

Solution Brief

NECA Compliance with Cloud-based Services

Background

The National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA), organized as a result of the Federal Communications Commission's Third Report and Order, plays an key role in defining tariffs and facilitating settlement of telecommunications service fees between operators. Small and rural service providers are often recipients of NECA settlement fees, an important source of revenue for this class of operator.

The Aging Network (And Personnel)

It's 2023 and local exchange carriers are increasingly challenged with aging switching equipment and network infrastructure. This aging equipment, while continuing to operate, is more often than not beyond its expected service life and as a result no longer supported by their respective manufacturers.

Regardless of the status of the equipment, operators are also finding that the personnel with the experience to operate this aging equipment are also fast approaching retirement age. Finding knowledgeable replacements is increasingly difficult and costly.

Migrating to the Cloud

Newer, more modern cloud-based communications services can offer many benefits, including new architecture options that result in enhanced features, lower cost of operation, and simplified management.

However, migrating from a local exchange to a pure cloud architecture may put the service provider's NECA eligibility at risk, risking the loss of important settlement revenue.

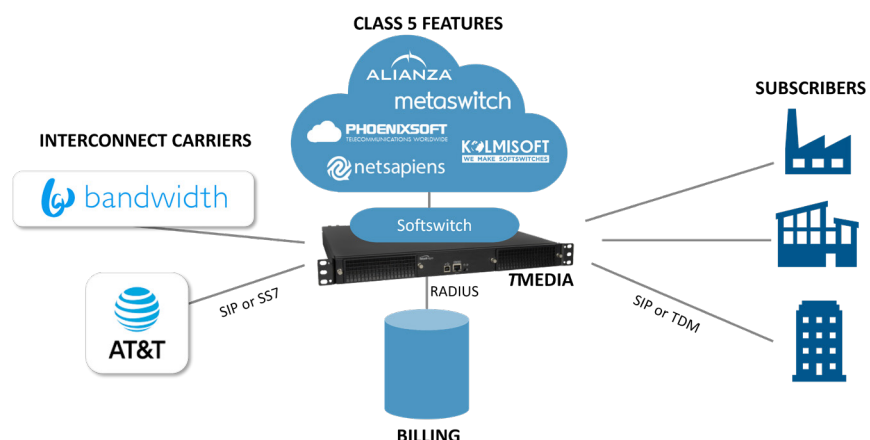


Figure 1: Proposed NECA-Compliant Hybrid Cloud Architecture

A Proposed NECA-Compliant* Hybrid Cloud Solution

TelcoBridges and its partners have developed a hybrid cloud architecture that combines the best of the cloud communications services while also meeting the requirements outlined by NECA, facilitating the important NECA settlement revenue stream.

As shown above, the hybrid cloud architecture utilizes a TelcoBridges Tmedia gateway in the core of the service provider LATA, providing a physical connection and interconnection between:

- existing SS7 or SIP interconnect inter-LATA, toll-free, and international carriers
- TDM and SIP subscribers
- existing or updated billing infrastructure
- and modern cloud-based Class 5 services

This architecture also leverages the native Class 4 call routing features of the TelcoBridges Tmedia embedded softswitch, allowing the service provider to maintain call switching between interconnect carriers and subscribers.

For situations where Class 5 features are required, a cloud-based TelcoBridges Alliance Partner application can be added to the architecture as shown above.

Benefits

A solution for small to mid-size service providers, this solution offers many benefits, including:

- Maintaining NECA compliance/billing
- Retention of existing interconnect providers
- Built-in Class 4 call routing features
- Optional cloud-based Class 5 features
- Options to offer subscribers either SIP or TDM trunk lines
- Existing or cloud-based billing systems

Learn More

More on TelcoBridges Tmedia Gateways at: telcobridges.com/products/voip-media-gateways-tmedia

More on solutions from Alliance Partners at: telcobridges.com/partners/alliance/

Please note:

* NECA compliance for each network configuration is dependent on review and approval by NECA



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