

Federal Communications Commission
[Ruling FCC-17-151A1](#) Released: November 17, 2017

Regarding Well Defined Circumstances in which voice service providers may Block Calls

In this report there may be many well-defined benefits for blocking of calls that originate as invalid, unallocated, unused or unassigned (i.e. intermediate numbers, administrative numbers and proxy numbers cooled for 90 days being withheld) from bad actors attempting to scam consumers.

However, in order to do this, they have to create another "list" or DNO, Do-Not-Originate List compiled through the efforts of all competing phone companies held in a database. Somehow, these phone companies will find a number in that database that does not violate Call Completion Rules, that is not already assigned, allocated, used or held in proxy for subscribers, with or without their consent, and block the call from entering the PSTN - public switched telephone network, and yet still have the possibility of error.

The problem here is that the report deals with Whole Phone Numbers that bad actors use to scam subscribers on the PSTN or through VoIP over the Internet. It does not seem to address the less than 7 digit or greater than 16 digit numbers that are transmitted to subscribers. Examples being just the number "1" or any number displayed with dashes like "--6--" or underscored like " 7 " or "01145576834561290".

What about Names with No Phone Number like "Unavailable, Anonymous, Private, Out of Area, Name Not Provided", etc.? These calls are typical of Caller ID being transmitted to subscribers that have virtually no meaningful use.

What about the current trend by scammers to use the subscriber's own phone number or his neighbors, all of which are valid, assigned and in use numbers? How does the DNO hope to stop scammers from using the "actual" working numbers from the North American Numbering Plan (NANP)? Just look these up and use them instead of trying to fake it.

The FCC Strike Force seems to have addressed some of the easiest "numbers" nationally to block but have overlooked the greater picture of just how easy it is to spoof calls through an overseas CLEC, a cell phone and a computer app. Yes they address international calls, but not the ones that look like ALL other cell phones. Which call is OK and which one is not? How long will it take to add their cell phone numbers to the DNO? Most overseas calls, including our military personnel are transmitted to the US local central offices as "Out of Area"; How does the DNO address this issue?

The scamming market is still a major problem for the FCC even with Ruling FCC-17-151A1. The scams will still keep coming and with greater difficulty in stopping the calls. The answer lies in a CPE - Customer Premise Equipment device that can show the subscriber who is calling and, with their participation, can stop or allow the call at their home or office. The CPE can be sponsored by ANY phone company legally and sold, leased or given away free to any subscriber who needs the call protection. The voice service providers in Ruling FCC-17-151A1 are all given this authority and should use it to offer free Caller ID with the CPE device on subscriber's premise or package it with line service and other services.

Digitone Communications offers CPE equipment for on premise handling of calls not covered by all previous "lists" including all call types discussed here in this document. Visit Digitone.Com to see the possibility of working with a "REAL" solution.