

BRIEFING INTERCONNECT

Artificial Inflation of Traffic (AIT) - Use of Email Briefing Reference 053-11

IMPACT MATRIX		
END USER	CP	SYSTEMS
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Dots in the sections above are a guide to briefing impact

This briefing progresses the 1 September 2011 email trial for AIT notification under Annex E of the Standard Interconnect Agreement (SIA).

In Interconnect briefing 042-11 dated 15th June 2011, BT proposed a trial of email as a mechanism to replace facsimile (fax) for the serving of AIT notices, recognising that fax is increasingly a legacy product and it is noticeable that email is being used more and more. It is intended that ideally the trial would roll-on into permanent practice – so there is contractual provision for that to happen on 1st February 2012 if neither party has terminated the trial by written notice on or before 31st December 2011.

This Briefing is to invite Communication Providers (CPs) to be part of a trial with effect from 1st September 2011. The requirement for participating at the start of the trial will be by submission of the signed documentation before 31st August 2011. Initially we had proposed publishing on a website the details of the AIT e-mail addresses for each participating company, which would have required the trialling CPs to check the list each time they served a notice. The process now proposed will be simple: when BT passes on the A1 Retention Notice to the TNO who is a triallist, then it would indicate that notices are to be sent by email, and the address to be used; and similarly in the equivalent information copied by BT to the ONO who is a triallist. Then each month a list of those participating in the AIT Email Notification Trial will be circulated to all triallists. Essentially therefore this just adds the email option for the triallists to the existing process.

For the duration of the trial, those companies participating would then exchange AIT notices with each other by email. When triallists exchange notices with CPs who are not participants in the trial, the current contract arrangements would still apply. And of course, non-participants in the trial will continue to send all their notices under the existing contract arrangements.

Briefing 042-11 pointed out that it is the responsibility of each party participating in the trial to ensure that they have adequately covered the need for evidence of service of notices by email.

We shall shortly be forwarding to each CP a letter inviting them to participate in the trial, enclosing a Supplemental Agreement (the AIT Notification Supplemental Agreement), to be signed and returned. If the signed Supplemental Agreement is returned to BT during August 2011, then with effect from 1st September 2011 email would become the contractual mechanism for subsequent new AIT Notices to BT and for Notices to those triallist CPs specifically identified in each BT transit A1 Retention Notice. (Note: Exchange of Notices for AIT cases already in train would continue under the existing notification arrangements).

Also enclosed with that letter will be a contacts proforma to be completed and returned at the same time to facilitate the obligation in the Supplemental Agreement to supply names, email addresses and other contact details. (There will of course be an ongoing obligation on you to keep those details up-to-date).

All CPs will notice on some A1 Retention Notices that there is an annotation against some email addresses that “[Note to email triallists: notices should be exchanged by email with this CP]”. This is merely a flag that that CP is an email triallist, and therefore an indicator to any other email triallist that all notices served between them should be by email. It has no effect or relevance for CPs who are not participating in the trial.

This briefing has been issued after consultation with the industry AIT group who are supporting the 2011 AIT SIA Contract Review.

If you have any questions please contact Mike Chalmers-Hunt

mike.chalmers-hunt@bt.com

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