
Modularity Billing System (MBS): Patronage

CDG's Patronage provides your company the ability to accumulate capital credit data for the patrons of telephone cooperatives. The system gives you complete control of the time frame in which you do in-house, PC-based patronage processing and allows you the flexibility to choose the capital credit allocation categories that best suit your business needs.

OVERVIEW

CDG's Patronage saves time and resources by allowing you to adjust revenue values and manipulate outcomes online, putting annual revenue distribution in your hands. Two extract files are created by MBS Customer Care to facilitate the patronage allocation and payment processes:

Patronage Address File This file contains each patron's personal information and mailing address.

Patronage Detail File This file contains the patronage totals for each customer by telephone number and certificate number. Separate totals are accumulated for each revenue category and carrier.

FEATURES

- The system allows companies to upload patronage data from CDG's MBS Customer Care database files.
- Easy online query functions provide patron detail and annual history.
- Eight simple tasks make it easy to track and complete a year's processing.
- Capital credit notices are generated during the final allocation process.
- Once notices are generated, individual or all patrons' checks can be printed at any time.
- An entire capital distribution or a percentage of the distribution can be printed on a check.
- A patronage address update is available on demand.
- A check register can be created to help track payouts to patrons.

CDG's Patronage module includes a payment history feature for easy tracking of amounts paid and the date when notice(s) were sent, as well as any adjustments made to capital credit distributions.

An online preliminary allocation process permits verification of capital credit distributions prior to final allocations, and the Patron Member History screen gives you easy access to total capital credits paid out and those to be paid for all allocated years.

FEATURES (CONTINUED)

THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF INFORMATION ARE USED IN THE PATRONAGE SYSTEM:

Switched Access Revenue (Based On Minutes Of Use) Switched access revenue consists of all minutes originating from and terminating to a specific telephone number on a given day that are applicable to CABS billing. This includes items such as operator-handled, directory assistance, 800s, 900s, WATS, coin, 700s and cellular minutes. Most originating minutes come from the cooperative's switch, while originating operator-handled and terminating minutes usually come to the cooperative from a connecting company.

Fixed Revenue Fixed revenue is based on dollar amounts. Throughout the year, service orders, patronage adjustments and other charges and credits are entered into the Customer Care system. These charges, along with recurring charges, make up the fixed revenue amounts that are sent to the Patronage system at year-end. Miscellaneous revenue amounts are also carried and recorded in the Patronage system.

Billing & Collection Billing and collection information is based on messages. Each patron's toll is processed and matched to the carrier's identification code (CIC). The messages for each carrier are accumulated, and billing and collection records are created with the message count for each customer and carrier.

Miscellaneous Miscellaneous revenue includes nonrecurring billing events, such as sales of PBXs, key systems, out-of-area directory advertising, federal excise taxes, telephone books, satellite dishes and other large amounts of income that do not result directly from the patronage of individual users. This category is calculated either on a per-member or a margin-factor basis.

Reporting

The Patronage system's reports include:

- Patron listing by telephone number, patron name and patron ID number
- Patron preliminary allocation by telephone number, patron name and patron ID number
- Patron history detail report by year(s)
- Individual patron preliminary allocation report and member detail report
- Check queue report
- Check register by check number, check disposition, patron ID number, check issue date, check amount and patron name
- Patronage history detail report by year(s)
- Patronage credit edit report
- Check audit register

Patronage is one of a suite of modules provided by CDG to ensure reliable, accurate analysis and reporting in all areas of accountability for your telecommunications company. Bill wisely.
