

## Gateways ... Running Data Through the PBX?

PRINT

June 06, 2007

By Matt Brunk

IP-PBXs equipped with in-skin gateways are a sure win provided the software is reasonable and anticipates the needs of the user and the provider anticipates the needs of the network.



Running data through the IP-PBX?

### First - let's get to Gateways

The gateway onboard the system should be hot swappable and bootable/re-bootable on its own without knocking down the IP-PBX. The number of virtual channels that it provides is another key area of study. Too few channels will leave users with too many busy or fast busy conditions. Then, what happens when the user company grows- can additional gateway cards be added? Being able to pool the channels into a "trunk group" is important and sharing of those channels between other corporate gateways is essential. This feature proves worthy with managing traffic and resources. Unlike the old days of connecting tielines from site A to site B and site B to site C and site C to site A; the virtual tielines are better suited to provide the pool of resources in each network node. How many is always a question associated with cost, but often overlooked is what for.

QoS is definitely a good idea but how QoS is setup is another area of debate. The gateway must be capable of supporting codec priorities such as G.729A, G.711A, G.711Mu, and G.721.1. Compression schemes vary as will the mileage you get but it's important to review the capabilities of the gateway card offered before you buy.

Users' intercom traffic with 3, 4, or 7 digit network dialing is always a top choice. Interoffice traffic via VoIP is an alternative to long distance. Interoffice fax traffic is another area to consider. There are still modems used to connect dumb terminals and depending upon your gateway, bandwidth availability and luck- that traffic can be carried via the gateway.

### Running Data through the PBX (IP -PBX)

Remember- the gateway card is onboard the IP-PBX or Hybrid IP-PBX. The above scenarios mean that you are running DATA through the PBX. Kind of sort of- the point isn't to irritate those that refused to do it in the early 80's. But stop and think about it. Aren't we doing what the IT staff refused to relinquish to the PBXs back then? I guess the counter would be it's not really a PBX. Whatever it is that we are doing, users like it. Calling intercom numbers connected to fax machines, modems, dumb terminals and other company phones isn't sexy but it's effective, saves time and money when you can converge the traffic and better utilize pools of resources .

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