

Does this mean that Sorenson Communications' filing a petition seeking clarification that only one VRS provider may assign telephone numbers to any particular Internet-based TRS device is the opposite of what AT&T did in 1960s when they decided to disband the Baudot technology by donating TTYs to deaf people and moved onto the current computer world using the ASCII technology?

If this is the case, it would mean that we, deaf people, will be going another round of time-consuming, energy-consuming voluntary lobbying to maintain cost-ineffective band-aid policies to include soon-to-be, if not already, obsolete H.323 in futuristic technologies, including current SIP.

Historically, we, deaf people, BOUGHT obsolete couplers/modems and TTYs using only Baudot code discarded by AT&T between 60s and 80s while they (AT&T) concentrated on futuristic ASCII network to be interoperable with then IBM computers (PCs). Since then, instead of dissolving the obsolete technology, all text relay services, including Internet Relay, must include Baudot code today. The rationale of preserving the obsolete technology was to protect the PAYING consumers/users' rights to keep their obsolete equipment.

Should Sorenson be complimented for preserving the paying consumers/users' rights to maintain their soon-to-be obsolete equipment? Let's look into this further. The soon-to-be obsolete H.323 videophones (VP100/200) have NOT been bought by anyone. ALL of them are still owned by Sorenson and are being "generously" LOANED out to only deaf people (http://www.sorensonvrs.com/docs/VP100200_agreement.pdf). In my book, the definition of "consumer" in this particular case happens to be Sorenson Communications who is the ONLY paying consumer/NON-user. In other words, the filing is actually to protect Sorenson Communications at the expense of people with hearing disabilities.

To ensure people with hearing disabilities receive EQUAL opportunities to appreciate current and future technologies with minimum band-aid approach, it is strongly recommended that this filing be filed in the circular file basket.