Call Management Policy Specification for Asterisk PBX



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Requirements

- User Policy specification for call handling
 - When busy, customer calls forwarded to team members colleagues hear my schedule friends -> voicemail
 - During 9-5, when I am out of office incoming calls -> mobile, cross-town-office
- Administrator Policies for authorisation and call management
 - Calls to mobiles, receive message 5 minute duration after 5 min. terminate
 - Research & sales dept. staff permitted to dial international receive message 10 min duration
 - Calls to cross-town-office use SIP over datalink
 - Switch service provider if failure rate exceeds threshold



Asterisk PBX

- Asterisk is public domain VoIP PBX software for standard PCs
 - Not easy to manage, configure or maintain
- Sophisticated call management features via configuration files
 - Forwarding, monitoring, recording, block, voicemail, ring types, queues, hunt groups, query variables, access database
 - Example for calls to ext. 123

```
exten => 123,1,Answer()
exten => 123,2,Playback(myMessage)
exten => 123,3,Voicemail(123)
exten => 123,4,Hangup()
```



Example Asterisk Administrator's Call Management 'Policy'

```
[Globals]
SipOUT = SipFirst
FailedCalls = 0
[SipOutgoingCallsCheck]
exten => _X,1,Dial(${EXTEN}@${SipOUT})
;;; After the call check the result in the
::: DIALSTATUS variable. If it is a failed call
;;; go-to step 101 otherwise exit
exten => X, 2, Gotolf (\{\{\{\{\{\{\{\{\{\{\{\}\}\}\}\}\}\}\}\}\}\}\})
;;; FAILED CALL
exten => X,101,SetVar(FailedCalls = ${FailedCalls} +1)
;;; If failed calls are more than 10, switch providers
exten => X,102, Gotolf(\{\{\{\{\{\}\}\}\}\}\}) = 10 ?? 103:200)
exten => _X,103, SetVar(SipOUT = SipSecond)
exten => _X,104, SetVar(FailedCalls = 0)
exten => X, 105, Hangup()
;;;; OK EXIT
exten => X, 200, Hangup(
```

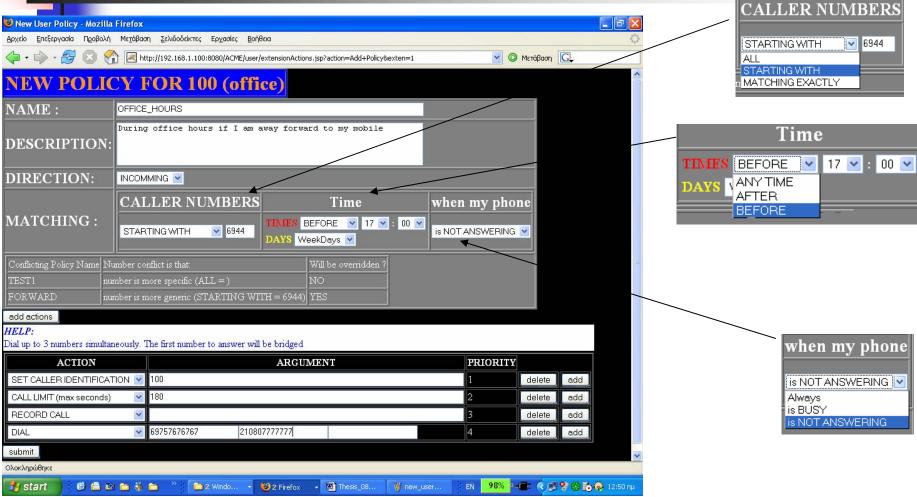


Conflict Handling

- Conflicts due to granularity of number specification
- P1 All calls from Greece (0030....)
 Forward to mobile,
 change caller ID to 101 to indicate from Greece,
 record.
- P2 Call from 003021080777777 (from Brother)
 Forward to mobile, + home
- Conflict detected and user informed
- Default resolution is more specific policy takes precedence so P2 over-rides P1

Polic

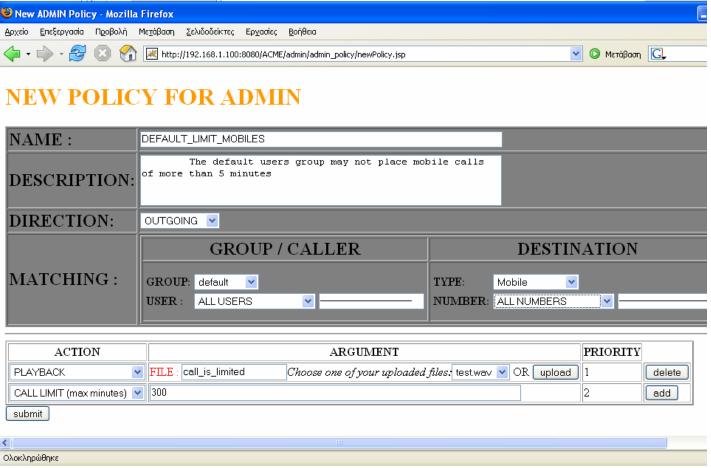
Example End User Policy Specification



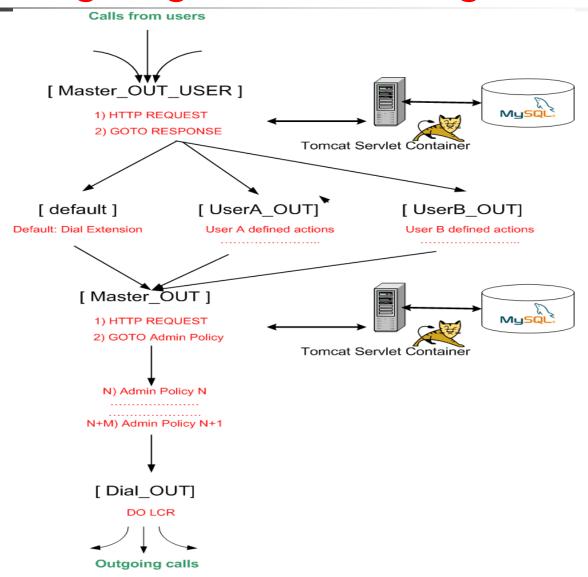
Event (incoming or outgoing call) – condition – action rule



Admin Policy Specification



Outgoing Call Handling





Outgoing Call Overheads

LATENCY	Ave. time in ms
User DB Latency	5.776
User Policy Latency	0.238
Overall User Latency	6.01
Admin DB Latency	14.124
Admin Policy Latency	0.407
Overall Admin Latency	14.531
Overall Outgoing latency	20.546



Conclusions

- 6 month Masters student project
- Able to cater for specification of most policies
- Evaluated by users and administrators inTelecomms
 Service Provider (InAccess) in Athens
- Application specific constrained policy specification is essential for non-technical end-users
- Useful for Administrators
- Reasonable performance with no attempt to optimise