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Total Conversation through ITU-T & IETF Standards: Sign, Type, and Speak – You Decide

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It's All About

“Total Conversation”

- The ITU-T and IETF are working on standards that bring about the convergence of
 - Voice telephony
 - Video telephony
 - Text telephony
- These standards aim to enable what it calls “Total Conversation”

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Defining the Multimedia Service

- The ITU-T defined a series of service specifications and included text and video as components of the multimedia services (F.700 and F.703)
- Several multimedia protocols evolved, including:
 - H.323 – Multimedia communication over packet-switched networks (ITU-T)
 - SIP – Session Initiation Protocol (IETF)
 - H.320 - Multimedia communication over ISDN (ITU-T)
 - H.324 – Multimedia communication over low bit-rate links (phone lines and mobile phones) (ITU-T, 3GPP)
- Multimedia systems largely focused only on voice and video

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Standards focused on Disabilities

- H Series Supplement 1 – Raised awareness about sign language and lip reading as it relates to video quality
- Standards to allow text conversation:
 - ITU-T T.140 defines a representation of text suitable for transmission over IP networks and able to support all languages in the world
 - IETF RFC 2793 defines how to transport T.140 over IP
 - H.323 and SIP can utilize RFC 2793 to transmit text

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ToIP Objectives

(“Text over IP”)

- Focused on bridging two PSTN networks via IP
- Allow for character-by-character text communication
- Allow for simultaneous two-way conversation, along with voice and video (inherent limitations of the PSTN an obstacle)

- Standardize on an international character set (Unicode)
 - Support all standard TTY device types defined in ITU-T V.18
 - Enable different device types to communicate through each other by using the gateways as “interworking” devices (see next slide)
 - Enable legacy, PSTN devices to communicate with newer, IP-based systems
- ToIP Site: <http://www.packetizer.com/iptel/toip/>

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Graphic: IP Network “cloud” titled RFC2793. Three components are attached to IP “cloud”: 1) Gateway SMS/IM to RFC2793; 2) PSTN Gateway; and 3) PSTN Gateway. From the Gateway, connection to PC for instant messaging. Wireless connection to cellphone with SMS. From one PSTN Gateway, there is a PSTN v.21 link to the United Kingdom V.21 TTY device. From the other PSTN Gateway, there is a PSTN-Baudot link to U.S. Baudot TTY device. The IP Network also connects to an IP End Point (phones, voicemail, and IVR), and to PC (IP softphone)

RFC-2793 Enables Global TTY Communications

- Today, TTY devices are islands and cannot communicate with other text devices or other TTY protocol around the world
- A new standard enables global TTY communications (e.g. V.21 to Baudot)
 - RFC-2793 enables transport of real-time text over VoIP
 - V.151 defines how to use RFC 2793 between PSTN gateways, allowing interconnection of dissimilar TTY types (expected ratification late 2004 / early 2005)
- RFC-2793 enables text communication revolution
 - Integration with IP End Points (e.g. IP Phones, Voicemail, Softphone, etc.)
 - Integration with Instant Messaging (70M users)
 - Integration with wireless Short Messaging Systems (75M US users – IDC 2003, 1.3B world-wide users – Radicati)

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Graphic: Video Relay Service computer screen, cell phone with video, video phone, and text telephone.

Ultimate Goal – Total Conversation

- To allow any device to support the transmission of video and/or text signals
- To allow a user on a PC connected to an IP network to chat with a user on a legacy PSTN TTY device
- To improve communications with the widespread adoption of video
- To allow a user with a wireless PDA to communicate with anybody in the world
- To *not require* special tools for communications

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Conclusion

Enable Video, Text, and Voice Communications. So you can Sign, Type, or Speak. You Decide.