

_experience the commitment



AERS - Abridged External Rating System

CGI's Operator Services

Founded in 1976, CGI is one of the largest independent IT and business process services companies in the world. Through our focused industry expertise and end-to-end services—including systems integration, strategic consulting, business solutions and the full management of IT and business functions—CGI helps clients lower costs, improve efficiencies and enhance productivity.

CGI's Operator Services practice provides solutions to telecommunications companies seeking to contain costs or to implement new revenue opportunities. Providing a full range of products and services to clients within the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia, CGI combines deep telecommunications expertise with extensive operator services systems and operations knowledge to deliver the flexibility, depth and know-how needed to solve business problems in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Conserving operator resources through NCC rating

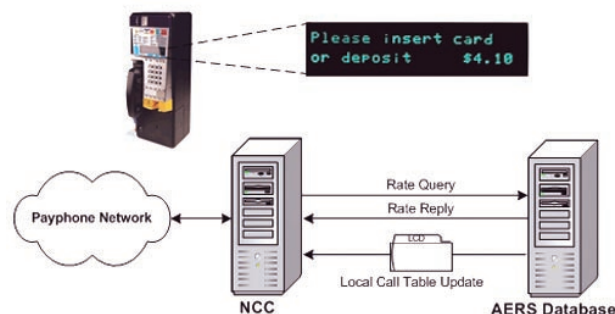
Telecommunications firms increasingly are challenged to do more with less. Through CGI's Abridged External Rating System (AERS), operator services departments can free up valuable resources. AERS is an external database that provides real-time rating with the Millennium Network Control Centre, known as the NCC. The solution allows managers to enhance productivity, increase efficiency in rate table updates, reduce maintenance costs, and gain greater system flexibility and customization.

How the solution works

CGI's AERS system interfaces with the NCC through the X25 network. The NCC receives rate queries from the Millennium coin sets within the network. In turn, NCC formats a rate request to the AERS application. AERS then responds by searching its database for the required rating information and sending it back to the NCC. The NCC then forwards these records to the appropriate coin sets. The AERS system also downloads the LATA call determination to the NCC and, in turn, sends it to the Millennium pay phone network.

AERS also supports predetermined intervals. As the NCC introduces the concept of multiple operating companies and carriers, the application's database will support rate tables for these providers. In addition, AERS can be configured with modules to fit the requirements of nearly any local services market. For added benefits, the system can be deployed with CGI's companion Reference System; the two systems can share the same database and computer platform.

Features and benefits



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By deploying AERS, telecommunications firms experience substantial reduction in operator resources. Features and benefits include:

- Avoids operator assistance for sent paid calls and prepaid calls
- Handles local, extended, toll and international calls
- Supports multiple operating companies and carriers
- Supports city zone rating, point-to-point and exception rating, single rate area, flat discounts, percentage discounts, distance-based rating, and rate step-based international rating
- Supports person-to-person, station-to-station and direct dialed rate schedules
- Supports a variety of surcharges based on billing option, billed party, service and more
- Features centralized administration
- Produces real-time system statistics
- Features an easily modified rate calculation function, allowing for quick online changes to rate tables and rating algorithms

A robust system, AERS uses a fully redundant IBM-AIX platform eliminating all single point of failures to meet high availability requirements. The database administration and update provides up-to-date rating information to the Oracle relational databases.

Delivering business value

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For more information: www.cgi.com