

BT Makes Savings With Wholesale Billing System

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Azure helps BT produce bills on calendar day one

Azure, the revenue assurance company, today announced it has completed work for BT Wholesale on changes to enable its billing system to generate invoices on the first day of the month, thereby saving the carrier 1.2 million GBP per year. The savings were gained by reducing the amount of time taken to bill its wholesale customers for the previous month's traffic and other wholesale products and services from one week to just one day (calendar day one: CD1). This improves cashflow, reduces interest payable and gives a ROI payback period of just one month.

The project was led by BT's Wholesale CIO team working to requirements from Wholesale Billing Operations, and Azure worked alongside BT Exact, BT's technology and IT operations division, Convergys and RateIntegration to provide the necessary changes. Azure's INCA interconnect platform is used to collect call detail records from the network, processing 300 million calls per day. The system can now identify any potential problems in data collection and processing that need to be rectified in the lead up to month end through the monitoring of thresholds to determine what percentage of records are available for billing. This enables BT to ensure the maximum monthly data is available for processing and enables it to issue bills in a timely manner.

Julian Wisniewski, manager BT Wholesale Billing Systems, said: "The successful deployment of the automated solution will allow the CD1 target to be met, enabling improvement in cashflow and use of working capital. Network operators are required to pay their bills 30 days after production, and with Azure's help we can collect call detail records quickly and efficiently, enabling bills to be produced much earlier."

John Cronin, president and CEO of Azure, said: "We have worked closely for a long time with BT Wholesale and we're delighted to have been involved in this landmark project. This is further validation of our technology and further demonstrates Azure's expertise in revenue assurance."

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About Azure (www.azuresolutions.com)

Azure is one of the world's leading revenue assurance companies. It is headquartered in London, with people in Ipswich UK, Colorado, Paris, Frankfurt, Madrid, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Singapore and Sydney. Azure's solutions include End-to-End Revenue Assurance, Interconnect Billing, Security and Fraud Management, Mediation Management, Event Integrity and Route Optimisation. Azure provides individual products or complete revenue assurance solutions using a common platform and any combination of products

that a customer might need. Customers can choose a system that they own and operate themselves or a bureau that Azure manages on their behalf. Amongst Azure's customers are PTTs, mobile operators, national operators, carrier's carrier and cable TV companies; Azure has significant carrier experience and understands the problems faced by all these operators. The company's heritage is based on the fundamental technology and skills developed whilst in BT in the early 1990s with many of the world-class technical experts remaining at Azure today.

Azure was spun out of BT in April 2003 and is backed by New Venture Partners (www.nvpllc.com).

Further information

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