

STEPS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE A HOT CUT

Before AT&T even submits an order for a hot cut, AT&T must conduct activities in addition to those activities required for a UNE-P migration.

- AT&T negotiates a due date with the customer based on the standard intervals for loop migrations that are lengthier than UNE-P intervals. For business customers, a cutover time must also be negotiated to ensure the service outage does not impact the operation of the customer's business.
- AT&T conducts an inventory of facilities and electronically assigns the customer's loop to specific facilities in AT&T's switch, to equipment located in ATT-owned collocation space and to a Connecting Facility Assignment ("CFA") that will be used by the ILEC to connect the customer's loop to AT&T's collocated equipment.
- AT&T accesses the ILEC's LFACs database to confirm that the availability of the CFA information in both companies' databases match.

After completing these activities, AT&T prepares and submits the Local Service Request ("LSR"). After submission of the LSR, the ILEC begins its activities.

- The ILEC checks its CFA database to ensure the CFA on the order matches its inventory.
- The ILEC issues the number portability "trigger" order by setting switch triggers which will ensure the customer receives intra-switch calls between the period of time the CLEC ports the number to its switch until the ILEC disconnects the telephone number in its switch.
- The ILEC inputs the order into its backend systems to create the internal service orders that will be needed to accomplish the migration.

Then the ILEC returns the Firm Order Confirmation ("FOC") to AT&T. Unlike UNE-P, after receiving the FOC, AT&T and the ILEC cannot rely on the electronic systems to flawlessly provision the service. Instead, a complicated set of activities occurs, activities that must be coordinated if the cut is to be successful for the customer.

- AT&T confirms with the customer the specific time and date when the hot cut is scheduled to take place based on the information in the FOC.

- AT&T verifies that dial tone is being delivered from its switch to the CFA in the collocation cage.
- AT&T alerts the National Number Portability Administration Center (“NPAC”) that reprogramming is needed to move the customer’s telephone number from the ILEC to AT&T by sending an electronic “create” message to the Administrator. This begins the process of porting the customer’s telephone number. This “create” message prompts NPAC to send a message to the ILEC to ensure the ILEC consents. The ILEC responds with a confirm message to NPAC.

After AT&T completes these activities, the ILEC completes other activities necessary to a hot cut that are not required for a UNE-P conversion.

- The ILEC determines whether the facilities currently being used by the customer can be reused. For example, if the customer is on Integrated Digital Carrier Loop (“IDLC”), the facilities cannot be reused and spare non-IDLC facilities must be identified and assigned to this customer.
- The ILEC pre-wires the cross-connection frames.
- The ILEC confirms the presence of dial tone from AT&T’s switch at the main distribution frame..
- Upon receipt of the “create” message from NPAC, the ILEC will send a “concur” message back to NPAC.
- The ILEC verifies that the proper phone number is on the loop that is to be cut over.

After these activities, the ILEC contacts AT&T to determine whether the cut can proceed as scheduled. During this call the ILEC may also provide essential information such as test results. Assuming nothing has gone wrong, on the day of the cut over, the ILEC and AT&T will continue their activities.

- The ILEC ensures it has the correct line for the cut.
- The ILEC verifies dial tone on the line at the ILEC MDF.
- The ILEC monitors the line and, when idle, removes at the MDF the old cross connection jumper that connected the customer’s loop to the ILEC’s switch and terminates the pre-wired cross connection from the CLEC’s CFA to the customer’s loop.

- The ILEC provisioning center contacts AT&T to advise that the conversion is complete.
- AT&T then conducts its own tests to ensure that all lines have been successfully migrated.
- If testing is successful, AT&T sends an “activate” message to NPAC advising that the customer’s number should be ported to AT&T’s switch.

The cut, however, is still not complete.

- Upon receipt of the activate message from NPAC, the ILEC completes the disconnect order and sends an “unlock” message for the E911 database administration to allow AT&T access to the E911 database record for the ported number.
- Then AT&T migrates the 911 record by updating the Automatic Location Indicator (“ALI”) database to identify AT&T as the local service provider. This ALI information supports the Public Safety Answer Point (“PSAP”) which receives 911 calls.
- The ILEC must remove the old cross connections from its frame to free up the ILEC’s switch port for another customer.

Only then is the hot cut complete.