Source: BT on behalf of Consult21


Introduction
This issue was raised at the Consult21 Systems & Processes Working Group meeting on 8 September 2006 and it was recommended that the issue should be raised with NGNuk.

Note: The issue was also raised at the NICC B2B Working Group meeting on 18 September 2006 which was attended by a limited number of NGNuk members.

Summary of Issue
This draft Recommendation, which is based on a US standard, contains the requirements and analysis (i.e. protocol neutral model) for Trouble Administration functions for the Business to Business and Customer to Business interfaces in support of NGN. Once approved, protocol specific interfaces will be specified. This recommendation is the first of a series of Recommendations which will contain standards for the NGN “business to business” (B2B) and “customer to business” (C2B) interfaces.

During the ITU-T’s approvals process, BT voted against immediate approval of M.3343 for the following reasons:
- M.3343 does not align with prior and current UK industry work on B2B interfaces for Trouble Ticketing/Reporting which is operationally deployed.
- Use cases are different
- State model is different
- Error codes don’t meet UK requirements

To resolve the BT comments, the ITU plans to hold a series of teleconferences. Currently, BT is the only UK CP involved in these ITU discussions and BT will not be able to push for the recommendation to be revised to cover the UK requirements on its own. Unless other UK CPs become involved, it is likely that this recommendation will become approved whilst not meeting UK requirements.

Relevance to NGNuk
The EU Framework Directive and its transposition in General Condition 2 specify that ITU Recommendations take precedence over national standards. In addition, ITU Recommendations are often cited by vendors. Hence there could be a strong push to adopt these ITU Recommendations in the UK. This could be highly disruptive to work currently being carried out as part of the BT Undertakings requirements for B2B interfaces (Equivalence of Input based) and the strategic plans of NICC/Consult 21 B2B groups.

Way Forward
UK input to ITU-T SG4 is coordinated on behalf of the DTI by the UK ITU-T SG4 Coordination Group (Chairman: Geoff Caryer; e-mail: geoff@caryer.co.uk).
A subgroup of the UK ITU-T SG4 Coordination Group has been established, jointly with the NICC B2B working group (Chairman: Graham Crane; e-mail graham.crane@bt.com), to develop a UK consensus on the draft Recommendation M.3343 and the BT’s comments against the recommendation. UK industry comments are expected by 29th September and will be reviewed during a meeting on 16th October.

**Action required**

In order to influence this comment resolution process, all NGNuk members who are also ITU members need to join the UK ITU-T SG4 co-ord subgroup and actively participate in the resolution of this issue.

To join, contact the subgroup Chair (Graham Crane) and copy to the UK co-ord Chair (Geoff Caryer).

Chairman of UK ITU-T SG4 co-ord
Geoff Caryer (geoff@caryer.co.uk)

Chairman of M.3343 Subgroup & NICC B2B WG
Graham Crane (graham.crane@bt.com)