considered part of the phone prefix, or whether a comma (,) or a dot (.) should be considered as a decimal separator for numbers.

original value, e.g. append or remove characters, increase or decrease numeric values. It can also perform advanced operations, e.g. look up the current exchange rate for the vendor's currency and convert the value into the currency you use.

What if the file does not contain a value for a certain data field?

This is another common situation: the carrier may not have included some important information (e.g. rounding intervals) in the file, or it could be that you simply need to assign the value based on your own decision (e.g. when uploading rates from carrier ABC, you will mark them as the Cheap route category). In this case, you may leave the data field unassigned to any column in the file, and simply type a value in the **Default Value** field.

The screenshot shows the 'Review Data Fields Definition' interface. The main table has columns: Destination (A), First Price (B), Next Price (C), Off-peak First P... (D), Off-peak Next P... (E), and First Interv... (F). The table contains 15 rows of data. On the right, the 'Available Fields' list includes Destination, Destination Group, Destination Description, First Interval, Next Interval, Next Price, Next Price, Off-peak First Interval, and Off-peak Next Interval. The 'Properties' panel shows 'Link With' (empty), 'Format' (sec), 'Default Value' (30), 'Apply default value' (Only if there is no existin...), and 'Postprocessing Rule' (empty). Navigation buttons 'Back' and 'Next' are at the bottom.

	Destination	First Price	Next Price	Off-peak First P...	Off-peak Next P...	First Interv...
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	1866	0.40	0.30	0.24	0.16	
2	4411	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	
3	44	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
4	446	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.04	
5	445	0.043	0.043	0.04	0.04	
6	4473	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
7	4470020	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
8	4470431	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
9	447060	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
10	4470775	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
11	551692	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
12	553392	0.09	0.05	0.09	0.05	
13	551580	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
14	57591564	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	
15	57591562	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	

What if you need to associate a single column with more than one data field?

For instance, the carrier only supports a single "rounding interval" rating parameter, and so they provide a single column only (column D, in our example). In PortaBilling®, however, you have **First Interval** and **Next Interval**. In this case, you will associate one data field with the column, and then click on the other data field and link it to the first one (select the first field name in the **Link With** menu).

Review Data Fields Definition

Pages: 1 2 > >= Jump to 1 Total: 2 1-20 of 21

	Destination	First Price	Next Price	Off-peak First P...	Off-peak Next P...	First Interv
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	1866	0.40	0.30	0.24	0.16	
2	4411	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	
3	44	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
4	446	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.04	
5	445	0.043	0.043	0.04	0.04	
6	4473	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
7	4470020	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
8	4470431	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
9	447060	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
10	4470775	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
11	551692	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
12	553392	0.09	0.05	0.09	0.05	
13	551580	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
14	57591564	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	
15	57591562	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	

Pages: 1 2 > >= Jump to 1 Total: 2 1-20 of 21

Back Next

Available Fields

- Destination
- Destination Group
- Destination Description
- First Interval
- Next Interval
- First Price
- Next Price
- Off-peak First Interval
- Off-peak Next Interval

Properties

Link With: First Interval

- Destination
- First Interval
- First Price
- Next Price
- Off-peak First Price
- Off-peak Next Price

Only if there is no existin

Postprocessing Rule

What if you want to “preserve” some of the already assigned rate attributes?

Quite often you will initially upload all the rates from a given carrier with a default preference (e.g. 5) or route category (e.g. Default). After that, you start to fine-tune your routing based on quality reports, testing, customer feedback, and so on. Let’s assume that, in this particular vendor’s tariff, the preference for prefix 44 was changed to 8 (to reflect the fact that this is our preferred vendor for this destination) and the preference for prefix 447 was changed to 3 (here we actually decided to move the vendor to the bottom of the routing list for this particular destination). Now, if we were to simply upload the rate file, it would assign the default value (5) for preference to all the new rates, and our subsequent routing adjustments will be lost.

To prevent this, you may specify that the default value should only be applied if there are no existing rates for this prefix in the tariff.

Review Data Fields Definition

Pages: 1 2 ≥ ≤ Jump to 1 Total: 2 1-20 of 21

	Destination	First Price	Next Price	Off-peak First P...	Off-peak Next P...	First Interv
	A	B	C	D	E	F
6	4473	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
7	4470020	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
8	4470431	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
9	447060	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
10	4470775	0.1	0.09	0.09	0.08	
11	551692	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
12	553392	0.09	0.05	0.09	0.05	
13	551580	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
14	57591564	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	
15	57591562	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	
16	57562959	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	
17	670	0.05	0.05	0.045	0.045	
18	33156	0.10	0.06	0.08	0.04	
19	38044	0.60	0.50	0.40	0.30	
20	38066	1.00	0.90	0.90	0.80	

Pages: 1 2 ≥ ≤ Jump to 1 Total: 2 1-20 of 21

Back Next

Available Fields

- Off-Peak Period
- Payback Rate
- Forbidden
- Hidden
- Route Category
- Preference
- Huntstop
- Discontinued
- Off-Peak Category

Properties

Link With

Format

1234

Default Value

5

Apply default value

Only if there is no existin

Only if there is no existing value

Always

Thus the parameter value from the existing rate will be copied into the new one, so that the new rate for 44 will retain preference 8, and the rate for 447 – preference 3.

Tip: In PortaBilling® you configure the rate information using two parameters: the price for the first interval (**First Price**) and the price for subsequent intervals (**Next Price**). Most of the wholesale carriers do the rating using only one parameter: price per minute. So when importing such a file into PortaBilling® you would need to assign the **First Price** data field to the column that contains the price and then link the **Next Price** to it. Since it is a very common operation, for your convenience the rate import wizard contains a special data field: **Price**. If this “virtual” data field is assigned to a column, then the value found there will be used for both **First Price** and **Next Price** rate parameters.

Ready to move forward?

In order to proceed, you must assign the **Destination** and **Price** data fields to columns in the file.

The **Destination Description** field is not required for the actual rate import, but it will be very useful later on if there are any new destinations created.

Tip: In order for the destination description to be *automatically* filled in it is needed to create a “**Destination Description**” column and fill in some descriptive information in the file before the upload procedure.

Click **Next** to proceed.

Review Rate Information

The rate import wizard will process the rate data according to the rules previously specified and present the results on the screen for review before storing them in the database.

Review Rate Information

Prefix Country Description ▶ **A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

Show only rows with data errors

Pages: 1 [2](#) [>](#) [>>](#) Jump to Total: 2 1-20 of 21

	Destination	Country Description	Status	Price		Off-Peak	
				First	Next	First	Next
1	1866	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	↑	0.40000(+0.18000) 0.22000	0.30000(+0.08000) 0.22000	0.40000(+0.18000) 0.22000	0.30000(+0.08000) 0.22000
2	4411	UNITED KINGDOM	↑	0.02000(+0.01000) 0.01000	0.02000(+0.01000) 0.01000	0.02000(+0.01000) 0.01000	0.02000(+0.01000) 0.01000
3	44	UNITED KINGDOM Proper	↓	0.03700(-0.00300) 0.04000	0.03700(-0.00300) 0.04000	0.03700(-0.00300) 0.04000	0.03700(-0.00300) 0.04000
4	446	UNITED KINGDOM Mobile		0.04100	0.04100	0.04100	0.04100
5	445	UNITED KINGDOM Mobile	↑	0.04000(+0.00200) 0.03800	0.04000(+0.00200) 0.03800	0.04000(+0.00200) 0.03800	0.04000(+0.00200) 0.03800
6	4473	UNITED KINGDOM	D+	0.10000	0.09000	0.10000	0.09000
7	4470020	UNITED KINGDOM	D+	0.10000	0.09000	0.10000	0.09000
8	4470431	UNITED KINGDOM	D+	0.10000	0.09000	0.10000	0.09000

Pages: 1 [2](#) [>](#) [>>](#) Jump to Total: 2 1-20 of 21

The **Status** column shows the comparison between the current rate and the new rate in the PortaBilling® file so you can quickly understand exactly how the rate will change. A red arrow indicates a price increase (this destination is more expensive) and a green arrow indicates a price decrease (making it cheaper to call that destination). In the **Price** field you can also view the actual price differences.

The duplicate rates (i.e. the rates that have exactly the same parameters as already existing ones in the database) are highlighted as inactive and therefore appear grey.

If you *do* wish to add an inactive rate, it is necessary to manually activate it. Click on the icon at the end of the row to activate the rate. When activated, the rate color will change to black.

Review Rate Information

Prefix Country Description ▶ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Show only rows with data errors

Pages: 1 2 > > Jump to 1 Total: 2 1-20 of 29

	Destination	Country Description	Status	Price		Off-Peak	
				First	Next	First	Next
4	4411	UNITED KINGDOM United Kingdom		0.01000	0.01000	0.01000	0.01000
5	4420	UNITED KINGDOM London		0.04200	0.04200	0.04200	0.04200
6	445	UNITED KINGDOM Mobile	↑	0.16600(+0.12800) 0.03800	0.16600(+0.12800) 0.03800	0.16600(+0.12800) 0.03800	0.16600(+0.12800) 0.03800
7	444	UNITED KINGDOM Mobile		0.03700	0.03700	0.03700	0.03700
8	446	UNITED KINGDOM Mobile		0.04100	0.04100	0.04100	0.04100
9	4470	UNITED KINGDOM Premium		0.03500	0.03500	0.03500	0.03500
10	448	UNITED KINGDOM Premium		1.80000	1.80000	1.80000	1.80000
11	1866	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA United States	↓	0.17600(-0.04400) 0.22000	0.17600(-0.04400) 0.22000	0.17600(-0.04400) 0.22000	0.17600(-0.04400) 0.22000

Pages: 1 2 > > Jump to 1 Total: 2 1-20 of 29

You can edit the rate data right here (for instance, you negotiated a special last-minute rate change with the carrier or you wish to change route category) – just double-click on the specific cell in the table and enter a new value.

NOTE: Only active rates can be edited.

Click **Next** in order to proceed.

Managing New Prefixes

This screen only appears if the rate file contains any prefixes you haven't yet defined in your system and it allows you to add new prefixes quickly and efficiently. This process takes a very little time and reduces the chances for error.





Create New Destinations

Prefix Country Description ▶ **A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z**

Hide destinations with assigned groups
 Hide destinations with assigned countries

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-12 of 12

<input type="checkbox"/>	Destination	Country	Description	Destination Groups		<input type="checkbox"/>
				Tariff	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4473	UNITED KINGDC		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4470020	UNITED KINGDC		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4470431	UNITED KINGDC		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	447060	UNITED KINGDC		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4470775	UNITED KINGDC		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	551692	BRAZIL		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	553392	BRAZIL		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	551580	BRAZIL		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	57591564	COLOMBIA		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	57591562	COLOMBIA		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-12 of 12

Carriers frequently send rate files containing prefixes that have not yet been defined in your system. These prefixes must be added into the system in order for rates to be created for them – so the big questions are: ‘how will this affect the routing and billing on your system in general?’ and ‘how will other carriers and customers be affected?’

When adding a new destination, extra parameters may be provided in addition to the actual prefix - see below.

Assigning the country

Each destination is associated with a country. For a new destination the association has to be made before it can be inserted into the database. It is a good idea to upload the default set of destinations provided with PortaBilling®, or some other set that contains, at the least, destinations for each country, e.g. United Kingdom – 44, Germany – 49, etc. Then PortaBilling® can correctly assign the country name to the majority of new prefixes. Thus you do not need to choose the country for *each* destination manually (e.g. if you try to upload a destination 33040, but there is already a more generic one 33 in the system and the country has been defined as France – the upload wizard will propose assigning the number 33040 to France as well). If required, a country for the new destination may be chosen from the drop-down list on the **Create New Destinations** page.

NOTE: This is a required step – the rate import cannot proceed until each of the new prefixes has been assigned to a country.

Sadly, both the US & Canada pose the biggest challenges, since they (plus a handful of other countries, like Bermuda) share the prefix 1. This makes it impossible to guess the country code just by looking at the phone number. For instance, 1204 is Manitoba, Canada and 1205 is Alabama, US! In these cases you will need to manually assign country codes for these destinations. The good news is that new area codes for the US & Canada do not appear that often.

Create New Destinations

▶ 1 Prefix Country Description ▶ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Hide destinations with assigned groups
 Hide destinations with assigned countries

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-1 of 1

	Destination	Country	Description	Destination Groups		
				Tariff	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/>	120576	Not Applicable	ALABAMA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- TUVALU
- UGANDA
- UKRAINE
- UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
- UNITED KINGDOM
- UNITED STATES MINOR OUTLYING ISLANDS
- UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
- URUGUAY
- UZBEKISTAN
- VANUATU
- VATICAN CITY
- VENEZUELA
- VIETNAM
- VIRGIN ISLANDS, BRITISH
- VIRGIN ISLANDS, U.S.
- WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS
- WESTERN SAHARA
- YEMEN
- ZAMBIA
- ZIMBABWE

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-1 of 1

In our example we will assign the 670 destination to the country East Timor.

Rate Upload for Tariff 'Termination to X-Telecom' America/Vancouver demo Help

Close Logout Log

Create New Destinations

▶ 6 Prefix Country Description ▶ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Hide destinations with assigned groups
 Hide destinations with assigned countries

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-1 of 1

	Destination	Country	Description	Destination Groups		
				Tariff	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/>	67042	TIMOR-LESTE	TIMOR L'ESTE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- SLOVENIA
- SOLOMON ISLANDS
- SOMALIA
- SOUTH AFRICA
- SOUTH GEORGIA AND SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS
- SOUTH SUDAN
- SPAIN
- SRI LANKA
- SUDAN
- SURINAME
- SVALBARD AND JAN MAYEN ISLANDS
- SWAZILAND
- SWEDEN
- SWITZERLAND
- SYRIA
- TAIWAN
- TAJIKISTAN
- TANZANIA
- THAILAND
- TIMOR-LESTE**

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-1 of 1

Including a destination into a destination group

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could potentially mean thousands), manually. So for instance, when the new destination 4473 is being added – it may be a good idea to immediately include it into a destination group (within the destination group set that's associated with this tariff) – UK-Mobile in this case. Then the next time someone updates the UK-Mobile rate, the change will be applied to this prefix as well. See the screenshots below for the sequence of actions.

Rate Upload for Tariff 'Termination to X-Telecom' America/Vancouver demo Help

Close Logout Log

Create New Destinations

4473 Prefix Country Description A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Hide destinations with assigned groups
 Hide destinations with assigned countries

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-1 of 1

	Destination	Country	Description	Destination Groups		
				Tariff	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4473	UNITED KINGDC	UK MOBILE VODAFONE	+	+	-

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-1 of 1

Back Next

The screenshot shows two overlapping windows. The background window is titled "Create New Destinations" and displays a table with one entry: Destination 4473, Country UNITED KINGDC, and Description UK MOBILE VODAFONE. The foreground window is titled "Assign Destination Group" and shows a search for "UK MOBILE" with a list of prefixes: 440, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 449. A red dashed arrow points from the "UK MOBILE" entry in the foreground window to the "Next" button in the background window.

The screenshot shows the "Create New Destinations" window with the "Destination Groups" column added to the table. The entry for 4473 UK MOBILE VODAFONE now includes "UK MOBILE" in the "Tariff" column and a "+" icon in the "Other" column. The window title is "Rate Upload for Tariff 'Termination to X-Telecom'".

	Destination	Country	Description	Destination Groups		
				Tariff	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4473	UNITED KINGDC	UK MOBILE VODAFONE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK MOBILE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In some cases it may also be beneficial to include this destination into groups that are in other destination group sets. In our example, the new destination 4473 (UK-Mobile-Vodafone) is detected while uploading rates into the tariff of carrier X-Telecom (which has the X-Telecom destination group set associated with it). You

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prefix will appear and he can apply the special pricing for it.

Rate Upload for Tariff 'Termination to X-Telecom' America/Vancouver demo Help

Close Logout Log

Create New Destinations

4473 Prefix Country Description A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Hide destinations with assigned groups
 Hide destinations with assigned countries

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-1 of 1

	Destination	Country	Description	Destination Groups	
				Tariff	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	4473	UNITED KINGDC	UK MOBILE VODAFONE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK MOBILE	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-1 of 1

Back Next

Close Logout Log

Create New Destinations

4473 Prefix Country Description A B C D E

Hide destinations with assigned groups
 Hide destinations with assigned countries

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1

	Destination	Country	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	4473	UNITED KINGDC	UK MOBILE VODAFONE

Assign Destination Group

Search Name Prefix

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-8 of 8

Group Set	Group	Prefixes
1234	europa	380
Retail	EUROPE	31, 32, 33, 34, 377, 39, 4
Calling Cards	FIXED	441, 442, 44870
Internet Access	Internet Access	NETACCESS
Calling Cards	MOBILE	440, 443, 444, 445, 446,
UK MOBILE	UK MOBILE	440, 443, 444, 445, 446,
destinations groups for \	US and Canada	1201, 1202, 12021, 120
Retail	USA&Canada	1201, 1202, 12021, 120

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-8 of 8

Close

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-1 of 1

Back Next

Close Logout Log

Create New Destinations

▶ 4473 Prefix Country Description ▶ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Hide destinations with assigned groups
 Hide destinations with assigned countries

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-1 of 1

	Destination	Country	Description	Destination Groups		
				Tariff	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4473	UNITED KINGDC	UK MOBILE VODAFONE	UK MOBILE	UK MOBILE UK MOBILE	-

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-1 of 1

Back Next

Multiple similar destinations

In our example you may notice that there are several destinations (55123, 55124, 55125, etc.) which look very similar. That's because they belong to the same country (Brazil) and they are in the same destination group (Brazil-Mobile).

In order to save time and avoid assigning parameters to each one of them manually, you can do the following: assign the required parameters to just one of them, select the others using the checkbox on the left side of each row and then move the mouse over to the rows that don't have parameters assigned. A popup menu will appear – choose **Apply to Selected** and this will automatically change all the rows.

Please see how the change is applied to several prefixes for Brazil below.

Create New Destinations

Prefix Country Description ▶ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Hide destinations with assigned groups
 Hide destinations with assigned countries

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-3 of 3

	Destination	Country	Description	Destination Groups		
				Tariff	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/>	551692	BRAZIL	BRAZIL CELLULAR	+	Brasil Mobile ✗ Brasil Mobile	-
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	553392	BRAZIL	BRAZIL CELLULAR	+	+	Apply to selected Reset selected
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	551580	BRAZIL	BRAZIL CELLULAR	+	+	-

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-3 of 3

Back Next

Create New Destinations

Prefix Country Description ▶ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Hide destinations with assigned groups
 Hide destinations with assigned countries

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-3 of 3

	Destination	Country	Description	Destination Groups		
				Tariff	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/>	551692	BRAZIL	BRAZIL CELLULAR	+	Brasil Mobile ✗ Brasil Mobile	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	553392	BRAZIL	BRAZIL CELLULAR	+	Brasil Mobile ✗ Brasil Mobile	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	551580	BRAZIL	BRAZIL CELLULAR	+	Brasil Mobile ✗ Brasil Mobile	-

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-3 of 3

Back Next



Tip: You can filter the list of new destinations by country or hide the destinations that have already been assigned a country or destination group. For this action, use the **Select All** button in conjunction with **Apply**

Will adding a new destination while uploading rates for carrier ABC will it affect my other carriers:

Customers who are used to old-style routing systems are very concerned about adding new prefixes, since on many of those, a carrier with a longer prefixes in their tariff would all of a sudden get priority routing (although it is not the cheapest or the one with better quality). Attempts to “harmonize” the prefixes (to ensure that all carriers use the same prefix set) require lots of manual labor and are Sisyphean in scope: the moment you finish changing the prefixes and things are finally looking good, one of the carriers sends you an updated prefix list and you have to start the task all over again.

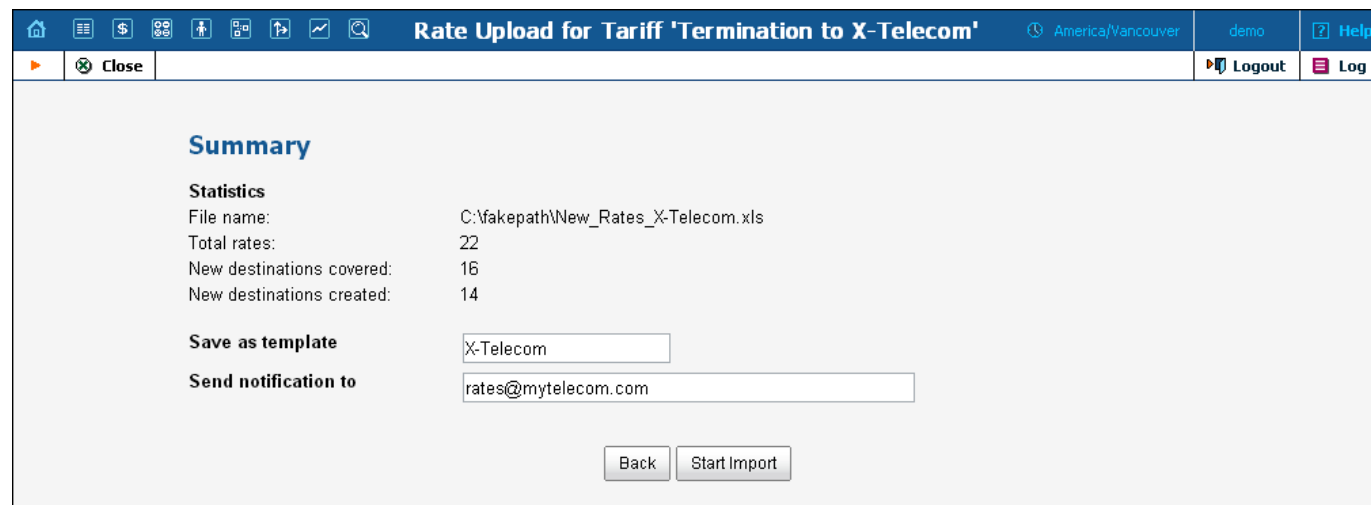
This is not the case with PortaBilling®, which uses a true real-time routing engine giving each carrier their own set of prefixes for the tariff. When the routing is calculated, available routes are compared based on cost, preference and route category – never on the prefix length. So if you upload the rate for 4471 for carrier A (and other carriers only have prefixes 44 and 447) – when a routing for a call to 4471234567 is computed, the 4471 rate will be compared by price and preference with the rates for 44 or 447 from other carriers (who don’t have the 4471 prefix). Consequently, the system always produces a correct routing and you don’t have to worry about adding new prefixes that are only used by a few carriers.

I do not want to add a destination right now, what do I do?

You can delete the destination from the list of destinations that will be automatically created during the import by using the  delete button. Note that in this case, the rate for this destination will not be imported (since there is no destination to associate it with). To undo the delete destination action, click the  button, respectively.

Summary

On the **Summary** page, you will see an overview of information about the number of rate records to be processed. You can also specify a name under which the current import settings will be saved as a template. Later you can re-use them when uploading rates into this or other tariffs.



The screenshot shows a web application window titled "Rate Upload for Tariff 'Termination to X-Telecom'". The window has a blue header with navigation icons and a "Close" button. Below the header, there are "Logout" and "Log" buttons. The main content area is titled "Summary" and contains the following information:

Statistics	
File name:	C:\fakepath\New_Rates_X-Telecom.xls
Total rates:	22
New destinations covered:	16
New destinations created:	14

Below the statistics, there are two input fields:

- Save as template:** X-Telecom
- Send notification to:** rates@mytelecom.com

At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "Back" and "Start Import".

You may specify who should receive a report about the rates being uploaded, and then click **Start Import** to launch the rate import process.

The report will contain following information:

- Total rates processed - the total number of rates in the imported file
- Total rates created - the total number of rates created including the newly created rates (the rates which were not present in the tariff prior to the import) and the overwritten ones
- Old rates overridden - reflects the total number of rates, which were updated (i.e. the previous rates were replaced by the new ones for some destination)
- Skipped (due to errors) – the number of rates that contained errors (e.g. a typo in the price column) and therefore were not added to the tariff. The information about the occurred errors you can see in the e-mail with the tariff upload report

Rate Upload for Tariff 'ABC Tariff' America/Vancouver demo Help

Close Logout Log

Review Data Fields Definition

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-2 of 2

	Country Prefix A	Destination B	C	Destination Desc... D	E	First Inter... F
1	44	203-205		UNITED KINGDOM	UK - London	60
2	44	725,726,727		UNITED KINGDOM	UK - London	60

Available Fields

- Price
- Country Prefix
- Destination
- Destination Description
- First Interval
- Next Interval
- First Price
- Next Price
- Off-peak First Interval

Properties

Link With:

Format: E.164

Default Value:

Apply default value: Only if there is no existin

Postprocessing Rule:

Pages: 1 Jump to 1 Total: 1 1-2 of 2

Back Next

The result of performing the above-mentioned actions should look like the following:

Rates for Tariff 'ABC Tariff' America/Vancouver demo Help

Add Save Close Upload Tariff Logout Log

Effective From: Now Destination: Number Prefix Group Country

Edit	Destination *	Country Description	Type	Interval, seconds *		Price, USD/minute *		Effective From YYYY-MM-DD HH24:MI:SS *	Delete
				First	Next	First	Next		
<input type="checkbox"/>	44203	UNITED KINGDOM UNITED KINGDOM	Peak	60		0.19000		2013-10-23 07:17:37	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	44204	UNITED KINGDOM UNITED KINGDOM	Peak	60		0.19000		2013-10-23 07:17:37	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	44205	UNITED KINGDOM UNITED KINGDOM	Peak	60		0.19000		2013-10-23 07:17:37	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	44725	UNITED KINGDOM UNITED KINGDOM	Peak	60		1.29000		2013-10-23 07:17:37	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	44726	UNITED KINGDOM UNITED KINGDOM	Peak	60		1.29000		2013-10-23 07:17:37	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	44727	UNITED KINGDOM UNITED KINGDOM	Peak	60		1.29000		2013-10-23 07:17:37	<input type="checkbox"/>

...upload US Inter- / Intra- State Rates

Simply specify “_USInterIntraState_” in the **Off-peak Period** field. For Interstate rates specify the price in the **First Price** and **Next Price** fields; for Intrastate – in the **Second Off-peak First Price** and **Second Off-**

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O			
4	Default Of	Default	Destination C	Free Seco	Post Call Surcharge	Login F	Conne	Formula	Update	Usage	Time							
5				0	0	0	0		Always									
6																		
7	Destinatio	Destine	Country	Description	Off-peak	Period	First Int	Next Ir	First Price	Next Price	Off-pea	Off-p	Off-pea	Off-p	Second Off-peak	First Price	Second Off-peak	Next Price
8	1352		UNITED STA	Florida	USInter	IntraState	1	1	1.5	1.5	1	1	1	1		0.5		0.5
9	1202		UNITED STA	Kentucky	USInter	IntraState	1	1	2.22	0.7	1	1	1	1		0.3		0.3

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