



# Traffic Data Retention

## Executive Summary

### New EU legal requirements

mean need to retain all data

➤ New compulsory requirements are set up to help prevention, investigation and detection of serious crimes.

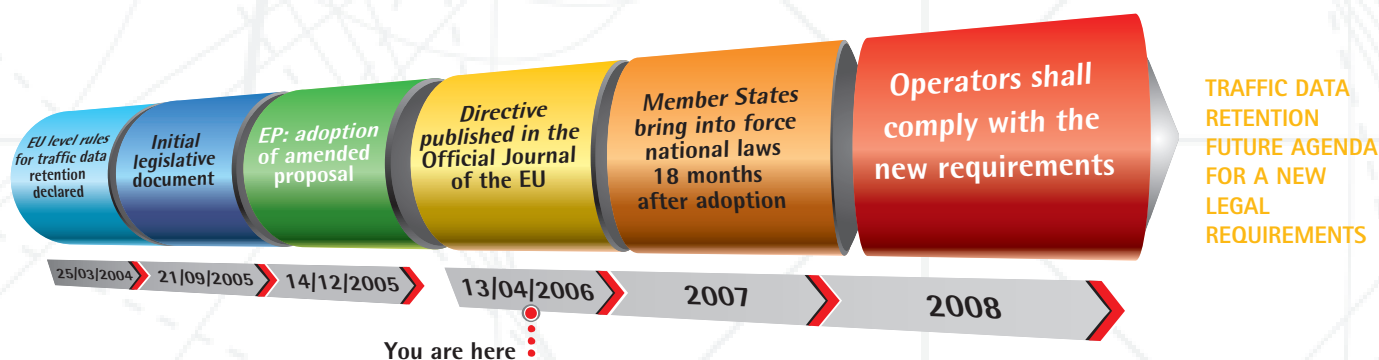
Nowadays the importance of reporting to the law enforcement authorities is becoming more and more accentuated, operators have to ensure the access to traffic data for authorized national bodies in order to help prevention, investigation and detection of organized crimes and terrorism. Every Telecom Operator and Internet Service Provider will be submitted to new compulsory requirements, meeting them will be inevitable.

**EU Directive puts in the spotlight data retention obligations worldwide**

There is a noticeable global trend growing out from EU level regulation of traffic data retention. **Are you ready?**

- » **Non-compliance** with the legal requirements carries serious negative consequences, both financial and ethical.
- » **Starting actions** and proactive cooperation with legislative bodies in time brings you **benefits and competitive advantage**
- » Introducing a **new system** to comply with the mandatory requirements can bring **additional business benefits**

The extent of reimbursement of costs borne by operators to comply with the retention obligations will be decided at the Member State level. Only by having a comprehensive project plan and budget in time can you **get favorable financing and reimbursing conditions.**



#### Data retention

Currently, data retention regimes introduced or planned by the operators worldwide and also in the Member States vary significantly in scope, the data to be retained, the duration of the retention, the reimbursement possibilities and the conditions for access to the data. Now it has become timely to introduce an EU wide harmonization of these obligations. As a milestone of this process and an indication of a developing global trend, the European Parliament adopted on 14 December 2005 a new EU directive which provides an EU level harmonization of obligations concerning retention of data processed in connection with the provision of public electronic communication services, mobile and fixed line telephony and related services and Internet traffic. The Directive has now been published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 13 April 2006 and shall enter into force on 3 May 2006.

#### Why you need to plan for 2007 today

Member States shall bring into force the legal regulations and administrative measures necessary to comply with the directive in 18 months after its adoption.

Problems arise due to the changes of business models and service offerings and the result is that traffic data may not always be stored by all operators at the same extent. This trend is reinforced by new offerings of Voice over IP communication services in such cases operators no longer have the need to store traffic data for billing or other business purposes.

#### What does data retention mean?

Data retention generally refers to the storage of telephony and internet traffic and transaction data – telephone calls made and received, emails sent and received and web sites visited – by governments and commercial organizations. Location data is also collected.

According to the Directive, operators will need to retain the following categories of data in order to allow the tracing and identifying of:

- » the source and destination of a communication
- » the date, time and duration of a communication,
- » the type of communication,
- » the communication device and the location of mobile communication equipment.

Period of storage shall be not less than six months, and maximum two years from the date of communication. Accordingly, the retention would not be applicable to the actual content of the communication.

### Most existing systems do not comply with the new requirements

The storage of traffic data shall not be confused with the storage of records for billing or other business purposes, the aspect of collection and security requirements are different. To name a few examples, the billing system processes only the rated records and transactional data in case of flat rate services may not be processed. The mediation device does not transfer all data – filters out the terminating records, furthermore, IP and e-mail transaction data even do not reach the mediation device.

### Be prepared

The Directive gives a framework to further national laws, leaving several aspects to be decided at Member State level:

- » The reimbursement of additional costs of retention
- » The technology for retaining data
- » The right to access and use data by the national authorities.
- » What should be understood as the investigation detection and prosecution of "serious crime"

National requirements and measures can vary regarding the above mentioned questions being more strict than the Directive's provisions. This provokes you to start actions right now to be prepared.

## No EU laws to comply with, but similar data retention and reporting obligations to meet?

Time-consuming, hard-to-manage and ad-hoc processes to fulfill data extraction requirements? Would you give up the ensuing business benefits from the storage of traffic data? Surely not!

Contact András Liebenritt at [liebenritta@allround.net](mailto:liebenritta@allround.net) for the solution!

### Use this opportunity as a business benefit not just regulatory compliance

Being prepared enables you to turn the unavoidable regulations into real business advantages and enables you to take part in the technical preparatory work.

### Late or improper compliance can:

- » Damage the operator's reputation and its subscribers' loyalty
- » Endanger co-operation with the local authorities
- » Result in non-realistic technical regulations
- » Limit the financing and reimbursing opportunities

A well-prepared operator can avoid these risks and in addition, can derive significant business benefits from introducing a new system:

- » **The most comprehensive library containing all of your traffic data**
  - Longer period for retention - up to two years
  - Even unbilled records are stored
  - A goldmine for your business development, marketing and engineering
  - Use it as specialized data warehouse or integrate it with the existing DWH
- » **Supporting mediation functionality according to your needs**
  - Currently unhandled records can be processed
  - Minimal additional resource need and impact on existing processes
- » **Wide range of additional services including**
  - Interconnect bypass detection,
  - Revenue assurance statistics,
  - Record level correlation between different sources.

## Summing up

### What to do?

Check if currently your systems are really up to the test:

- » Do you collect e-mail traffic data?
- » Do you collect flat rate GPRS records?
- » Do you store data related to unsuccessful call attempts?
- » Do you store terminated voice and SMS records?

If not all of your answers is yes, we truly advise you to take into consideration starting actions as soon as possible: make a self-assessment and examine your systems, make a gap analysis and based on the results, plan your actions to upgrade or replace your systems. Set up a comprehensive project plan and budget and start proactive cooperation with legislative bodies, both technical and financial.

### What is the highest priority while solving data retention and reporting issues:

- » Minimal redundancy?
- » A full featured, standalone solution which abilities can be multiple used, improving your business processes?
- » A standalone solution requiring minimal concern, targeting the regulatory compliance only?

Allround helps you to be prepared providing professional services, and turnkey solutions according to your needs. Contact us for further details!

## Company Profile

ALLROUND puts telecom operators in control with applications for Billing System Testing, CDR Handling and Analysis, TAP Conversion, Roaming Management, Fraud Detection, and Revenue Management. Allround's flagship product, CeDaR is the world's first billing system testing solution approved by BABT. ALLROUND is an ISO 9001:2000 certified, profitable, private European company with a global customer base. The company has been an Associate Member of GSM Association since April 2002.



E-mail: [info@allround.net](mailto:info@allround.net)  
[www.allround.net](http://www.allround.net)