



Introducing
Budget Allocation
on
VOIP Trunk and Trunk Groups

White Paper

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Document History

Version	Date	Description of Changes
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Table of Contents

1 INTRODUCTION.....4

2 BUDGET TRUNKS.....5

 2.1 CONFIGURING BUDGET TRUNKS.....5

 2.1.1 *Initial and Normal Charge Periods*.....6

 2.2 BUDGET TRUNK BEHAVIOUR.....7

1 Introduction

The Com.X line of PBX and SIP Gateway telephony products is incredibly flexible, offering a platform with assorted interfaces and multiple trunking options. This allows for a Com.X to be deployed in a setting requiring multiple outbound trunks, sending calls over a variety of protocols and mediums.

In such a scenario, it may be advantageous to use certain trunks preferentially up until a particular usage threshold has been exceeded.

Most examples of this kind of scenario would require the reloading of an allocated budget of a particular number of minutes as per regular time interval.

To facilitate such behaviour, the Com.X line provides Budget Trunk functionality.

2 Budget Trunks

Each Voip trunk and trunk group can be configured as a budget trunk. These trunks are associated with a variable call minutes value that depletes as outbound calls are completed.

Once the remaining minute value of a trunk or trunk group depletes to below zero, the associated trunk or group is bypassed in outbound call route.

A user-selected minutes value is reloaded to each budget trunk on either a monthly or weekly reload schedule.

2.1 Configuring Budget Trunks

To configure budget settings on any VOIP trunk, or any trunk group, select the trunk, or group, from the trunks panel of the Com.X GUI, right-click and select the Budget Settings.

Field	Value
Budget mode:	Skip When Depeleted
Reload period:	Monthly
Reload day/date:	1
Initial charge period (sec):	30
Normal charge period (sec):	1
Reload minutes:	2000
Carry over (%):	20
Current minutes:	0
Last reload date:	
Next reload date:	2012/01/01

Figure 1: Budget configuration settings

By entering appropriate values for the fields in Table 1, configure the budget settings to best match the tariff structure offered by your service provider.

Field	Content
Budget Mode	Select whether the trunk has an associated budget will be skipped in outbound calling routes when the budget is reduced to zero. Budget trunking is enabled when this is set to Skip When Depleted.
Reload Period	Selects the frequency at which the monthly budget is loaded on to the trunk. Monthly and Weekly patterns are available.
Reload day/date	The day of the week/month on which the budget will be reloaded. If the reload period is weekly, the reload day can vary between 1 and 7, corresponding to Monday and Sunday respectively. If the reload period is monthly, days 1 to 28 are available and indicate the date on which the budget is to be reloaded.
Initial Charge Period (Seconds)	The initial time threshold at which calls of shorter duration will be billed.
Normal Charge Period (Seconds)	The incremental number of seconds at which calls are billed once the duration has surpassed the Initial Charge Period.
Reload Minutes	The number of minutes to reload to the system on the selected reload date.
Carry Over (%)	This indicates the percentage of the remaining unused minutes at the end of the reload period to be carried over into the next period.
Current Minutes	The initial minutes to be added to the trunk as soon as budget options are configured.
Last Reload Date	Automatically populated: This field serves to indicate the last date on which minutes were reloaded to the trunk group.
Next Reload date	Automatically generated: This field serves to indicate the date on which the next reload of minutes is scheduled.

Table 1: Budget Trunk configuration Options.

2.1.1 Initial and Normal Charge Periods

Often a service provider will bill calls under a particular threshold duration at the rate of that duration and thereafter per second. In practice this may take the form of a plan that charges 60 seconds for all calls under 60 seconds and thereafter in increments of 1 second.

This would be achieved with an Initial Charge Period of 60 seconds and a Normal charge period of 1 second.

Another example may be a structure that bills 60 seconds for all calls less than 60seconds in duration and then bills in increments of 30seconds for every 30seconds or part thereof. This would be achieved with an Initial charge period of 60seconds and a normal charge period of 30seconds.

Note: Budget trunk configurations are backed up as a part of the configuration back up. If a backup is made whilst a trunk has minutes remaining, these minutes will be set as the Current Minutes field when the backup is restored. For accurate budget trunking, this field needs to be manually reset to zero after a configuration back up has been restored.

2.2 Budget Trunk Behaviour

Budget trunking allows for outbound calls to be completed only whilst the budget remaining on the trunk exceeds zero seconds. In the event that the remaining budget on the trunk depletes to zero or beneath, no outbound calls over that trunk will be permitted. Trunkgroups with zero budget will be bypassed in outbound routes, and routes containing only trunks with zero budget will be disabled.

Note: If the remaining budget exceeds zero seconds, an outbound call can be placed. If the budget declines to zero during a call, no further outbound calls will be allowed, but any current calls will be allowed to be completed, which may result in a negative remaining budget.