

Glossary

Access

The technical capability to interface with a communications facility, such as a communications line or switch, so that law enforcement can monitor and receive call setup information and call content.

Actual Capacity

That portion of the Maximum Capacity simultaneously required to conduct electronic surveillances at or before a specified date in a given switch as indicated by the Attorney General for all government agencies authorized to do surveillance.

Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN)

A system of interrelated computer-based components linked to a switched or wireless telecommunications network that provides a framework for services, e.g., call forwarding, credit card authentication, personal identification numbers, speed dialing, voice dialing, etc.

Base Station

The common name for all of the radio equipment located at a single site for serving one or several cells.

Call

Any wire or electronic signaling information generated by a human or a computer acting as an agent for a human to set up a physical or virtual connection to transit information to another or multiple users (humans and/or computer processes).

Call Content

The same as “contents” as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2510 (8) and with respect to any electronic communication,

includes any information concerning the substance, purport, or meaning of that communication.

Call Content Channel (CCC)

The link between the surveillance switch and the law enforcement agency that carries the call content. The CCC may be a switched connection or a dedicated path through the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), e.g., on a private line.

Call Data Channel (CDC)

The interface between the surveillance switch and the law enforcement agency that carries the call set-up data. The CDC may be a switched connection or dedicated path through the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) or may be separate from the PSTN, e.g., via a private line or a packet switched network.

Call Setup Data

Includes all of the setup and call release information received and interpreted by the surveillance switch as a regular part of processing the call as defined in applicable standards and specifications for the services being provided. For example, this includes the initial digits dialed to access an Interexchange Carrier (IC) but may not include those dialed via Dual Tone Multi-Frequency (DTMF) after connection with the IC.

Call Setup Information

When used with respect to any electronic communication, the information generated during the establishment of communications or transmission of a protocol data unit such as a datagram, that identifies the origin and destination of the call. For

voice communications, this information is typically the electronic pulses, audio tones, or signaling messages that identify the numbers dialed or otherwise transmitted, or caused to be transmitted, by the intercept subject. It also includes incoming pulses, tones, or messages that identify the number of the originating instrument, device, or user. For data services, this information is typically the source (calling) address and destination (called) address contained in fields of the data unit, such as in the header of a frame or packet.

Calling Features Indicator

The authorization and activity status of the Mobile Switch features, including call forwarding (unconditional, busy, no answer), call waiting, three-way calling, and call delivery.

CDMA

Code-Division Multiple Access.

Central Office

In telephone operations, the facility housing the switching system and related equipment that provides telephone services for customers in the immediate geographical area.

DTMF

Dual tone, multi-frequency, i.e., push button dialing.

Electronic Communications

The same as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2510 (12), any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic photo-electric, or photo-optical system, etc. The term includes “wireless communication,” as defined in 18 U.S.C 2510 (1).

Electronic Serial Number

A coded serial number assigned by the manufacturer to the mobile unit.

Electronic Surveillance

The statutory-based process and the associated technical capability and activities of law enforcement agencies related to the interception and monitoring of electronic communications.

Handoff

Occurs when a subscriber travels from one service area to another while a wireless call is in progress.

Home Location Register (HLR)

The location register to which a user identity is assigned for record purposes, such as subscriber information (e.g., Electronic Serial Number, Directory Number, Profile Information, Current Location, Validation Period). The HLR may or may not be located within, and be indistinguishable from, a Mobile Switching Center (MSC). A HLR may serve more than one MSC and the HLR may be distributed over more than one physical entity.

Home Service Area

The service area in which a customer has subscribed to receive service.

Intercept Subject

Person or persons identified in the lawful authorization and whose incoming and outgoing communications are to be intercepted and monitored.

Interface

A shared boundary or point common to two or more similar or dissimilar command and control systems, subsystems, or other entities against which, or at which, or across which useful information takes place.

Local Exchange

An exchange where subscribers’ lines are terminated.

Local Switch

A switch that connects one customer’s line to another customer’s line, or to a facility that goes to another switching system, i.e., a trunk.

Maximum Capacity

That switch capacity (in terms of the number of simultaneous surveillances and the number of simultaneous monitorings) that cannot be exceeded in a switch without revision of its generic software.

Mobile Identification Number

An identification number assigned by the service provider to a subscriber.

Mobile Station (MS)

The interface equipment used to terminate the radio path at the user. It provides the user the ability to access network services.

Mobile Switching Center (MSC)

An automatic switching system that constitutes the interface for user traffic between the cellular network and public switched networks or other MSCs in the same or different cellular networks.

Monitoring

The process of capturing information, either call content or call set-up information or both, in real time during the processing of a call. (This does not include nonreal time access to stored data such as billing records for previous calls or subscription parameters).

Multiple Agency Distribution

The capability to provide multiple surveillances of a given access to a target to satisfy the needs of more than one government agency by some appropriate means.

Multiplex (MUX)

Use of a common channel to make two or more channels. This is done either by splitting of the common channel frequency band into narrower bands, each of which is used to constitute a distinct channel (frequency division multiplex), or by allotting this common channel to multiple users in turn, to constitute different intermittent channels (time division multiplex).

Packet Switching

A system whereby messages are broken down into smaller units called packets that are then individually addressed and routed through the network.

Pen Register

A device that records or decodes electronic or other impulses that identify the numbers dialed or otherwise transmitted on the telephone line to which such device is attached. Pen Register is an archaic name that survived the transition from pulse dialing to touch-tone dialing. The recording

device is now called a “Dial Number Recorder” (DNR). The term does not include a device used by a service provider for billing, or recording incidental to billing, for communications services, or any device used by a service provider for cost accounting in the course of business.

Private Branch Exchange (PBX)

Small local telephone office, either automatic or manually operated, serving extensions in a business complex and providing access to the public switched telephone network.

Remote Switch

A switch associated with, and controlled by, an exchange in a different location (host switch). Host switches can serve several remote switches, and are connected to the remotes with facility links.

Roaming

When the subscriber initiates or receives a call in other than his or her home service area.

Service Profile Information

The set of features, capabilities, and/or operating restrictions associated with a subscriber, e.g., account code digits, alternate billing digits, etc.

Service Switching Point (SSP)

A specially designed switch that contains Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) switching capabilities.

Stored Program Control Point (SPCP)

A computer component that stores many of the intelligent functions of an Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN).

Surveillance

The process of maintaining watch on a target, on behalf of a single law enforcement agency, for the occurrence of originating or terminating calls that must be monitored or for any other activity that must be recorded, such as administrative changes to the service parameters.

Surveillance Switch

The circuit switch which identifies calls made from or to the target and which performs surveillance. This is normally the local exchange (or end-office) serving that target.

Tandem Switch

A switch that connects trunks to trunks.

Target

An identifiable origination or termination of a telecommunications call. The most common identifier is the telephone number (or “DN”) that a call is made to or from, but other identifiers may also be used.

TDMA

Time Division Multiple Access

Transmission

The act of transferring a sign, signal, writing, image, message, sound, data, or other form of intelligence (information) from one location to another by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo-electronic, or photo-optical system.

Transparency

The circumstances wherein the parties to a communication and unauthorized individuals (i.e., individuals who are not involved in implementing and maintaining the intercept) are unaware of ongoing electronic surveillance.

Trap and Trace Device

A device that captures the incoming electronic impulses that identify the originating number of an

instrument or terminal from which electronic communication is transmitted.

Trunk

A circuit between two ranks of switching equipment in the same office, or between different switching centers or different central offices.

Verification

The process whereby law enforcement can adequately demonstrate to a judge or jury that the number or other identifier (e.g., telephone number, electronic mail address) targeted for interception corresponds to the person or persons whose communications are being intercepted.

Visitor Location Register (VLR)

The location register other than the Home Location Register (HLR) used by a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) to retrieve information for handling of calls to or from a visiting subscriber. The VLR may or may not be located within, and be indistinguishable from, an MSC. The VLR may serve more than one MSC.