

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Telecommunications Relay Services)	
And Speech-to-Speech Services for)	
Individuals with Hearing and Speech)	CG Docket No. 03-123
Disabilities)	
)	
Petition for Temporary Waiver)	WC Docket No. 05-196
)	
_____)	

PETITION FOR TEMPORARY WAIVER

I. Introduction

CSDVRS, LLC, hereby respectfully requests a temporary waiver of the requirement contained in the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC or Commission) new rules on Internet-based ten-digit numbering that directs providers to ensure that “all CPE they have issued, leased or otherwise provided to VRS or IP Relay users delivers routing information or other information only to the user’s default provider.”¹ The purpose of this rule is to ensure that video end user equipment only sends routing information to a consumer’s current default provider. The objective is to ensure that when a user has the device of one provider, but has ported his number to a different provider, the break with that first provider is complete: only the new default

¹ *In the Matter of Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Dkt. No. 03-123, FCC 08-151, 23 FC Rcd 11591, ¶¶60-61, codified at 47 C.F.R. §64.611(e)(1) (2008) (Numbering Order). Nothing in this petition is intended to request a waiver from the requirement to dial around to other providers on a per call basis, in compliance with the FCC’s interoperability requirements.

provider then has access to the user's routing information for provisioning to the central database.²

II. No Industry-Wide Standard Exists for Routing Information from All Video Devices

On August 15, 2008, CSDVRS joined with three other providers in a Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification in which we explained that under the way that the FCC established the ten-digit numbering system, it is the user's device that allows for the routing information to update the central database through the user's current default provider.³ If that device has been given to the consumer by one VRS provider, and the individual who received that device ports his number to a new provider, the user's new default provider does not have the ability to collect routing information from that device, and therefore has no way of updating the database on its own, without the assistance of the provider who had given that device to the user.

While CSDVRS understands the interest in only having the new default provider update the central database with IP addresses, at this point, there remains no technical solution that has been approved by all providers – through a collaborative and standards-setting process – to ensure that the user will be able to continue using the equipment he has received from one provider after porting a number to a new provider. More specifically, an industry standard containing technical specifications to enable VRS providers to communicate with devices that have been designed and developed by other

² See also 47 C.F.R. §§64.611(c)(2); Numbering Order at ¶¶60-61.

³ Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification by CSDVRS, LLC, GoAmerica, Inc., Viable, Inc., and Snap Telecommunications, Inc., CG Dkt. No. 03-123 & WC Dkt. No. 05-196 (August 15, 2008).

providers is still needed to enable customers to use the phone of one provider with the services of a different default provider. Although providers have begun the process of discussing how to establish such a standard, additional months are needed to work out a standard that is fair to all providers, properly vet such a standard, develop and add the required software to the applicable equipment, and take other steps to fully implement the standard.⁴ It is virtually impossible to accomplish all of these tasks before December 31st. Until such specifications are finalized, each provider's equipment will only be able to deliver routing information to that provider and a waiver of 47 C.F.R. §64.611(e) is in order.

III. Conclusion

At present, there is no industry standard to enable providers to accept routing information delivered by end user equipment that has been distributed by other providers.⁵ Until such time that such a standard is developed – to enable each VRS provider to equate routing information to a phone number for each and every device that *it or other VRS providers* have issued, leased or otherwise provided – CSDVRS and other

⁴ Under one approach to this standard, the video equipment distributed by a provider would lose many, if not most, of its features and functionalities (e.g., address book, speed dial, and other user interface features), except the basic ability to complete a call, once the user has ported his number to a new default provider. Stripping the phone of virtually all of its features is likely to be wholly unacceptable to consumers, and brings into question what user needs must be incorporated into an industry standard to enable new default providers to acquire routing information from end user equipment that is not their own. This is among the many issues that need to be resolved, with consumer input, before adoption and implementation of a standard.

⁵ Note that by analogy, nor is there an industry standard for VoIP devices to interface with each other. For example, a subscriber to Vonage receives a Vonage device that only works with Vonage. If that subscriber ports his number to Verizon, he will need Verizon end user equipment.

providers do not have a means for the equipment they distribute to be used by consumers who have ported their services to a new default provider, as is required in 47 C.F.R. §64.611(e). Nor (though not specifically required by the order) is there any way for providers to serve as the default providers for consumers who continue using the videophones of other providers in time for the December 31, 2008 deadline.

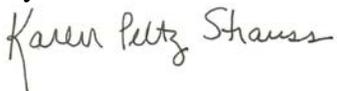
CSDVRS wishes to clarify that even with the requested temporary waiver from this routing information requirement, the only portion of the order that will be affected is the ability of a consumer to bring over a device from one provider to another; it will not in any way affect the underlying ability of a consumer to acquire a number, make and receive calls to and from that number, register a location, and enjoy full E911 capabilities using that number. CSDVRS fully intends to meet these and all other requirements of the FCC's rules pertaining to the distribution and maintenance of ten-digit phone numbers and the fulfillment of all E911 emergency call handling obligations in a timely fashion.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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