

Robocall Mitigation Plan

Business Information

Microcomputer Specialists, Inc. (MSI)
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Contact Information

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Overview

In the Commission's release, *In the Matter of Call Authentication Trust Anchor, Sixth Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, WC Docket No. 17-97 (adopted March 16, 2023) it is stated that all voice service providers ("VSPs") must file robocall mitigation plans ("RMPs") that, among other things, outline "reasonable steps" taken to avoid originating illegal robocalls.

In addition to the "reasonable steps, the FCC requires that a RMP includes:

- "know your customer" procedures;
- a description of any call analytics system used to identify and block illegal traffic; and
- whether a third-party vendor is used and if so, the name of the vendor.

The FCC previously stated that a RMP is sufficient if the detailed practices in the plan can reasonably be expected to significantly reduce the origination of illegal robocalls and the VSP complies with the practices it describes in its filing.

Purpose

MSI Communications, Inc. ("MSI") is a small VSP dedicated to stopping illegal calls from traversing the network and monitoring the calls coming into our network. MSI is a "pure reseller" that has no control over the infrastructure necessary to implement STIR/SHAKEN. Because MSI does not have access to the necessary infrastructure, it is not required to be STIR/SHAKEN compliant. MSI works closely with its upstream providers to carry out the required mitigation functions.

Know Your Customer ("KYC")

The accurate identification of a subscriber in the STIR/SHAKEN ecosystem is tied to a telephone number-based caller identity associated with that subscriber. A subscriber is an entity that has a business relationship with MSI in which we transmit, originate, and/or terminate calls based on behalf of the subscriber.

MSI's KYC program obtaining specific information before allowing a potential subscriber to use our services. This process includes collecting business and contact details (company name, address, tax ID, authorized representative info), and requiring proof of identity and/or incorporation documents. Moreover, MSI accept payments only through approved billing methods (e.g., credit card, ACH, wire transfer). MSI periodically review and update customer records.

Know Your Upstream Providers

In accordance with the Commission's directive in *Advanced Methods to Target and Eliminate Unlawful Robocalls Call Authentication Trust Anchor, Seventh Report and Order In CG Docket 17-59 and WC Docket 17-97, Eighth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking In CG Docket 17-59, and Third Notice of Inquiry in CG Docket 17-59* (Rel. May 19, 2023) ¶¶ 49-51, MSI provides the following information concerning its upstream voice service carriers:

Altigen Communications, Inc.
39899 Balentine Drive
STE112
Newark, California, 94560
Steve Thompson
+16697774109
sthompson@altigen.com

MSI has received assurances from its upstream providers that they will continue to sign calls transmitted to MSI and will abide by the Commission's STIR/SHAKEN and robocall mitigation rules in all respects when providing voice traffic to MSI. MSI and its upstream providers have agreed to work together diligently to mitigate all illegal robocalls, including cooperating fully when receiving traceback requests.

Telephone Number Analytics

A Telephone Number ("TN")-based caller identity is the originating phone number included in call signaling used to identify the caller for screening purposes that is uniquely associated with the subscriber. A subscriber is permitted to use a TN as a caller identity if a TN is directly managed by MSI and/or obtained by MSI from MSI's underlying carriers for use by the subscriber. In most cases, MSI directly manages the TNs used by its subscribers. MSI tracks these numbers in its inventory system and monitors the assignment of these numbers. In these cases, TN validation is the inherent result of MSI's assignment of the TN to its subscriber.

Analytics for Monitoring Traffic

MSI works with its upstream carriers to analyze high-volume voice traffic in order to identify and monitor patterns consistent with robocalls. If MSI detects a calling pattern consistent with illegal robocalls, we will identify the party and will take appropriate action. Taking appropriate action may include, but is not limited to, initiating a traceback investigation, verifying that the originating subscriber owns or is authorized to use the Caller ID number, and suspending or terminating the party's ability to originate calls on our system.

Examples of calling patterns monitored:

- Anomalies in cost generated by calls from a single customer;
- multiple overlapping calls on the same account is a risk of not having a single subscriber using the service;
- velocity on initiate calls (synchron intervals, quick dialing back-to-back calls);
- recent volumes (last 60 min) vs weekly trends;
- number of unique destination numbers in a time frame (total account level);
- number of unique source numbers in a time frame (total and account level); and

- anomalies in call duration distribution (most calls having similar duration is not representative for residential service usage).

No third party vendors are involved in deploying MSI's analytics.

Investigate Suspicious Activity

When traffic analysis indicates the presence of likely illegal robocalling, MSI works with its upstream providers to follow defined procedures on investigating such subscribers. These procedures include:

- checking recent and past call detail records and benchmark against expected trends;
- checking recent and past account activity and purchases;
- investigating if any system issue generates the strange behavior;
- verifying that the call originating path is valid; and
- contacting the subscriber to understand his particular use case and validate that the activity belongs to that subscriber.

MSI follows Industry Traceback Group ("ITG")-recommended best industry practices and cooperates in traceback investigations. To allow for timely and comprehensive responses, MSI devotes sufficient resources to provide prompt and complete resources to traceback requests.

MSI works with its upstream providers to investigate suspicious activity found by the carriers' monitoring systems or reported to MSI by subscribers or third parties. An investigation could potentially result in opening a traceback request or with MSI contacting a subscriber to correct improper use of the applicable platform, or, if the subscriber does not respond or comply, to notify its upstream provider(s) to block their use of the platform.

MSI certifies that it will respond to all traceback requests within 24 hours of receiving same.

Blocking

MSI will implement Do Not Originate requests it receives from the ITG. MSI works with its upstream providers to automatically block suspicious calls using analytics. If those analytics reveal suspected robocalling patterns that are confirmed with further investigation, MSI will take appropriate action which may include suspending or terminating the subscriber's use of MSI's network and utilizing service restriction blocks. MSI will cooperate with Investigative Bodies to address traceback requests from law enforcement (including the state attorney general's office), as well as the FCC, and/or the ITG; as well as documenting requests & actions taken in response thereto.

Plan Updates

This plan and industry best practices must evolve to response to the dynamic nature of mitigating illegal robocalling. MSI will monitor industry best practices and continuously improve our internal processes to ensure this plan, and our system adapt to this ever-changing issue.

In the event of any material change to this plan, MSI will republish it to employees, consultants and contractors and file such an update to the FCC Robocall Mitigation Database within ten (10) days of such update.

Certification of Steve Thompson

I, Mark Forney, Manager of Microcomputer Specialists, Inc. ("MSI"), do hereby certify, under penalty of perjury, the following:

- (1) MSI, by virtue of its status as a "pure reseller" does not have access to the necessary infrastructure to implement STIR/SHAKEN, and therefore has not implemented STIR/SHAKEN in the IP portions of its network.
- (2) MSI's business name and primary address are as follows:

Microcomputer Specialists, Inc. (MSI)
209 East Morthland Drive Suite 1
Valparaiso, IN 46383
- (3) The following person owns more than 10% of MSI: Mark Forney.
- (4) MSI has no subsidiaries or affiliates.
- (5) Neither MSI nor any of the persons listed herein have been subject to an FCC enforcement proceeding or have been forbidden to file in the Robocall Mitigation Database.
- (6) The name, title, department, business address, telephone number, and email address of the individual responsible for addressing robocall-related issues are listed in the above robocall mitigation plan.
- (7) MSI's role in the call chain is that of a voice service provider without a STIR/SHAKEN obligation.
- (8) MSI does not have, and is not required to have, an operator company number.

Mark Forney