A White Paper

on

Flow Through
in
The Stand Alone Test Environment (SATE)

January 3, 2001
Version 1.00

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Introduction

Purpose of the Document
This document provides a high-level overview of Flow Through in the Stand Alone Test Environment (SATE). The document is made of four key sections, each of which highlights a certain aspect of the project:
- Business Drivers and Purpose
- Post-Order Testing in SATE
- Technical Environment with Flow Through
- CLEC Process and Documentation

Intended Audience
This document is intended for anyone with a need to understand the scope, purpose, and status of Flow Through in the SATE.

Business Drivers and Purpose

Business History
From its inception, the Stand-Alone Test environment (SATE) has provided Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) with the ability to test all flavors of post-order transactions during their EDI testing and certification.

Originally, when testing post-order transactions, CLECs could contact Qwest and request certain transactions be sent on a given Local Service Request (LSR). For example, if a CLEC wished to test that their software could receive a Firm Order Confirmation (FOC), followed by a Service Order Hold, followed by an LSR Hold, followed by an LSR level Jeopardy, they could contact Qwest and ask that those transactions be sent on a specific LSR. Qwest would then manually send those transactions to the CLEC.

In January of 2002, this manual process is being automated with the introduction of the Virtual Interconnect Center Knowledge Initiator (VICKI). VICKI allows a CLEC to use the Remarks field of an LSR's LSR Form to request specific post-order transactions be sent. For example, a CLEC could enter "Prod: Hold Jeopardy" to receive the transactions mentioned above with production like time delays between events.

VICKI allows CLECs to enter an LSR and receive the post-order transactions they want to test. It does not, however, answer what would happen to that LSR in production. Specifically, VICKI will cause IMA to send an FOC with Flow Through like response time when asked by a CLEC to do so, but it will not let a CLEC see whether that specific LSR would receive a Flow Through FOC in production.

Business Need
Production-like Flow Through systems are needed for a CLEC to test whether a given LSR would Flow Through if sent to production.

Project Objective
A CLEC should be able to send an LSR to SATE and see if that LSR receives a Flow Through generated FOC, is left for manual work, or errors in an attempt to Flow Through. Testing to see whether an LSR flows, errors or is left for manual work is referred to in this document as "Flow Through Testing." The overall objective of this project to allow a CLEC to perform Flow Through Testing.

This objective is being completed in two phases. On February 25, 2002, SATE will support Flow Through Testing for POTS Resale and UNE-P POTS IMA 9.0 LSRs in the Western Region. SATE will support Flow

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Through Testing for all SATE supported IMA 9.0 functions in all regions by the end of the second quarter of 2002. This document addresses SATE in both phases of this project.

Note: All LSRs for releases prior to IMA 9.0 will be set to "Submitted" status and not be eligible for Flow Through Testing. They will receive no automated post-order responses unless sent to VICKI. IMA 9.0 and all subsequent releases will be eligible for Flow Through Testing in SATE.

Note: Transactions not mentioned above, specifically those beyond service order creation such as Completions and Service Order Holds, will not be automated with this enhancement. Process and methodology for such transactions are stated later in this document.

Post-Order Testing in SATE

Testing Options
With the addition of Flow Through, CLECs will have two basic post-order testing options in SATE.   A CLEC can choose one and only one of the options below for a given LSR that passes all IMA acceptance requirements in SATE.

1. They will be able to send an LSR to VICKI and receive the specific post-order response they desire. This response will be based on the specific transactions the CLEC requested using the Remarks field. As with previously defined VICKI functionality, the CLEC will use text in the LSR Remarks field bracketed by "[" and "]" to request specific transactions. The available sets of transactions, paths, will be published to the CLECs. Remarks containing brackets and no text that maps to an existing path will not receive post-order transactions.
2. They will be able to send an LSR for Flow Through Testing. In this case, the CLEC will receive either an FOC, indicating that an LSR flowed, an "Errored" Status Update if the LSR went to Flow Through, but failed(Status Updates are only sent to those CLECs who have requested them), or no response indicating that Flow Through was not attempted. (No response will be given for LSRs that error when trying to flow through if the CLEC does not have Status Updates on.) For Flow Through Testing, it will be assumed an LSR is intended for Flow Through Testing if LSR remarks do not contain brackets.

Note: All LSRs other than POTS or UNE-P POTS in the western region will be set to "Submitted" status and will not be tested for Flow Through Testing during the first phase of this implementation. They will receive no post-order responses. Only POTS and UNE-P POTS LSRs in the western region will be eligible for Flow Through Testing.

Flow Through Testing
As mentioned above, Flow Through Testing will allow a CLEC to enter an LSR and receive production-like responses on any given LSR through to the point where an LSR is automatically FOC'd or the LSR is left for manual handling. SATE Flow Through Testing will allow such testing given the following:
* The world of circuits, Central Offices, accounts and other facilities defined in SATE are the only ones in existence.
* All SATE CLECs can resell all USOCs on all Product Lines in all States where those USOCs are valid.
* No special contracts have been negotiated for delivering service on an expedited basis by any of the SATE CLECs.
* LSRs will not fail flow through because other work on a given address or account is planned.
* Supplemental to Cancel LSRs can only be successfully processed automatically in Flow Through Testing if the original LSR was FOC'd via a Flow Through test. (Note: Any LSR can be successfully canceled in an automated fashion by using VICKI.)
* SATE will not contain any telephone numbers with Local Exchanges Freezes.
* Other previously cited SATE exceptions.

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Note that no other automated responses will be sent to CLECs beyond the automatic FOCs or "Errored" Status Updates mentioned above. Qwest, during its December 11 SATE User Group Meeting with CLECs, brought up the issue of additional feedback mechanisms to help explain why a given LSR did or did not Flow Through. It was agreed that information would be passed to CLECs on demand via their EDI Implementation Team Contacts with a more formal process being developed once both Qwest and the CLECs have some experience with Flow Through Testing.
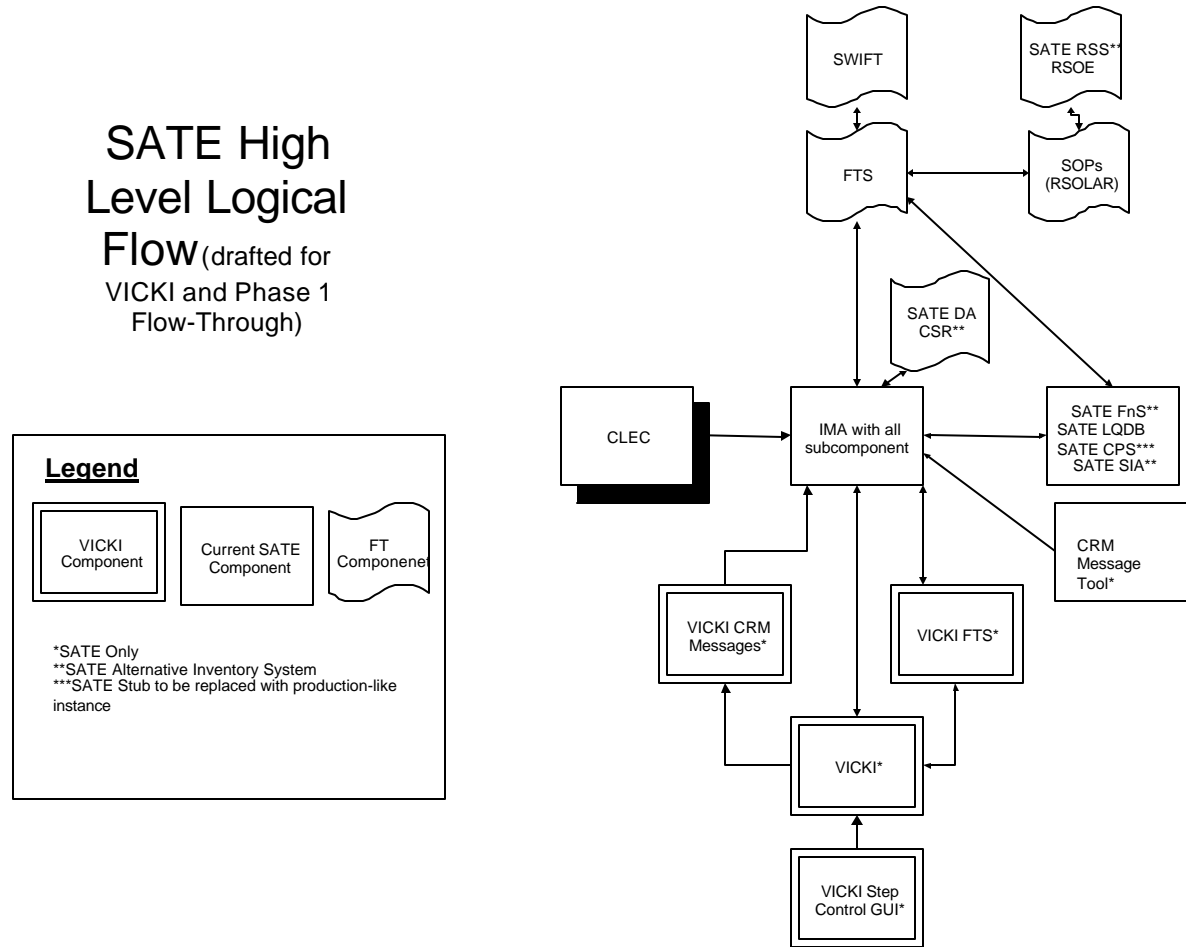
Technical Environment

SATE Technical Environment with Flow Through
In order to allow for Flow Through Testing of POTS and UNE-P POTS LSRs, SATE is adding production-like instance of the following to the existing SATE environment:
- Flow Through Solutions (FTS)
- Standard Interval Business Service (SIBS)
- SWIFT
- Co- Provider Product Services (CPS)
- Regional Service Order Editor (RSOE)
- Service Order Processors (RSOLAR Only)

A logical representation of SATE with POTS and UNE-P POTS Flow Through in the western region is below. Please note that additional systems will be added to this environment to complete Phase 2 of this project, Flow Through Testing of all SATE supported Products.

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Changes Resulting from Flow Through
In order to support Flow Through Testing, two significant additional enhancements will be made to the SATE environment.   These were required to allow for Flow Through Testing.

First, SATE will be enhanced to include a production-like instance of CPS (used to validate CLEC contracts) configured for SATE CLECs. This will cause all SATE CLEC requests to receive responses as if those CLECs have the ability to resell all USOCs on all product lines in all states where those USOCs are valid.

Second, SATE data will be reworked such that the following are true:
- All SATE Central Office and LSO names will be changed such that they are shared with production Central Office and LSO names.
- All SATE NPA NXXes will be changed such that they will be actual NPA NXXes served in production by the altered LSO mentioned above.

These data changes will cause significant change to all releases of the EDI SATE Data Document for all pre-order and order scenarios. These data changes will be done only for Western region data during Phase 1 of this project. Eastern and Central region data will be reworked in this manner during Phase 2 of this project. See the CLEC Documentation and Process Section of this document for detail on when and how these changes will be communicated.

Note: The changes above represent the only changes to data in SATE that will make that data production-like. All other data, including the attributes of the Central Offices and NPA NXXes above, will remain derived so as to allow for complete testing in SATE without concern for end-user privacy considerations.

CLEC Documentation and Process

CLEC Documentation
A new version of the EDI SATE Data Document and, if necessary, the EDI Implementation Guide will be published ten business days prior to the planned February 25 launch of Flow Through in SATE. Qwest would like to review these documents with the CLECs during the February Users' Group Meeting. Details on Flow Through and the data rework mentioned above will be included in the document to be reviewed.

CLEC Process
During a December 11, 2001 SATE User Group meeting, Qwest and CLECs agreed that an informal process for communicating why a given LSR did or did not Flow Through will be used in the short term. CLECs will simply contact the EDI Implementation Team to work out the specifics of how they would like to be informed about what happened to a given LSR. Through their EDI Implementation Team contacts, a CLEC can also request additional post-order transactions such as the Completion of a Flow Through Tested LSR.

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