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Ameritech CATV Order Entry Service Interface Specification

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This Technical Reference is published by Ameritech to provide a technical description of the Interface Between Customer Premises Equipment and Ameritech Central Offices for the Ameritech CATV Order Entry Service.

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Service Description and Interface Requirements for Ameritech's CATV Order Entry Service

Ameritech Services has issued a new document, AM-TR-OAT-000034, that describes the Ameritech CATV Order Entry Service. The Ameritech CATV Order Entry Service is provided for

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cable television operators. It allows the customers of cable operators to place "Pay-Per-View" orders by dialing a phone number associated with the event.

The telephone company central office equipment collects the called number, which represent the event ordered, and the billing telephone number associated with the calling party's line (ANI), and transmits those items of information to the cable television operator.

Deployment information is as follows: Toledo and Columbus, Ohio, and Michigan locations including Traverse City, Saginaw, Pontiac, Wayne and Grand Haven.

1. Overview

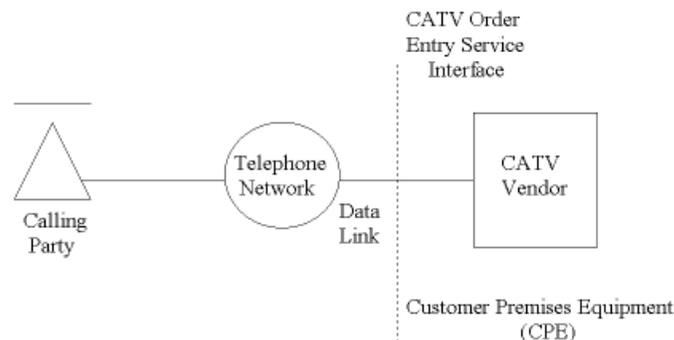
Ameritech CATV Order Entry Service is a service provided to Cable TV vendors which allows a Cable TV subscriber to place a Pay-Per-View (PPV) order simply by dialing a phone number associated with the desired PPV event. The dialing plan for this service is specified and administered by the Ameritech Bell telephone company providing the service.

The telephone company central office equipment collects the called number, which represents the event ordered, and the billing telephone number associated with the calling party's line (ANI), and transmits that information via the interface described in this document to the Cable TV Vendor. Figure 1 illustrates this interface with respect to the telephone network and the CATV vendor.

Information messages can be transmitted in serial format without the optional ACK-NAK and Status Request message. The information message must contain the calling party number (ANI) and the last four digits of the dialed telephone number to be considered a valid information message.

This document provides the generic format for messages transmitted over the interface. The interface is flexible to the extent that standard ASCII control characters can be sequenced within the generic message format as appropriate to accommodate specific implementations.

Figure 1. Network Diagram



2. Physical Interface

Physical (Data Link) Interface

The physical interface is intended to operate over a 2-wire dedicated private line with full duplex modems. This private line is referred to as the data link. Standard ASCII characters are trans-

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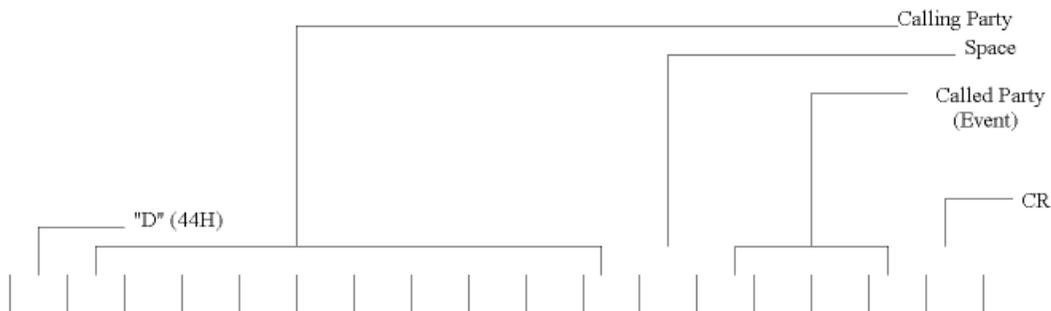
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mitted over the data link using 7 or 8 bit encoding in an asynchronous mode. The following transmission parameters shall apply:

- odd parity or no parity
- 1 stop bit
- 1 start bit (optional)
- 1.2-2.4 Kbps data transmission rate

3. Information Message (From Network to CPE)

The purpose of the Information Message is to transmit the calling party and called party (event) numbers to the CATV Vendor. The Information Message must contain the calling party (ANI) and called party fields to be valid. The following is the generic format for the Information Message.



- "D" indicates Information Message (Optional)
- Called Party Telephone Number (ANI) 10-bytes (3 digit area code and 7 digit phone #)
- 1-byte space (ASCII 20H) (Optional)
- Called Telephone Number (last 4 digits only) may represent the PPV event ordered.
- 1-byte Carriage Return (ASCII ODH) (Optional)

The above format is for illustration purposes. Optional fields can include the following standard ASCII characters:

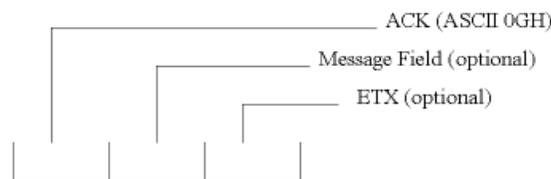
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- Start of Text (STX) = ASCII 02H
- End of Text (ETX) = ASCII 03H
- Carriage Return (CR) = ASCII 0DH
- Line Feed (LF) = ASCII 0AH
- Space (SPC) = ASCII 20H

4. Acknowledgment Message (Optional) (From CPE to Network)

The Acknowledgment Message is an optional message which can be used in two-way ACK-NAK implementations. The Acknowledged Message can be sent by the CPE to the network to indicate the condition of the CPE. When sent in response to an Information Message, the network interprets the Acknowledgment to mean that the previous Information Message was received. When sent in response to a Status Request Message, the Acknowledgment Message indicates that the CPE is on-line and is ready for the next message. The following is the generic format for the Acknowledgment Message:



- ACK indicates (positive) Acknowledgment.
- Message field can be a single digit field to indicate condition of CPE.
- CTX (this field can contain ETX or other optional ASCII control characters).
- Response to:

Information Message	Indicates Condition of CPE:
Status Request	Message received Okay and On-Line, waiting

5. Negative Acknowledgment Message (Optional) (From CPE to Network)

The Negative Acknowledgment Message is an optional message that can be used to two-way ACK-NAK implementations. The CPE may send a Negative Acknowledgment to the network to indicate that an Information Message was not properly received or that the CPE is not ready to

accept further messages. The following is the generic format for the Negative Acknowledgment Message.

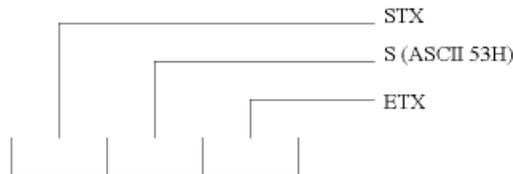


- NAK indicates Negative Acknowledgment
- ETX (this field can contain other optional ASCII control characters).
- Response to: Indicates Condition of CPE:

Information Message	Message not received Okay
Status Request	On-Line, not available

6. Status Request Message (Optional) (Network to CPE)

The Status Request Message is an optional message that can be used in a two-way ACK-NAK implementation. The Status Request may be sent by the network to determine whether, the CPE is on-line and ready to accept information messages. The CPE may respond to the Status Request with an Acknowledgment or Negative Acknowledgment. The following is the generic format for the Status Request Message.



- STX (or other standard ASCII control character)
- S indicates Status Request
- ETX (or other standard ASCII control character)
- Sent when a specified time period has elapsed (since receipt of last message) in which no information messages have been sent.