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RESPONSES TO

Consultation Paper on Definition of International Traffic

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

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Summary

Background

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is responsible for regulating telecommunication services in India and ensuring the interests of consumers and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs). Recently, TRAI received a request from two entities regarding the treatment of their SMS traffic. They requested that TSPs classify their transactional messages as domestic instead of international.

In response, TRAI approached the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to clarify the definition of international messages. However, DoT stated that there is currently no specific definition to differentiate between Domestic and International SMS.

To address this issue, TRAI has initiated a consultation process and is seeking stakeholders' comments on the definition of international traffic. The goal is to incorporate these comments into the license agreements and provide clarity on how SMS traffic should be classified.

Issues discussed by TRAI

Domestic Traffic: Understanding the Components and Definition

- India's Telecommunication Circles

India is divided into 22 telecommunication circles, which facilitate the flow of telecommunication traffic and grant licenses.

- Components of Domestic Traffic

In the Unified License Agreement (ULA), the term "domestic traffic" lacks a clear definition. However, the ULA defines two essential components: intra-circle and inter-circle traffic.

- Inter-Circle Traffic

Inter-circle traffic refers to telecommunication traffic that originates in one telecom circle and terminates in another. For example, if a person in Mumbai calls someone in Delhi, the traffic generated by that call would be considered inter-circle traffic.

- Intra-Circle Traffic

Intra-circle traffic involves telecommunication traffic that originates and terminates within the same telecom circle. For instance, if a person in Mumbai makes a phone call to someone else in Mumbai, the traffic for that call would be considered intra-circle traffic.

- Evaluating the Need for Definition

"domestic traffic" in the ULA.

International Traffic: Understanding the Components and Definition

- Definition of International Traffic

The Unified License Agreement (ULA) defines "international SMS" as a type of "international traffic." However, there is currently no comprehensive definition of "international traffic." It is loosely described as international long-distance traffic originating in one country and terminating in another, where one of the countries is India. Authorities prefer a broader definition of "international traffic" that encompasses all types of telecommunication traffic, including domestic and international.

- Complexities of International Traffic

International traffic involves intricate aspects related to the international long-distance network (ILDN) and international long-distance services (ILDS). The ULA has defined both ILDN and ILDS as essential components. ILDN represents the transmission network between an international long-distance service provider and an international destination, establishing international interconnection. ILDS, on the other hand, refers to the provision for interconnection over ILDN.

Routing international long-distance traffic presents challenges in terms of network interconnection and security concerns, as ILDS operates in collaboration with national long-distance (NLD) service providers and licensees.

Therefore, the current definition provided by the authority is incomplete in capturing these complexities.

- Evaluating the Need for Definition

Considering that the components of international traffic are already defined in the ULA, suggestions are requested on whether there is still a need to explicitly define the term "international traffic" in the ULA.

To read the complete Consultation Paper, click here.

Consultation satisfaction

😞 0   😐 0   😐 1   😃 0

Other responses

👤 **Citizen Leader [Name undisclosed]**

1. Do you think it's necessary to clearly define the terms 'domestic traffic' and 'international traffic' in the Unified License Agreement (ULA)? If yes, please provide your suggested definitions for these terms and explain why you think it's important to have these definitions.

step for several reasons. Clarity and Consistency: The clear definitions would ensure a common understanding among all stakeholders, including Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), consumers, and regulatory authorities, leading to consistent practices in classifying and treating telecommunication traffic. Fair Treatment: Proper classification of traffic as domestic or international would result in fair treatment for both consumers and TSPs, ensuring that services are accurately billed and regulated according to the appropriate category. Regulatory Guidance: The guidelines provided within the ULA would offer regulatory guidance to TSPs, helping them make informed decisions regarding the classification and treatment of different types of telecommunication traffic. Stakeholder Inclusion: By initiating a consultation process and seeking stakeholders' comments, TRAI is fostering transparency, inclusiveness, and participation. This approach ensures that diverse perspectives and industry insights are considered, resulting in robust and well-informed regulations. Enhanced Industry Efficiency: Clear definitions and guidelines would facilitate smoother operations for TSPs, streamlining processes related to traffic management, billing, and compliance. This, in turn, can contribute to the overall efficiency and growth of the telecommunication industry in India. Additional Suggestions: Definition of Hybrid Traffic: Consider including a definition for "hybrid traffic," which refers to telecommunication traffic that involves elements of both domestic and international communication. This would provide clarity in cases where the traffic originates and terminates within the same telecom circle but involves international elements. Guidelines for SMS Traffic Classification: Provide specific guidelines for telecom service providers on how to classify SMS traffic as domestic or international. This would ensure consistency and accuracy in the classification process and minimize potential disputes or confusion. International Roaming Traffic: Discuss the classification of international roaming traffic, which involves subscribers using telecommunication services while traveling abroad. Providing guidelines for the treatment and classification of

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telecommunication traffic. Impact Assessment: Conduct an impact assessment to evaluate the potential implications and effects of defining domestic and international traffic. This assessment should consider factors such as regulatory compliance, operational feasibility, and the impact on consumers and telecom service providers. Collaboration with International Regulators: Engage in discussions and collaborations with international regulators and industry bodies to gain insights and best practices regarding the definition and treatment of domestic and international telecommunication traffic. This would help align Indian regulations with global standards and foster international cooperation.

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