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ACE Direct Platform Release Documentation

User Guide

Version 3.2

August 15, 2019

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Record of Changes

Version	Date	Author / Owner	Description of Change
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3.2	August 15, 2019	The Health FFRDC	Version 3.2 for release to Sponsor

Executive Summary

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Center of Expertise (COE) Project promotes the Commission's goal to foster innovations that advance functionally equivalent telecommunications. Toward that end, the project ensures that the Telecommunications Relay Service employs improved technology for persons who are d/Deaf¹, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, and/or have speech disabilities. The FCC has embraced a research-based approach to achieve this goal by engaging the CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare Federally Funded Research and Development Center (the Health FFRDC), operated by The MITRE Corporation (MITRE), to conduct independent engineering assessments that promote and demonstrate TRS's functional equivalence.

The Health FFRDC is independently assessing voice telephone services, video access services, and Internet Protocol (IP)-based captioning technology; improvements to TRS efficiency; solutions for direct communication between people with communication disabilities and other telephone users; and the effectiveness, efficiency, and consumer response to current and future approaches for delivering TRS.

At the FCC's request, the Health FFRDC developed a Direct Video Calling (DVC) Auto-Routing Proof of Concept (POC) in support of the FCC's Accessible Communications for Everyone (ACE)² program. This DVC auto-routing platform enables direct calling from d/Deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals to an American Sign Language (ASL)-trained agent within the organization's call center. The agent handles the call using a video-capable phone with real-time video connection. To demonstrate the capabilities of DVC, the FCC and the Health FFRDC have further advanced the original auto-routing POC into a call center platform for 2 to 20 customer service representatives. This new DVC platform is called ACE Direct.

Implementing the Direct Video Calling platform provides critical benefits toward achieving functionally equivalent telecommunications:

- Improved Communications DVC improves privacy and decreases misrepresentation, which improves efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity.
- Career Opportunities Employing native ASL users to handle customer service video calls expands hiring opportunities. Executive Order 13548 (July 2010) directed federal agencies to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- **Simple Implementation** The technology to implement a DVC system is readily obtainable, affordable, and easy to set up.
- Secure Communications With proper configuration, agencies can use high-speed broadband and their own internal networks without compromising security or contending with barriers created by firewalls.
- **Maintain ADA Compliance** DVC ensures compliance mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

¹ MITRE is using d/Deaf as an umbrella term to describe individuals who are deaf in the audiological sense, as well as those who identify as culturally Deaf.

https://www.fcc.gov/ace

 Cost Savings – Replacing three-way interpreted calls with two-way direct communication saves money by minimizing the need for repeat calls due to miscommunication and/or misunderstanding.

As part of this effort, the Health FFRDC developed and documented requirements and features, including user stories and associated use cases. The Health FFRDC also configured, tested, and integrated provider endpoint video devices with the ACE Direct platform. Detailed configuration and source code files are available for download and reproduction to improve solutions to support the community. The public can download or clone these files at https://github.com/FCC/ACEDirect.

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1. Introduction

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Center of Expertise (COE) Project promotes the Commission's goal to foster innovations that advance functionally equivalent telecommunications. Toward that end, the project ensures that the Telecommunications Relay Service employs improved technology for persons who are d/Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, and/or have speech disabilities. In this document, "d/Deaf" describes individuals who are deaf in the audiological sense as well as those who identify as culturally Deaf.

The CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare Federally Funded Research and Development Center (the Health FFRDC), sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and all divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is the first FFRDC dedicated to strengthening the nation's healthcare system. MITRE, an objective not-for-profit organization, operates the Health FFRDC in partnership with CMS and all HHS agencies to implement innovative ideas to solve our nation's toughest health problems.

1.1 Background

The FCC has embraced a research-based approach to achieve this goal by engaging the Health FFRDC to conduct independent engineering assessments that promote and demonstrate TRS's functional equivalence. As part of the Accessible Communications for Everyone (ACE) program, the Health FFRDC independently assesses voice telephone services, video access services, and Internet Protocol (IP)-based captioning technology; improvements to TRS efficiency; solutions for direct communication between people with communication disabilities and other telephone users; and the effectiveness, efficiency, and consumer response to current and future approaches for delivering TRS.

In continuing pursuit of the Commission's goal to advance functionally equivalent telecommunications, the Health FFRDC developed ACE Direct, an open source call center platform that supports Direct Video Calling (DVC) for 2 to 20 Agents. Implementing ACE Direct in a corporate production environment requires customization to ensure adherence to corporate practices and policies related to security, system configurations, cloud services, and availability.

The FCC encourages government agencies and private businesses to make DVC part of their call center strategy, because it offers significant gains for providing functionally equivalent telecommunications, including:

- Improved Communications DVC improves privacy and decreases misrepresentation, which enhances efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity.
- Career Opportunities Employing native American Sign Language (ASL) speakers to handle customer service video calls expands hiring opportunities. Executive Order 13548 (July 2010) directed federal agencies to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- **Simple Implementation** The technology to implement a DVC system is readily obtainable, affordable, and easy to set up.

- **Secure Communications** With proper configuration, agencies can use high-speed broadband and their own internal networks without compromising security or contending with barriers created by firewalls.
- **Maintain ADA Compliance** DVC ensures compliance mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Cost Savings Replacing three-way interpreted calls with two-way direct communication saves money by minimizing the need for repeat calls due to miscommunication and/or misunderstanding.

The Health FFRDC developed and documented ACE Direct requirements and features, including consumer stories and associated use cases. The Health FFRDC also configured, tested, and integrated video relay service (VRS) provider endpoint video devices using the ACE Direct platform.

1.2 Purpose and Scope

This document presents an overview of the ACE Direct architecture, user stories, and describes how to integrate DVC within a current call center workflow to provide an independent, ondemand service.

In addition to this release documentation, detailed configuration and source code files are available to the public at https://github.com/FCC/ACEDirect for download and reproduction of the platform to support and promote future platform enhancements.

2. Overview of Direct Video Calling and ACE Direct

People who are d/Deaf, hard-of-hearing, DeafBlind, or speech-disabled use TRS to communicate with each other and with hearing people over the phone. Since the early 2000s, VRS calls have been the primary way that ASL fluent consumers access telecommunications. VRS involves the use of third-party communication assistants (CA) as sign language interpreters to place telephone calls. The interpreter translates between ASL and spoken English for the non-signing party. People who communicate in ASL use VRS to place telephone calls to customer assistance divisions of government agencies and businesses in the United States every day, but there are other solutions.

2.1 DVC Is an Alternative to Traditional Relay Calls

The FCC's sponsorship of the ACE program includes creating a DVC platform. The ASL Consumer Support Line³—the first of its kind in the federal government—allows ASL users to make video calls directly to an agent fluent in ASL. English is not the first language of many d/Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, and speech-disabled TRS consumers. One-to-one communication in ASL is most often preferred.

When comparing calls made to the FCC ASL Consumer Support Line with calls placed through VRS, the FCC found that VRS calls were handled on average 33 percent faster and the number of consumers who are deaf increased approximately threefold. Most impressive is that the FCC achieved these results without adding staff to handle the increased call volume.

2.2 Open Source Development to Promote Community Involvement

ACE Direct is open source technology that offers an option for implementing DVC. Open source promotes universal access via a free license to a product's design/blueprint and universal redistribution of that design/blueprint, including subsequent improvements to it. The open source model employs a decentralized model of production. A main principle of open source software development is peer production: products such as source code, "blueprints," and documentation are available to the public at no cost.

The FCC encourages government agencies, educational institutions, and others seeking to enhance the lives of citizens who are d/Deaf, hard of hearing, DeafBlind, and/or have speech disabilities to adopt and improve on the existing code base to provide additional features, improve the workflow, and introduce new technologies to the open source ACE Direct platform.

2.3 Conceptual System Overview

The Health FFRDC developed the open source-based ACE Direct platform for implementation in the Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud environment. Figure 1 presents a notional view of the architecture of the ACE Direct components from a configuration and programming standpoint.

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Available at: https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adds-american-sign-language-consumer-support-line-videophone.

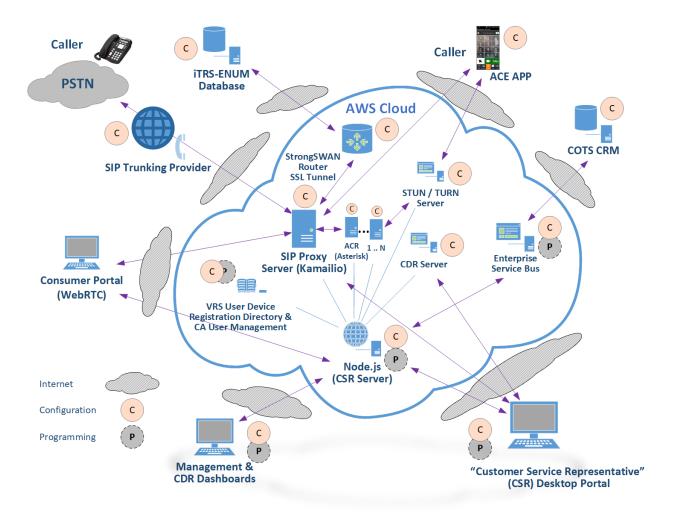


Figure 1. Notional Diagram for ACE Direct Platform

As Figure 1 shows, some ACE Direct components require only configurations (noted as "C") and other components require both configuration and programming (noted as "P"). Table 1 presents an overview of these components. The ACE Direct Installation and Configuration Guide provides detailed information about installation and configuration. Table 1 provides a listing and description of the major components in ACE Direct. Please refer to the ACE Direct Installation and Configuration Guide for information related to installation and configuration.

Table 1. ACE Direct Components

Component	Description
Agent Portal	The Agent desktop Portal provides a user interface to the Agent—the Customer Service Representative (CSR)—for login and conducting DVC services to the ACE Direct Consumers.

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Component	Description
Asterisk Open Source PBX (Private Branch Exchange)	The Asterisk open source PBX supports direct video communication via both Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and video calls.
Captioning Server	The captioning server provides the interface to web-based captioning services and provides speech to text capabilities for both the agent and consumer portals.
Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) Customer Relationship Management (CRM)	To demonstrate integration with a CRM service, ACE Direct connects to the Zendesk Representational State Transfer (RESTful) application programming interface (API) via the Enterprise Service Bus. ACE Direct sends Java Script Object Notation (JSON)-based messages to the RESTful Zendesk API to manage and query customer records.
Enterprise Service Bus (ESB)	The ESB provides a generic method to update legacy database systems as well as the diverse number of databases and unstructured data repositories on the market and in use today. ACE Direct ESB integrates with a COTS CRM service (e.g., Zendesk) as a ticketing system for the Agent to document service cases.
External Visual Ring Indicator and Agent Status	The Kuando Busylight™ is used as an external visual ring indicator and Agent status instrument. ACE Direct supports both of its models, Alpha and Omega.
Identity and Access Management	ACE Direct uses the OpenAM and OpenIDM components from ForgeRock to:
G	 Provide secure access to the Agent and Management portals Allow self-help features, such as registration and lost password Allow a Manager to set the hours an Agent can be active in the system
iTRS-ENUM database	The iTRS (Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service) database maps 10-digit U.S. telephone numbers to IP addresses using the industry-standard ENUM (E.164 Number to Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) Mapping) protocol. VRS providers assign these 10-digit telephone numbers to their customers.
Kamailio SIP Proxy Server	The Kamailio SIP Proxy server provides a single point of entry following defense in depth principles to create a layer between the ACE Direct environment and the Internet. This enhanced security provides a means to mitigate certain exploits and Distributed Denial of Service attacks (DDoS).
Management Portal	The Management Dashboard provides Key Performance Indicators (KPI) that the call center manager can monitor in real time. The CDR Dashboard provides the view and export functions of the Asterisk CDRs stored in its MySQL database.
Node.js	Node.js is an open source platform that can be used to develop applications and servers. For ACE Direct, the Node.js server contains several services running on ports to support the Agent Desktop Portal and other management-related portals, including the Management Dashboard and Call Detail Record (CDR) Dashboard. The Node.js server supports the Real-Time Text (RTT) between the Agent Desktop Portal and the Consumer Portal. It also provides services for VRS lookup to verify that the phone number is a valid number in the VRS database.

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Component	Description
Reverse Proxy, Load-balancer and HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) Cache	NGINX is used as a reverse proxy to only expose HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) / port 443 and hide internal port number and internal script names to prevent spoofing and hacking by external entities.
Screenshot of Consumer Help Center	The Consumer Portal combines form submission with real-time audio, video, and text communication to an Agent.
State Management and Key Information Storage	Redis is an in-memory key-value data storage, used as a database to store data previously stored in memory to manage state.
StrongSWAN Router for Secure Socket Layer (SSL) Tunnel	To support the iTRS-ENUM database lookup, a Virtual Private Network (VPN) tunnel is established to Neustar from a StrongSwan (open source network operating system) router instance running in AWS. The router instance has a loopback interface with an Elastic IP (EIP) on it that is the encryption domain for the tunnel.
STUN Server	STUN (formerly Simple Traversal of UDP through Network Address Translation (NAT) Request for Comment (RFC) 3489) is reflexive and identifies if the endpoint is behind a NAT or firewall and determines the public IP address. This helps STUN establish a peer-to-peer connection.

2.4 ACE Direct Components and Technology Features

The following subsections recount the development history of ACE Direct and the features in its components. Table 2 shows, by version number and release date, the history of ACE Direct and the features added to each version.

Table 2. ACE Direct Version History

Version	Release Date	Enhancements / Features Introduced
1.0	November 4, 2016	 The first open source, omnichannel auto call-routing contact center platform designed for 2 to 20 Agents Browser-based interface allowing for remote use by Agents and Managers A Management Portal for contact center statistics such as calls waiting, calls abandoned, and average hold time Video, audio, and Real-Time Text (RTT) communications Web Real-Time Communications (WebRTC) technology to facilitate browser-to-browser video communication Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) for enterprise data integration Support for multiple queues: Complaints and General Questions

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Version	Release Date	Enhancements / Features Introduced
1.1	February 17, 2017	 Call transfer functionality from one Agent to another Increased character limit in WebRTC RTT implementation Acceptance of inbound PSTN calls Data transmission is encrypted using TLS and HTTPS throughout the platform Segmentation of application servers to increase system scalability Code modifications to improve reliability and scalability
2.0	November 1, 2017	 Introduced a "single pane of glass" for the Agent Portal, thus all communications occur through the browser Enhanced system security through: An identity and access management solution, OpenAM, to manage system access URL masking using NGINX to prevent external cyberattacks Added an external visual ring indicator (Kuando Busylight™) to inform the Agent of an incoming call and others of an Agent's status Introduced videomail recording and retrieval Usability enhancements to the Agent, Management, and Consumer portals Simplified the installation process for quicker installations
2.1	May 2018	 Added ability for a Manager to modify the contact center's hours of operations Added function for a Manager to close the contact center in case of emergency Integration with Zendesk using CDC Software. This will be a permanent feature and is configurable during installation. Developed ACE Direct skinny modes for both the Agent and Consumer screens when a separate CRM system is in use Outbound calling can be conducted from the Agent Portal UI Enhancements: Present the Agent's name to Consumer during a call Re-style the back button on the Consumer Portal New dialog to inform Consumers that they are in queue Clear / enable / disable chat using context (both Agent and Consumers) Agent option to Return to Away / Return to Ready after a call Enhancements to the Management Portal UI, including the Agent PIE chart, etc. Incorporated resizable/movable/profile-able Agent forms Improved Installation and Operations Global configuration file to simplify the installation process Updated installation procedure for global configuration Consolidated database for both ACE Direct and Asterisk Created an ACE Direct/NGINX/OpenAM routing for simplicity and HTTP Strict Transfer Security (HSTS) directive

Version	Release Date	Enhancements / Features Introduced
3.0	October 26, 2018	 Containers – Containers simplify the overall ACE Direct installation, configuration, and deployment. They improve portability to different environments and add modularity. Management Portal Agent Provisioning UI – The Management Portal Agent Provisioning screen makes it easy for call center managers to provision and maintain agent users in both OpenAM and ACE Direct. This allows customization of the default agent accounts. Data Logger Utility – The Data Logger Utility captures and saves log files, trace information, and testing details automatically. This information facilitates troubleshooting interoperability and call quality issues NGINX Custom Error Page – The NGINX Custom Error Page is a more user-friendly page than the default NGINX error page. This ACE Direct page appears when the system is offline ASL Video On Hold – This feature allows the call center to display or advertise a custom message to a caller while on hold or after hours Customizable ACE Direct URLs – Customizable ACE Direct Uniform Resource Locators (URL) allow owners, like the FCC, to customize the public URLs to match their corporate name or brand. An example is https://xyzcorp.org/XYZDirect/agent
3.1	April 9, 2019	SIP Proxy Server – The SIP Proxy server provides a single point of entry following defense in depth principles to create a layer between the ACE Direct environment and the Internet. This enhanced security provides a means to mitigate certain exploits and Distributed Denial of Service attacks (DDoS).
3.2	August 15, 2019	 Captioning – Automated Speech Recognition engine speech-to-text captioning is now available in the Consumer and Agent portals. Containerization – OpenAM and Asterisk are now available as Docker containers. Agent, Consumer and Management Portal UI Enhancements – The web portals have better aspect ratios for video, element locations, element placement, and button sizing. Captioning demo capability – ACE Direct now has a captioning preview feature that plays a mock captioning conversation between a consumer and agent. This feature is for demonstration purposes only.

Table 3 provides a description of the major features in ACE Direct.

Table 3. ACE Direct Features

Feature	Feature Description
Agent Portal – The Agent interface to the Consumer	 Browser-based to allow for remote access Data transmission is encrypted using TLS and HTTPS All video and RTT communications conducted through a single browser Video display can be set to full screen on command. This is particularly useful when video communication is less than ideal. Outbound calling using an integrated dialer Videomails can be viewed and the display sorted on any data fields listed Videomail callbacks can be made with the click of the mouse Number of unread videomails displayed Get Help feature to contact a Manager External visual ring indicator to notify the Agent of an incoming call and others when the Agent is in a call Support for multiple queues: Complaints and General Questions Displays the number of calls waiting in the queue Visibility into the status of other Agents. Useful if Agents are geographically disbursed. Duration of the call provided to the Agent while in the call CRM ticket information and scripts can be integrated into ACE Direct and displayed in the Agent Portal Sections of the interface can be resized and moved based on Agent preferences Skinny mode hides CRM forms Disable chat during calls from provider devices because these devices do not currently provide a chat feature Speech-to-text captioning and customization
Consumer Portal – The Consumer interface to the Agent	 Browser-based to allow remote access Data transmission is encrypted using TLS and HTTPS All video and RTT communications conducted through a single browser Video display can be set to full screen on command. This is particularly useful when video communication is less than ideal. Agent's name displayed during video and RTT calls to enhance interaction Displays the Consumer's position in the queue Displays a dialog when the call center is after hours May be a standalone web page or integrated with an existing portal Skinny mode bypasses CRM ticket input Videomail capability Configurable redirect to a specific URL Speech-to-text captioning and customization

Feature	Feature Description
Management Dashboard – Provides contact center statistics and KPIs	 Browser-based to allow for remote access Data transmission is encrypted using TLS and HTTPS Support for multiple queues to direct your customers to the proper Agent There are two queue templates in ACE Direct out of the box: ComplaintsQueue and GeneralQuestionQueue. The following KPIs are a summary over both queues combined. Calls Waiting – Number of calls waiting in all queues. Calls Handled – Number of calls completed in all queues. Average Hold Time (minutes:seconds) – Average call holding time in all queues. Calls Abandoned – Number of calls not answered in all queues. Calls Abandoned – Number of calls rare displayed per queue template: (Logged In – Number of Agents currently logged into the system. Available Agents – Number of Agents currently in a ready state. Current Calls – Number of calls currently in progress. Total Calls – Total number of calls made. Calls Handled – Total number of calls abandoned. Talk Time – Average talk time (minutes:seconds). Hold Time – Average hold time (minutes:seconds). Agent-related KPIs – The following KPIs are displayed per Agent. The Agent name, extension, and registered queues are displayed along with the KPI: Agent name – Name of the Agent. Registered extension – Extension assigned to the Agent. Registered queues – Asterisk queues assigned to the Agent. All queue names are displayed if an Agent is assigned to more than one queue. Calls Completed – Number of calls handled (answered and completed) by the Agent. Average Call Time – Talk Time divided by number of calls. Talk Time – The cumulative time the Agent has spent on calls. Status – Logged Off, Ready, Away, or In-Call.
Call Detail Record Dashboard – Provides a means of auditing call activity, tracking a call Agent's activity, and creating a report of both incoming and outgoing calls	 Provides a method to view, sort, search, and export the Asterisk call detail records stored in the database for additional reporting by your business intelligence or report writing tool.
Kuando Busylight™ Configuration – Provides a graphical user interface to customize the light display of the Kuando Busylight™	 Agent statuses, light colors, and light behaviors (solid/blinking) are customizable to fit your environment Function to reset to a default configuration Color/behavior changes are applied to the Agent Portal automatically in real time

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Feature	Feature Description
Hours of Operation UI – A feature to implement and manage call center hours of operation	 This UI allows the Manager to establish the days and hours of operation for the contact center instead of having the Asterisk administrator perform this operation through an Asterisk command line Ability to force open, force close, or resume normal business operation with the click of the mouse Lists hours of operation in all U.S. time zones for easy readability Time zone graphical map Contact Center open/closed indicator for a quick view of the contact center status
Videomail Dashboard – A Manager view of all videomails in the system	 Sort, view, and filter videomails to organize them to the Manager's preferences Pie chart for videomail statuses for easy viewing

2.5 Highlighted User Stories

The FCC and the Health FFRDC partnered with federal agencies to derive typical requests for services and call center workflows. The Health FFRDC built ACE Direct to encompass the core functions of a traditional hearing-based call center. ACE Direct focuses on the responsibilities of Agents and their Managers. Table 4 presents a summary of ACE Direct user stories, which demonstrate these functions and capabilities.

Table 4. Highlighted User Stories for ACE Direct

User Story	Description
Direct Video Call to an ASL-fluent Agent	As an ASL user, I want to speak with another ASL user when I contact a call center.
Direct Video Call from an ASL-fluent Agent	As an ASL user, I want to receive a callback from another ASL user when at a call center.
CRM Integration	As an Agent, I want to view, update, and enter new information regarding contact with the Consumer from the corporate CRM system.
Call Script Integration	As an Agent, I want to view corporate call scripts based on the needs of the Consumer.
Call-handling capabilities	As an ACE Direct Agent, I want to perform "Call on Hold" and "Call Transfer" as needed.
Screenshot of Consumer Help Center	As a Consumer, I want to file a complaint through a web portal on my website. I also want the option of conversing with the Agent through video and Real-Time Text. Please refer to subsection 2.6 for details (A complaint process illustrates this story.)
Videomail	As an Agent, I want to retrieve a videomail left by Consumers.
Management Dashboard	As the ACE Direct Manager/Operator, I want to access near real-time information on the dashboard.

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User Story	Description
Call Detail Record	As the ACE Direct Administrator, I want to access the Call Detail Record through a web portal and export CDRs as needed for audit purposes. Please refer to subsection 2.7.2 for details.
Web-based Application	As an Agent, I want the ability to work remotely from the main call center, if necessary.
Multi-CSR Login with Status	As the ACE Direct Agent, I want to log in using the Agent Desktop along with other Agents and I want to change my status between "Ready" and "Away".
Add, Suspend, or Remove an Agent's Access	As the Administrator, I want to add, suspend or remove an Agent's access to ACE Direct.
Captioning in the Agent Portal	As an Agent, I want to view and customize speech-to-text captions from a Consumer.
Captioning in the Consumer Portal	As a Consumer, I want to view and customize speech-to-text captions from an Agent.

2.6 Agent Desktop

This subsection provides a walkthrough of the Agent Portal, highlighting each of the available functionalities.

At the time of publication, the ACE Direct Agent Portal is compatible with the Chrome browser, which is WebRTC compatible. WebRTC technology allows ACE Direct to present video directly through the browser, eliminating the need for a second monitor and providing a full omnichannel experience for the Agent.

2.6.1 Logging into ACE Direct

Upon navigating to the portal host URL, a login screen appears as shown in Figure 2. To access the portal, Agents must enter their username and password.

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Figure 2. Screenshot of Agent Desktop Login

Figure 3 presents a screenshot of the Agent Desktop, which consists of the following elements:

- Side panels (left and right) to provide navigation and information to the Agent, including a videomail retrieval panel and an outbound calling dial pad
- A user chat area for RTT chats with the VRS Consumer
- A header area that displays call duration information and a help button
- Profile information displaying the Agent's name and picture and the capability to sign out of the system
- VRS Consumer information such as first name, last name, etc.
- Current CRM ticket information provided by the VRS Consumer

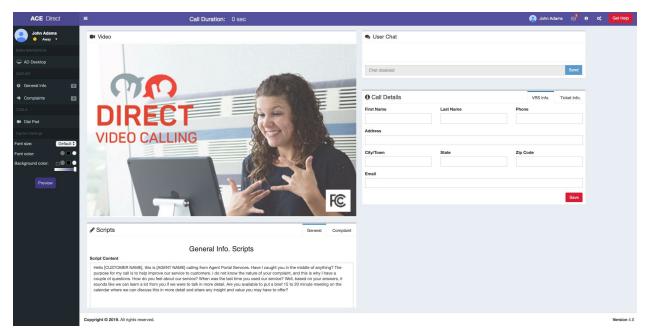


Figure 3. Screenshot of Agent Desktop

2.6.2 Side Panels

The ACE Direct Agent Desktop portal has two side panels that provide navigation and information to the Agent.

2.6.2.1 Left Side Panel (Main Navigation)

As shown in Figure 4, the left side panel of the Agent Portal provides both Agent Status and the Main Navigation. Here Agents can select their status as "Ready" or "Away" via the dropdown status change button. When an Agent first signs into the portal, the status defaults to "Away". When the Agent is ready to receive calls, the Agent selects the "Ready" status. For an incoming call, an intermediate "Incoming Call" status appears, along with a modal alert dialog that takes the foreground. Once the Agent enters a call, the status changes to "In Call". After the Agent leaves the call, the Agent is presented with a modal to enter either an "Away" or a "Ready" state. If the Agent chooses "Away", the Agent can perform any tasks related to the call. Selecting the "Ready" state makes the Agent available to Consumers who have entered the call queue.



Figure 4. Screenshots of the Agent Statuses

As shown in Figure 5, a new Dial Pad feature at the bottom of the left side panel allows Agents to place outbound calls. Clicking the Dial Pad icon brings up the dial pad for outbound calling.

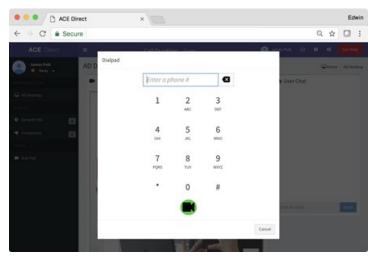


Figure 5. Dial Pad for Outbound Calling

Figure 6 is a dialog to customize the display of captions. Caption font size, color, and background color can be modified at any time during a call.



Figure 6. Caption Settings

2.6.2.2 Right Side Panel (Agent Status and Videomail mailbox)

The right side panel as shown in Figure 7 is accessible by clicking on the gears icon in the top right corner of the portal. The Agent can reach the videomail mailbox directly by clicking on the envelope icon in the top right corner of the portal. This section can be collapsed to give the Agent more space for the main content area. Upon opening the right side panel, the Agent can access two tabbed content areas (Agents and Video Mail).

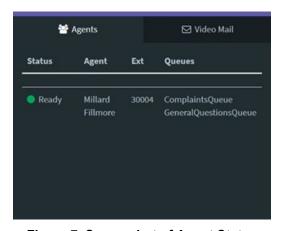


Figure 7. Screenshot of Agent Status

2.6.2.2.1 Agent Status

The Agent Status section provides the Agent with a list of Agents logged into ACE Direct. The Agent can view information about each Agent listed, such as their status, extension, and queues.

2.6.2.2.2 Videomail

The Videomail tab, as shown on the right side in Figure 8, displays a list of videomails received while the Agents were unavailable to take calls. This list provides the Agent with the videophone number, time, date, duration, and status of the videomail. The Agent can sort the videomail table by any of the columns in ascending or descending order and can filter the videomail by status. The status may be "Unread", "Read", "In Progress", or "Closed". Unread videomails are highlighted in **boldface**. An indicator at the top right of the screen provides the Agent with a count of unread videomails. All Agents are presented with the same list of videomails because videomails are not specific to an Agent.

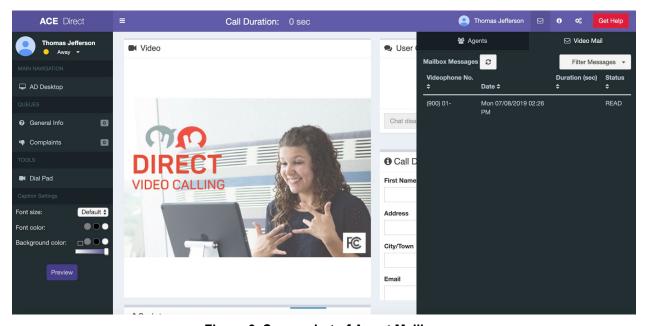


Figure 8. Screenshot of Agent Mailbox

By clicking on a specific videomail, the Agent can view the contents and update the status. Figure 9 displays the playback screen.

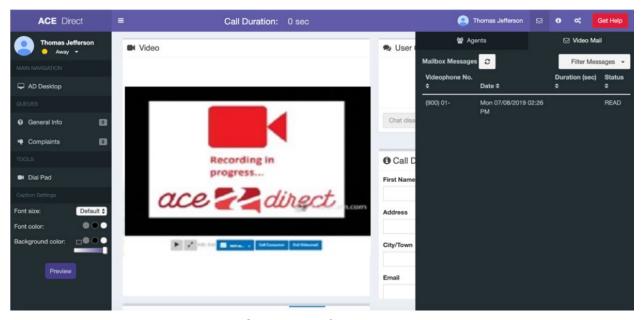


Figure 9. Screenshot of Videomail Playback

The videomail status can be changed to "Unread", "Read", "In Progress, or "Closed". If the Agent deletes the videomail, it is removed from the videomail mailbox but can be reviewed in the Management Portal before permanent deletion. The Agent can also place a call to the videophone number associated with the videomail.

2.6.3 Video and Real-Time Text Communications

The ACE Direct platform supports the following methods of communication: voice, video, Real-Time Text, and captioning. This subsection focuses on two methods of communication using ACE Direct: video and Real-Time Text.

2.6.3.1 Agent Video Chat

Video Chat communications on the platform occur through the browser using WebRTC technology. The Consumer must be using a WebRTC-compatible browser to enable this functionality if the Consumer is using a computer or smartphone. Video Chat can also be used with a videophone. During a call, the Agent has button options to mute audio, mute video, or view the Consumer's video in full screen mode. Figure 10 shows the video of the Consumer taking up the full screen while the Agent's self-video remains in the corner.



Figure 10. Screenshot of Full Screen Video Mode

2.6.3.2 Agent Portal Captioning

ACE Direct generates captions of user conversations and displays the text overlaid on the video screen. The caption text displayed on the Agent Portal, as highlighted by the arrow, shows captions corresponding to the words spoken by the Consumer. Caption text attributes such as size, text color and background color can be dynamically changed using the caption settings/controls. Figure 11 shows a screenshot sample of captions in the Agent Portal.

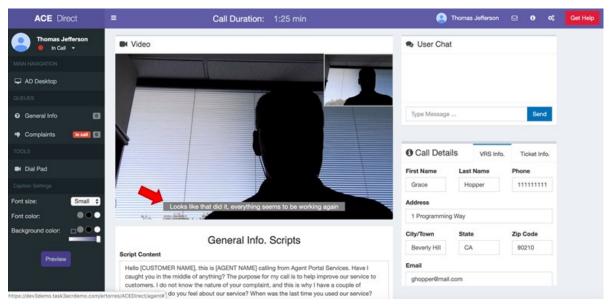


Figure 11. Screenshot of Sample Captions on the Agent Portal

2.6.3.3 Real-Time Text Chat

The User Chat box, as shown in Figure 12, provides the Agent with another channel of communication with the Consumer. As the Agent types a message to the Consumer in the input field, the Consumer can view the message character-by-character in real time. The chat history remains visible to the Agent until the Agent closes the ticket and is currently not saved. Use of this feature is not available for videophones as of this publication.

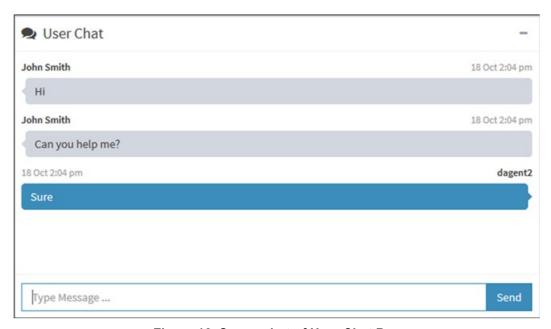


Figure 12. Screenshot of User Chat Box

2.6.3.4 Scripts

The Scripts box, as shown in Figure 13, provides the Agent with two sub-tabbed areas where the Agent can select the appropriate script to apply to the conversation. This area is customizable during integration at a site.

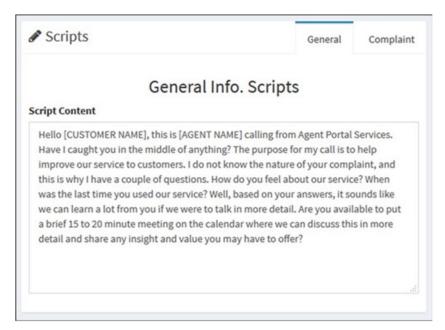


Figure 13. Screenshot of Script Box

2.6.4 Agent Desktop Portal Header

The Agent Desktop Portal header provides the Agent with the call duration information, a help button, and profile information about the Agent along with the capability to sign out of the system.

2.6.4.1 Call Duration and Get Help Button

The Call Duration shows a running clock of the call length once the Agent accepts the incoming Consumer call. As shown in Figure 14, the Get Help button allows the Agent to request help from a Manager during a call. When the Agent clicks the Get Help button, the Agent's name will change color and begin to flash on the Management Dashboard to indicate the Agent needs help.

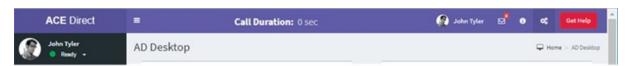


Figure 14. Screenshot of Call Duration and Assistance Button

2.6.4.2 Agent Profile

After logging in, the Agent's name and picture will appear in the Agent Profile at the top right corner of the Agent Desktop Portal head as shown in Figure 15. (As a default, all Agents display the same profile picture.) The Agent has the capability to log out of the ACE Direct Portal by clicking the "Sign out" button. If the Agent has changed the layout of the Agent Portal, it can be reverted to the original layout by clicking the "Default Layout" button.

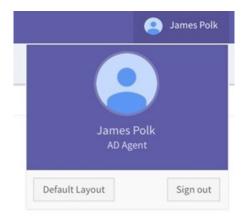


Figure 15. Screenshot of Agent Profile

2.6.5 Video Relay Service and Ticket Information

2.6.5.1 Video Relay Service Information

The VRS Information section displays the information about the Consumer currently on file in the CRM system. Figure 16 shows that after the call has ended, the Agent must click on the "Save" button in the VRS Information box to return to the queue and receive new calls.

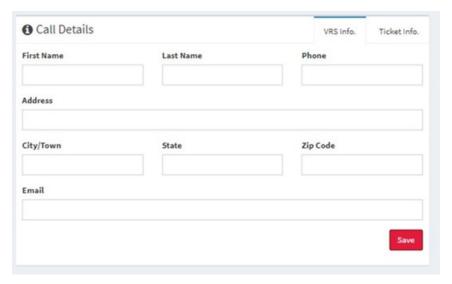


Figure 16. Screenshot of VRS Information

2.6.5.2 Ticket Information

Figure 17 shows the Ticket Information section that provides the Agent with the Consumer's submitted information.

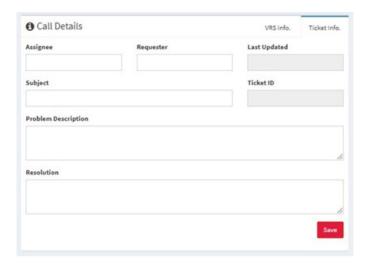


Figure 17. Screenshot of Ticket Information

2.7 Kuando Busylight™ Visual Ring Indicator and Agent Status

ACE Direct incorporates the Kuando BusylightTM device as an integral part for notifying call center personnel of incoming calls and the status of an Agent (such as "Away", "Ready", "In call," etc.). The Administrator can configure the color of the light and ensure a consistent configuration across all Agents. Subsection 2.7.2 presents an example configuration.

The Kuando BusylightTM is not included with the ACE Direct platform and must be purchased separately. The Kuando BusylightTM is available in several different models and from several online vendors.

2.7.1 Agent Status

Each Agent has a status based on the Agent's activity with ACE Direct, as shown in Table 5.

Agent Status

Definition

The Agent is not available and no calls will be directed to them.

Ready

The Agent is available to take calls from the queues.

In a Call

The Agent is currently handling a call.

Incoming Call

The Agent is receiving a call, but has not yet answered it.

Wrap Up

The Agent just finished a call, but has not yet hit "Return to Ready" or "Return to Away". No calls can be directed to the Agent.

Table 5. Agent Status

The Agent Status, presented by coordinated color and lighting pattern, is communicated via the Kuando BusylightTM device and displayed in the Agent Portal as depicted in subsection 2.7.2. Figure 18 shows the definitions of different colors available. The configurations can be reset to the default values at any time by clicking "Reset to Default" also in Figure 18.

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2.7.2 Kuando Busylight™ Light Configuration

Managers can customize the color associated with each possible Agent status through the Light Configuration page in the Management Portal as shown in Figure 18. Soon after a Manager saves the form, the color is updated in real time and appears on the Agent's Kuando BusylightTM as well as in the Agent Portal, as shown in Figure 18 and Figure 19.

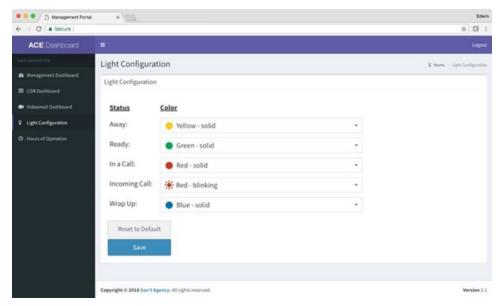


Figure 18. Screenshot of Kuando Busylight™ Light Configuration Page

Figure 19 shows the default color scheme, which is Section 508 compliant. Using the "Reset to Default" button, the status and color selections will revert to the default settings.

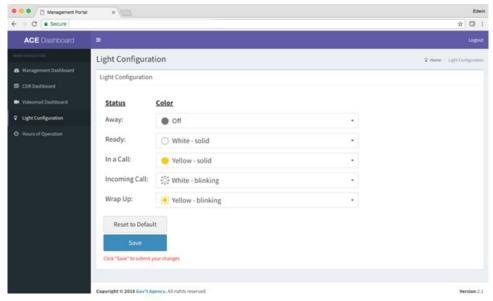


Figure 19. Screenshot of Kuando Busylight™ Default Color Scheme

2.7.3 Lightserver

Lightserver is a standalone Java application that must execute on the desktop computer of the Agent. The Lightserver program is a graphical user interface (GUI) for integrating the Kuando BusylightTM with the ACE Direct platform. It provides a RESTful interface via localhost only to the ACE Direct Agent Portal. When the Agent status changes, the Agent Portal makes RESTful calls to the Lightserver. A Kuando BusylightTM device must be connected to a USB port on the same computer before starting the Java application.

The ACE Direct Portal makes the initial connection to Lightserver when the Agent navigates to the ACE Direct Agent Portal. This connection enables all requests from the ACE Direct Agent Portal to Lightserver, as shown in Figure 20.

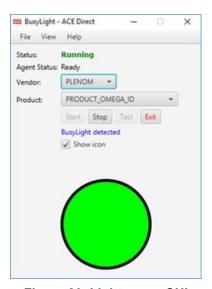


Figure 20. Lightserver GUI

At startup, the Lightserver GUI attempts to detect a connected BusylightTM device, perform a self-test, and start its server. At this point, an ACE Direct Agent may connect to the Kuando BusylightTM device from the ACE Direct Agent Portal. The Lightserver GUI has the data elements shown in Table 6.

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Data Element	Description	
Status	The current state of the Lightserver program (e.g., Running, Stopped,)	
Agent Status	The status of the connected Agent (e.g., ready, away, in call,)	
Vendor	The vendor of the light device; currently only PLENOM is supported	
Product	The Busylight™ device model	
Start	Starts the local server	
Stop	Stops the local server	
Test	Perform a self-test of the connected Busylight™ device	
Show icon	Show or hide the graphical Busylight™	

Table 6. Lightserver GUI Data Elements

2.8 Consumer Help Center

As shown in Figure 21, the design of the Consumer Help Center, also known as the Consumer Portal, gives Consumers the option to submit information before initiating a call with an Agent. The Consumer uses a web form to submit information to document the complaint.

The following two steps are required to access the Consumer Help Center:

- Start the browser on a machine that can access the Consumer Help Center Node.js server.
- Enter a URL similar to <a href="https://<hostname>/ACEDirect/Complaint">https://<hostname> is the public ACE Direct fully-qualified domain name. The exact URL depends on your installation and customization of ACE Direct.

2.8.1 Submit a Complaint

The descriptions and web forms presented in Figure 21 through Figure 23 demonstrate how to submit Consumer complaints in the ACE Direct system.

2.8.1.1 Verify Videophone Number

Figure 21 shows the opening page of the Consumer Portal (Consumer Help Center). Consumers enter their videophone numbers here. The ACE Direct system validates the videophone number before allowing the Consumer to proceed.

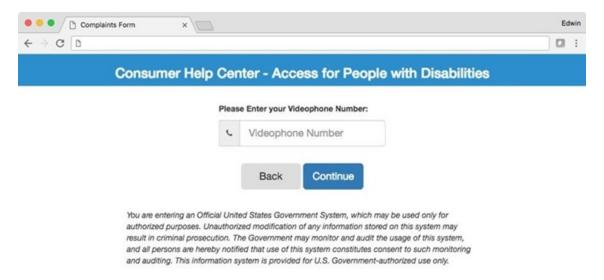


Figure 21. Screenshot of Consumer Help Center

2.8.1.2 Complete the Consumer Complaint Form

After verifying the videophone number through the iTRS-ENUM database, the portal displays the Consumer complaint form, as shown in the Figure 22 example.

If the Consumer had a prior ticket in the CRM system⁴, the videophone number information provided on the previous form is displayed in the VRS Information section via a ticket lookup. These fields will be empty if this is the Consumer's first call.

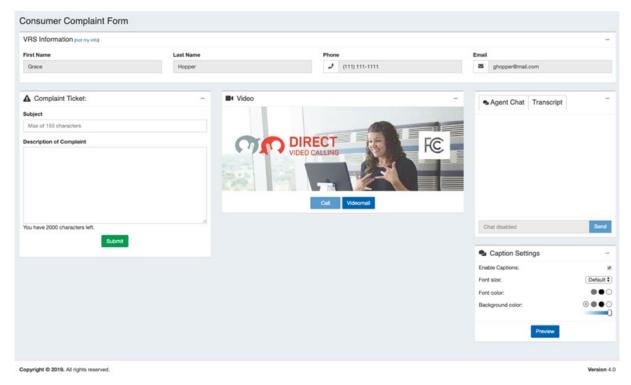


Figure 22. Screenshot of Consumer Complaint Form

2.8.1.3 Complete the Complaint Ticket

The complaint ticket section appears on the left side of the screen. The Consumer enters a subject and description of the complaint to provide background information to the Agent. After populating the subject and description fields, the Consumer clicks "Submit" to file the complaint. The complaint ticket is created in the ticketing system, which enables the "Call" button. This allows the Consumer to communicate with an Agent via video and chat. Figure 23 shows a screenshot of the complaint ticket form.

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Integration with a CRM is executed during the installation of ACE Direct.

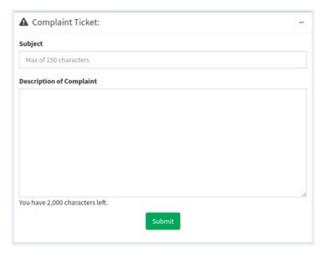


Figure 23. Screenshot of Complaint Ticket Form

2.8.1.4 Consumer Video Chat

After submitting the complaint ticket and receiving a ticket number, the Consumer presses the "Call" button and is connected to an available Agent. Video is the primary form of communication. As shown in Figure 24, the Agent's video is displayed in the video box in the center of the screen. During a call, the Consumer has button options to mute audio, mute video, or view the Agent's video in full screen mode.



Figure 24. Screenshot of Video Chat Window

2.8.1.5 Consumer Portal Captioning

ACE Direct generates captions of user conversations and displays the text overlaid on the video screen. The text displayed on the Consumer Portal shows captions corresponding to the words spoken by the Agent. Caption text attributes such as size, text color and background color can be dynamically changed using the caption settings/controls. Figure 25 shows sample captions on the consumer portal, indicated by a red arrow.

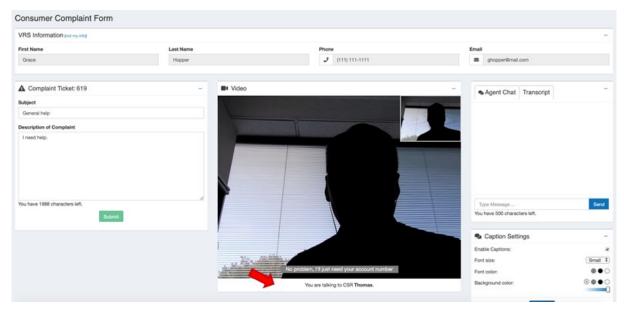


Figure 25. Screenshot of Sample Captions on the Consumer Portal

2.8.2 Use Real-Time Text Chat

The Agent Chat pane on the right side of the screen provides the Consumer with another channel of communication with the Agent. Notifications appear while the Consumer is typing a message to the Agent and vice versa. The messages will show up in real time, and the chat history will remain visible until the Agent closes the ticket. As shown in Figure 26, a maximum of 500 characters per line are allowed during the Agent chat.

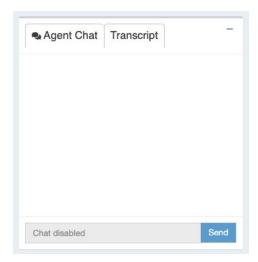


Figure 26. Screenshot of Real-Time Text Chat

When an Agent becomes available, the video chat will begin. Caption transcripts from the Agent appear in the Transcript tag. After the Consumer or the Agent hangs up, the Consumer is redirected to a page defined during implementation. For the initial configuration, the FCC.gov website is used for the redirect.

2.8.3 Leave a Videomail

A Consumer may leave a videomail during the Consumer complaint by pressing the "Record" button on the screen as shown in Figure 27. This flow is for illustrative purposes and should be customized to fit the needs of your Consumers.

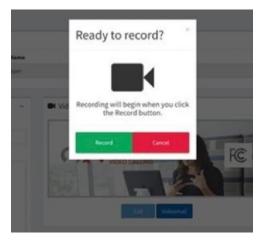


Figure 27. Screenshot of Ready to Record

Consumers see a self-view during recording. A status bar shows the remaining time for the recording (which currently defaults to 90 seconds). The maximum videomail length is a configurable parameter. Figure 28 shows the Consumer Portal with a videomail recording in progress.

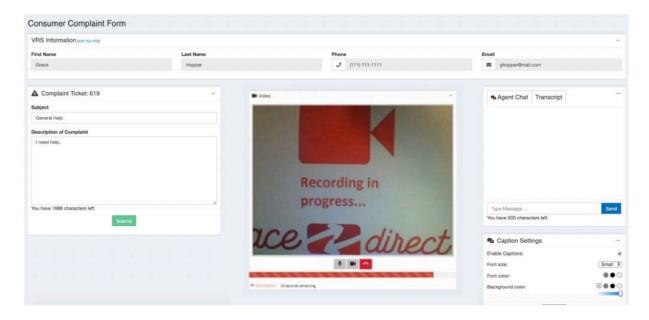


Figure 28. Screenshot of Videomail Recording in Progress

2.9 Management Portal

The Management Portal consists of five main components: The Management Dashboard, the Call Detail Record Dashboard, Videomail Dashboard, Light Configuration page, and Hours of Operation page. These pages present the Manager with information about the operations of the call center, information about incoming calls, videomail management, the ability to customize colors associated with an Agent status on the Kuando BusylightTM (please refer to subsection 2.7.2), and the ability to manage hours of operation for the call center.

2.9.1 Management Dashboard

The Management Dashboard, as shown in Figure 29, provides KPIs for monitoring in real time. Follow these two steps to access the Management Dashboard:

- Start the browser on a machine that can access the Management Portal Node.js server.
- Enter a URL similar to <a href="https://<hostname>/ManagementPortal">https://<hostname>is the host name of the Management Portal server. The exact URL depends on your installation and customization of ACE Direct.

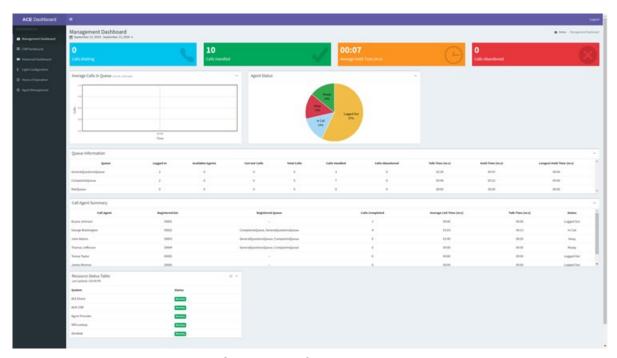


Figure 29. Screenshot of Management Dashboard

Key Performance Indicator Types

The ACE Direct Management Dashboard presents four types of KPIs:

- 1. **Summary Data** There are two queues in ACE Direct: ComplaintsQueue and GeneralQuestionQueue. The following KPIs are a summary over both queues combined:
 - a. Calls Waiting Number of calls waiting in all queues.
 - b. Calls Handled Number of calls completed in all queues.

- c. Average Hold Time (minutes:seconds) Average call holding time in all queues.
- d. Calls Abandoned Number of calls not answered in all queues.
- e. Average Calls in Queue (chart) Real-time chart of average calls in queue.
- f. Agent Status (chart) Real-time chart of agents logged in/out.
- 2. **Queue-related KPIs** The following KPIs are displayed per queue (ComplaintsQueue and GeneralQuestionQueue):
 - a. Logged In Number of Agents currently logged into the system.
 - b. Available Agents Number of Agents currently in a ready state.
 - c. Current Calls Number of calls currently in progress.
 - d. Total Calls Total number of calls made.
 - e. Calls Handled Total number of calls answered by an Agent.
 - f. Calls Abandoned Total number of calls abandoned.
 - g. Talk Time Average talk time (minutes:seconds).
 - h. Hold Time Average hold time (minutes:seconds).
 - i. Longest Hold Time The longest hold time (minutes:seconds).
- 3. **Agent-related KPIs** The following KPIs are displayed per Agent. The Agent name, extension, and registered queues are displayed along with the KPI:
 - a. Agent Name Name of the Agent.
 - b. Registered Extension Extension assigned to the Agent.
 - c. Registered Queues Asterisk queues assigned to the Agent. All queue names are displayed if an Agent is assigned to more than one queue.
 - d. Calls Completed Number of calls handled (answered and completed) by the Agent.
 - e. Average Call Time Talk Time divided by number of calls.
 - f. Talk Time The cumulative time the Agent has spent on calls.
 - g. Status Logged Off, Ready, Away, or In-Call.
- 4. **Resource Status KPIs** Figure 30 shows the resource status KPIs:
 - a. Resources A list of services required for ACE Direct to properly operate (ACE Direct, ACR-CDR, Agent Provider, Asterisk, VRS Lookup, and Zendesk).
 - b. Status The current state of each service (Running or Unavailable).

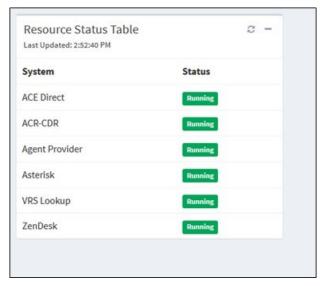


Figure 30. Screenshot of Resource Status

2.9.2 CDR Dashboard

Asterisk generates an Agent Event when a call is completed. A Call Detail Record (CDR) contains metadata that describes each call, such as the time of the call, call source, and the call destination. The CDR Dashboard provides the capability to audit call activity, track a call Agent's activity, and create a report of both incoming and outgoing calls. The CDR Dashboard, as shown in Figure 31, facilitates viewing and exporting of Asterisk CDRs stored in the MySQL database.

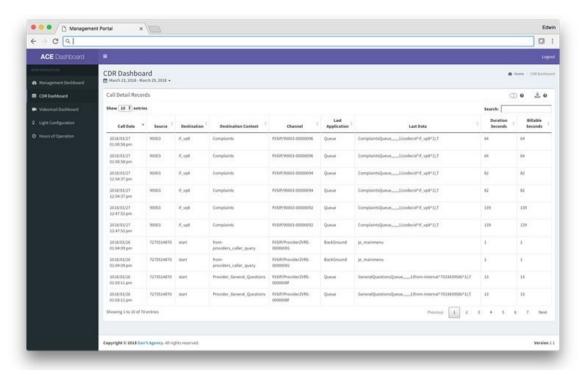


Figure 31. Screenshot of Call Detail Record

The CDR Dashboard allows the user to perform the following actions on the CDRs:

- **Select Date Range** The Consumer can select a date range for the report. Predefined values are Today, Yesterday, Last 7 days, Last 30 days, This Month, Last Month, All Time (January 1st, 2016 to Today), and Custom Range. The default selection is "Last 7 Days".
- **Sort Column** The Consumer can sort on any column by clicking the sort icon located next to each column name. To multi-sort columns, the Consumer depresses the shift key when selecting columns.
- Show/Hide Columns This action expands / condenses the table to show / hide the following columns: Caller ID Text, Destination Channel, Disposition, AMA Flags, Account Code, User Field, Unique ID, Linked ID, Sequence, and Peer Account.
- **Download CSV File** This action downloads the table as a Comma Separated Value (CSV) file. The CSV file contains only data within the date range.
- **Search** The user can search the entire table. Search results are displayed in near real time.

Table 7 presents the Call Detail Record Column Definitions in the CDR table.

Table 7. Call Detail Record Column Definition

Display Name	Database Column	Description
Call Date	Calldate	The start datetime of the call. Default format: 2016-09-07T09:35:41Z dashboard formats the date to 2016/09/07 09:35:41 pm (adjusted for time zone).
Caller ID Text	Clid	The full consumer ID, including the name, of the calling party. This field is set automatically and is read-only.
Source	Src	The calling party's caller ID number. It is set automatically and is read-only.
Destination	Dst	The destination extension for the call. This field is set automatically and is read-only.
Destination Context	Dcontext	The destination context for the call. This field is set automatically and is read-only.
Channel	Channel	The calling party's channel. This field is set automatically and is read-only.
Destination Channel	Dstchannel	The called party's channel. This field is set automatically and is read-only.
Last Application	Lastapp	The last dialplan application that was executed. This field is set automatically and is read-only.
Last Data	Lastdata	The arguments passed to the lastapp. This field is set automatically and is read-only.
Duration Seconds	Duration	The number of seconds between the start and end times for the call. This field is set automatically and is read-only.
Billable Seconds	Billsec	The number of seconds between the answer and end times for the call. This field is set automatically and is read-only.

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Display Name	Database Column	Description
Disposition	Disposition	An indication of what happened to the call. This may be NO ANSWER, FAILED, BUSY, ANSWERED, or UNKNOWN.
AMA Flags	Amaflags	The Automatic Message Accounting (AMA) flag associated with this call. This may be one of the following: OMIT, BILLING, DOCUMENTATION, or Unknown.
Account Code	accountcode	An account ID. This field is user defined and is empty by default.
User Field	Userfield	A general-purpose user field. This field is empty by default and can be set to a user-defined string.
Unique ID	Uniqueid	The unique ID for the src channel. This field is set automatically and is read-only.
Linked ID	Linkedid	A unique identifier that unites multiple CDR records.
Sequence	Sequence	A numeric value that, combined with uniqueid and linkedid, can be used to uniquely identify a single CDR record.
Peer Account	peeraccount	The account code of the called party's channel

2.9.3 Videomail Dashboard

The videomail dashboard, as shown in Figure 32, allows the Manager to track videomail-related information. It shows all videomails that are present in the Agent Portal, along with the date received, Agent(s) that viewed and processed it, caller videophone number, and the videomail status. If an Agent deletes the videomail, the status will show "Marked for Deletion", at which point the Manager can review it and choose whether to permanently delete it. If the Manager does not act, then the videomail is permanently deleted after a specified number of days.

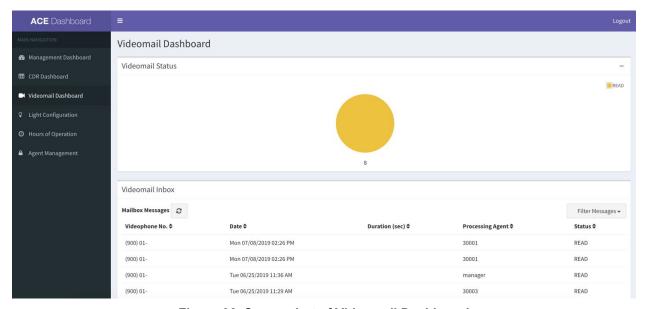


Figure 32. Screenshot of Videomail Dashboard

2.9.4 Hours of Operation

The Hours of Operation page, as shown in Figure 33, allows the Manager to control the operating hours of ACE Direct. The page displays the call center hours of operations for each time zone. A Manager can select Open and Close times for the call centers. The Manager also has the option to override the duty hours with an Always Open or Always Closed option. These override options can be used in the case of an emergency closure or holiday. A Consumer who accesses the ACE Direct Consumer Portal after hours will be presented a message advising that the call center is closed.

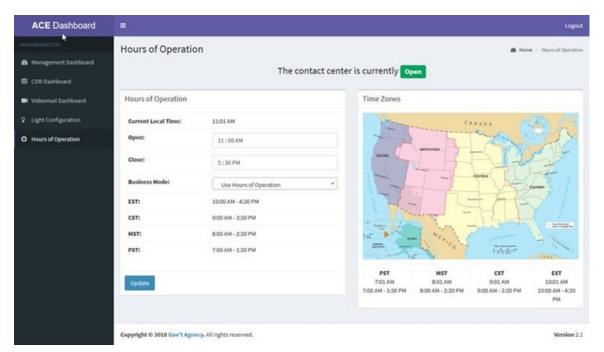


Figure 33. Screenshot of Hours of Operation Page

2.9.5 Agent Management

The Agent Management page allows the Manager to add / delete / update Agents directly from the Management Portal. The page can be loaded by selecting "Agent Management" from the side panel of the Management Portal, which lists the existing Agents configured in the system as shown in Figure 34. The Manager may set the number of Agents to be displayed in a single page and sort Agents based on their name, username, and extension assigned.

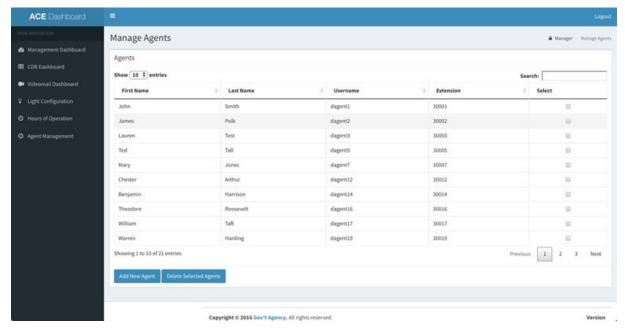


Figure 34. Screenshot of Agent Management Page

2.9.5.1 Add a New Agent

A Manager can add a new Agent by clicking the "Add New Agent" button at the bottom of the Agent Management page. Figure 35 illustrates the required information for entry. The proper data format is checked before a new Agent is created and the Manager will be prompted to correct incorrect data input.

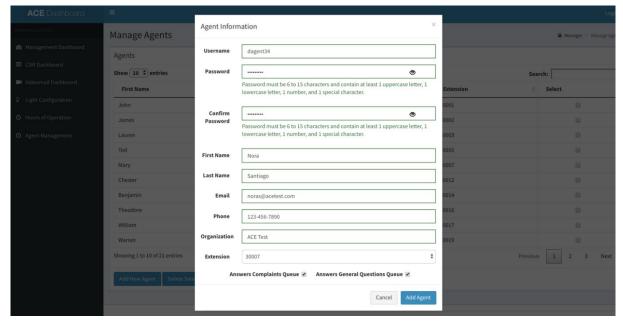


Figure 35. Screenshot of Add New Agent Popup

2.9.5.2 Update an Existing Agent

A Manager can update the Agent information by click on any existing Agent record. Figure 36 illustrates the Agent update popup. Note that Agent username and password are grayed out and not available for updating. The Manager may also delete the Agent record on the same popup.

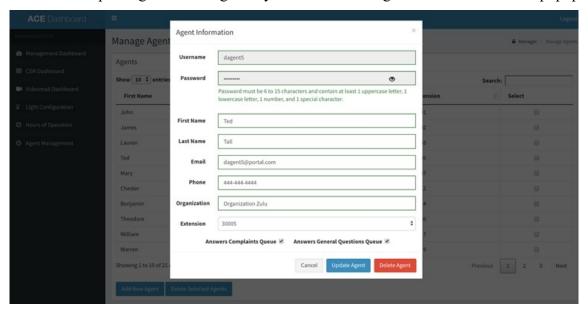


Figure 36. Screenshot of Update Agent Popup

2.9.5.3 Bulk Delete Selected Agents

The Manager may select a group of Agent records and delete them by first selecting multiple Agents from the "Select" column and then clicking on the "Delete Selected Agent" button at the bottom of the Agent Management page. The system will prompt the user to confirm the deletion as illustrated in Figure 37.

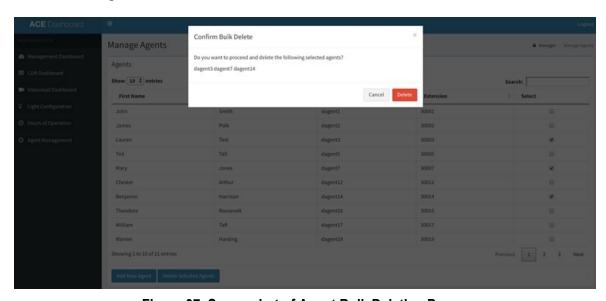


Figure 37. Screenshot of Agent Bulk Deletion Popup

2.10 Identity and Access Management

ACE Direct integrates with ForgeRock OpenAM, an open source identity and access management enterprise solution that provides user management and access control capabilities. The ForgeRock OpenAM and embedded OpenDJ are the only ForgeRock packages used in ACE Direct.

ACE Direct users, such as Managers and Supervisors, must be provisioned in OpenAM before they can access the Management, Agent, or Consumer portals. To provision Agents, it is recommended to use the Agent management feature on the Management Portal, although the password management functionalities here may be used after Agent creation.

Provisioning instructions to create new roles can be found in Provision.md under https://github.com/FCC/ACEDirect in the 'iam' section.

There are two ways a user authenticates with the Agent or Management portals:

- 1. ACE Direct URL Access ACE Direct directly by entering the ACE Direct URL. If the user is already authenticated with ACE Direct and the session is still valid, the Agent Portal will be displayed. Otherwise, the user is redirected to the Main login page to authenticate. The Agent Portal is displayed after a successful login.
- 2. **An OpenAM login URL (Main login page)** This is the main login page for a user to authenticate, reset the password, or create a new account. The user selects the application to access as listed on the dashboard after logging in.

The following subsections describe the identity and access management capabilities in detail.

2.10.1 Login Screen

Figure 38 shows the login screen.

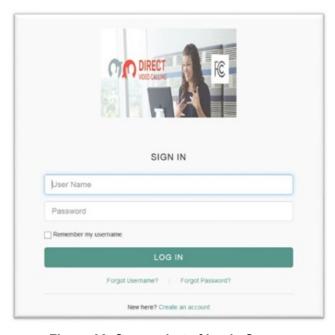


Figure 38. Screenshot of Login Screen

The login screen consists of the following elements:

- 1. **Login** User provides login credentials (username, password) to authenticate to ACE Direct.
- 2. **Forgot Username** Redirects the user to the "Forgot Username" page to retrieve username.
- 3. Forgot Password Redirects the user to the "Forgot Password" page to reset password.
- 4. **Self-Registration** Allows the user to self-register and create an account.

2.10.1.1 Forgot Username

A user clicks the "Forgot Username" link to retrieve a forgotten username. The following "Retrieve Your Username" screen is displayed as shown in Figure 39.

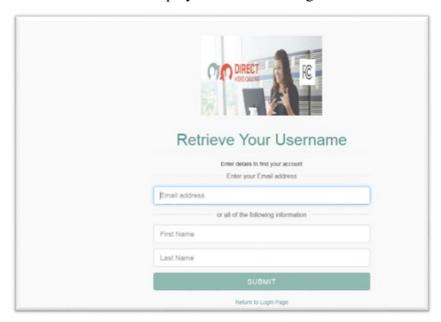


Figure 39. Screenshot of Retrieve Your Username

A user may retrieve their username via:

- Email If the user entered his/her email on the reset username screen.
- **Answering security questions** The user is prompted with security questions after he/she submits First Name/Last name on the retrieve username screen. If the user answers the security questions correctly, the screen displays the user's dashboard.

2.10.1.2 Forgot Password

Figure 40 shows the "Reset Your Password" screen displayed when the user clicks the "Forgot Password" link to reset password.

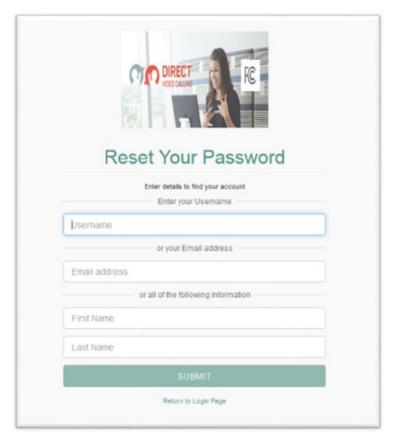


Figure 40. Screenshot of Reset Your Password

Users may reset the password via:

- **Email** If the user entered his/her email on the reset password screen.
- **Answering security questions** The user is prompted with security questions after he/she submits username or First Name/Last name on the reset password screen. If the user answers the security questions correctly, the screen displays the user's dashboard.

2.10.1.3 Self-Registration

It is recommended that the Administrator use the Agent management feature on the Management portal to create / update / delete an Agent. Any person can self-register and create an account to become a user; however, the account is not activated until the ACE Direct Administrator activates the user account. To create such an account, this person clicks the "Create an account" link at the bottom of the login page in Figure 38. As shown in Figure 41, the "Register Your Account" screen will pop up to allow the new user to enter his or her email address and submit the registration request. An email will be sent to the user's email address to continue and complete the creation of the account.

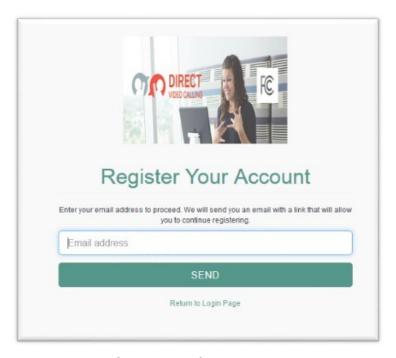


Figure 41. Screenshot of Register Your Account

2.10.2 User Dashboard

Figure 42 shows the User Dashboard page after the user is authenticated with the Main login page.

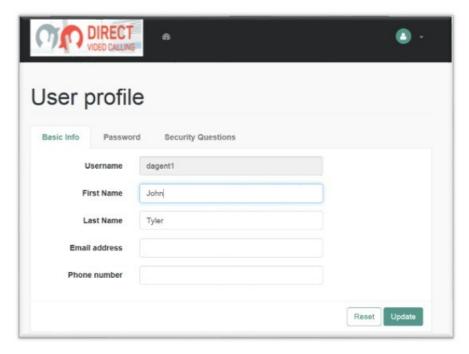


Figure 42. Screenshot of User Dashboard

The User Dashboard page consists of the following sections:

- User profile
 - Basic Info
 - Password
 - Security Questions
- Dashboard
- Logout

2.10.2.1 User Profile

2.10.2.1.1 Basic Info

Figure 43 shows the Basic Info tab on the User Profile screen.

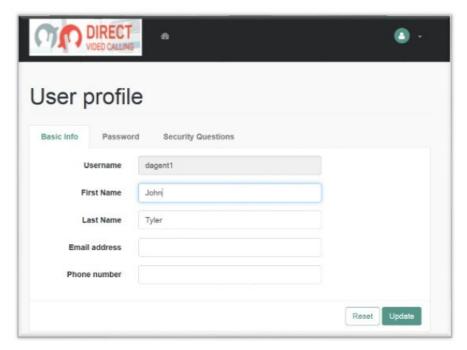


Figure 43. Screenshot of Basic Info Tab

The user views or updates his/her first name, last name, email address, or phone number on this page, and clicks "Update" to save the changes.

2.10.2.1.2 Password

Figure 44 shows the Password tab on the User Profile screen. This screen allows the user to update his or her password. The user clicks on the Password tab to change password and clicks "Update" to save changes.

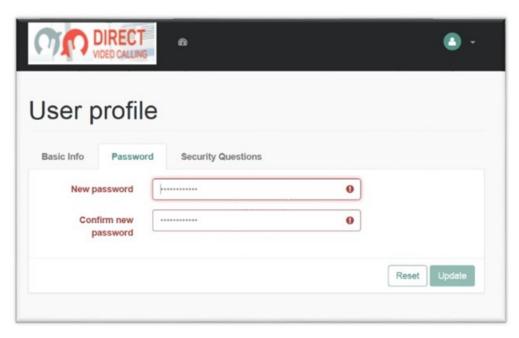


Figure 44. Screenshot of Update Password Tab

2.10.2.1.3 Security Questions

Figure 45 shows the Security Questions tab on the User Profile screen. A user may retrieve his/her password via email by answering security questions. This screen allows the user to add security questions to retrieve a forgotten password by email.

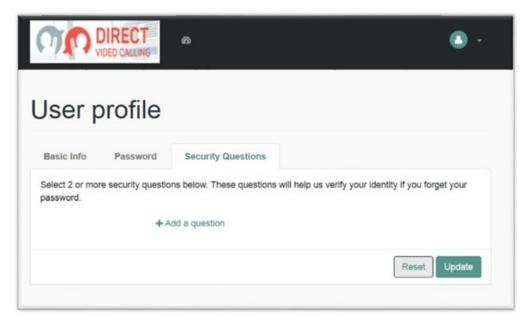


Figure 45. Screenshot of Security Questions Tab

The user must provide at least two security questions for this purpose. To accomplish this, the user must:

- Select the "Security Questions" tab.
- Select a pre-defined security question or create a new security question.
- Provide an answer to the question.
- Repeat for at least one additional security question.
- Click "Update" to save the changes.

2.10.2.2 Dashboard

The dashboard is an area where the user views the list of applications he/she is approved to access. Figure 46 shows an example of an Agent's dashboard and a list of approved applications under the My Application Drop Down.

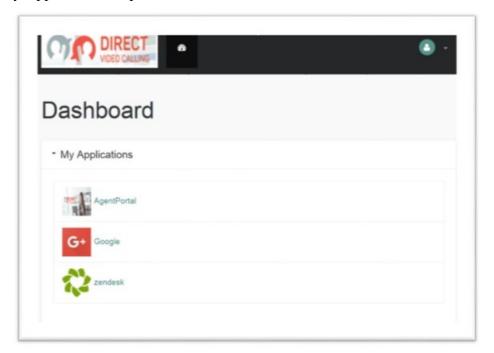


Figure 46. Screenshot of User Dashboard

2.10.2.3 Logout

To logout from the Main Login page and all open sessions to the Agent and/or Management Portal, select "LOG OUT" from the dropdown list at the top right corner of the page as shown in Figure 47.

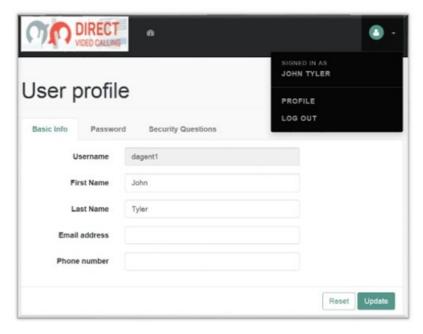


Figure 47. Screenshot of Logout Screen

2.11 NGINX

NGINX is an open source HTTP and reverse proxy server. For ACE Direct, only the reverse proxy component is used. A reverse proxy allows ACE Direct to hide internal topology (ports and script names) from users.

Figure 48 shows the mapping between public-facing and internal URLs performed by NGINX. The left side of the figure shows the URLs available to the public via HTTPS. Each URL maps to another path and port internally on the Node.js server. In this example, NGIX is mapping port 443 on the public-facing interface to ports 8005 and 8081 on the internal side.

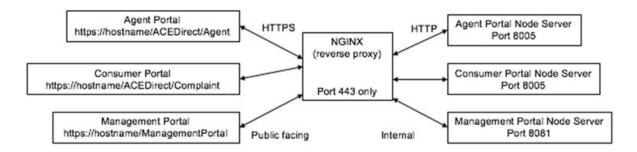


Figure 48. Internal and External Paths with NGINX

In ACE Direct, NGINX is configured to work with OpenAM, directing incoming connections to the correct location based on URL and authentication level. Figure 49 shows the relationship between NGINX and OpenAM and the mapping between public-facing URLs (to the left or outside of the firewall) and the internal processes.

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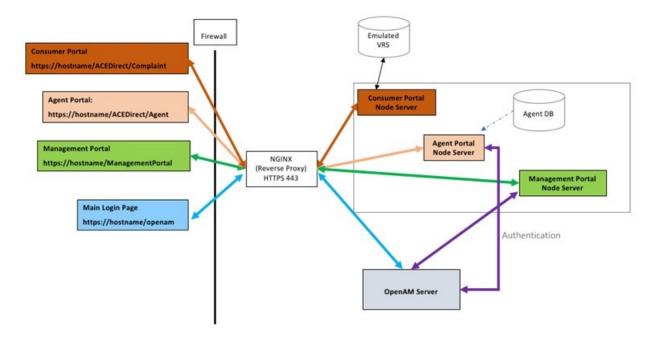


Figure 49. NGINX and OpenAM Integration

2.12 Redis

Redis is an open source, in-memory, key-value data store. In ACE Direct, Redis is used to store state data that were previously stored in memory in the Node.js server. Some of the data stored in Redis include Agent status (active or away), maps of Agent extensions, and Agent information.

Redis offers advantages over in-memory storage. For example, Redis allows several applications to share the same data. This ensures that all applications have the same view of system state. Another advantage is that Redis supports different data formats, which means it can store more than just typical key-value pairs. The most widely used data types are strings; however, Redis also supports lists, sets, sorted sets, and hashes. Because Redis can also write data to disk, it can maintain state after a system restart. Additional information about Redis can be found here: https://redis.io.

2.13 Data Logger

The Data Logger is a web-based tool developed by the MITRE team to support ACE Direct interoperability testing. During each video call, the Data Logger collects data from different sources and presents it to the user on a single web page. Automated data collection in a consistent format removes the burden of data collection from the developers, allowing them to instead analyze the collected data and focus on a specific issue.

A test session may consist of one or more video calls, and the collected data falls into the following categories:

- Test session data
 - Contains metadata about the debugging session such as user name, call start and stop times, etc.
 - Stored in a MySQL database
- Log Data
 - Contains a snapshot of the /var/log/asterisk/debug log (with pjsip debugging enabled) covering the time period of the video call(s)
 - Packet capture file (created with tcpdump) containing all incoming and outgoing network traffic
 - Asterisk and packet capture logs are stored in an AWS S3 bucket due to their size

As the analysis proceeds, a matrix is an automatically populated-based outcome of each testing session. The matrix contains one test session per cell and each cell is color coded red, green, or white. This allows the developers to quickly identify which test sessions may need further review.

Because the Data Logger runs on the Asterisk server, it can capture the Asterisk logs and all the network traffic to and from the Asterisk server.

2.13.1 Login Screen

The initial installation of the Data Logger on the Asterisk server does not contain any user account information and the user will be prompted to create an initial administrative account. To access the Data Logger, go to http://<Asterisk FQDN>:<Port number>/. Figure 50 shows the screen that appears the first time using the system.

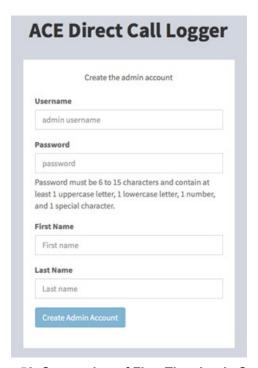


Figure 50. Screenshot of First Time Login Screen

The first time login screen consists of the following elements:

- 1. **Username** User provides a username for administrative access.
- 2. **Password** User provides a password that meets criteria for length and complexity.
- 3. **First Name** First name of the user is associated with the administrative account.
- 4. Last Name Last name of the user is associated with the administrative account.
- 5. **Create Admin Account** Creates an administrative user and stores the account information in the MySQL database.

The first time login screen will only appear once. Once the administrative account is created, the user will be prompted with standard login screen shown in Figure 51. The standard login screen consists of the following elements:

- 1. **Username** User provides a username (administrative or standard user).
- 2. **Password** User provides the corresponding account password.

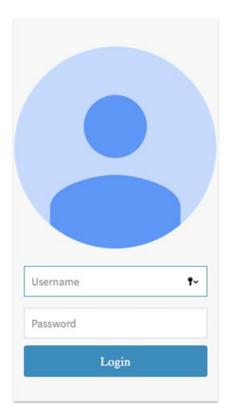


Figure 51. Screenshot of Standard Login Screen

2.13.2 Session Manager

The first screen that appears after the user login is the Session Manager screen. The Session Manager is the main entry point for the Data Logger. Figure 52 presents a screenshot of the Session Manager.

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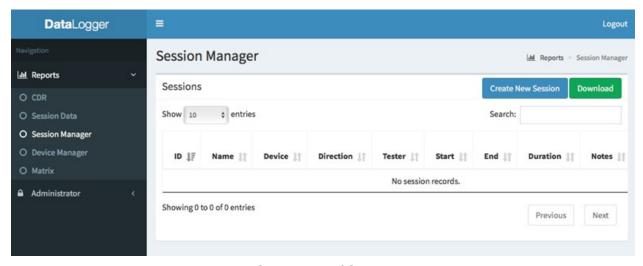


Figure 52. Screenshot of Session Manager

The navigation panel on the left side of the screen provides the following options:

- 1. **CDR** Displays the Call Detail Records logged by Asterisk to the MySQL database.
- 2. **Session Data** Displays information about a specific test session.
- 3. **Session Manager** Allows the user to create, start, and stop test sessions.
- 4. **Device Manager** Allows the add to device database to identify the equipment used in each test session.
- 5. **Matrix** Presents a high-level view of test results that can easily reviewed. Each cell in the matrix can be assigned a color (green, red, white) to allow the developers to quickly identify tests that need additional review.
- 6. **Administrator** Manages user accounts.

To create a new logging session, select the "Create New Session" button on the Session Manager page as shown in Figure 53. Note that all gray-shaded input fields are either populated by the system (e.g., test start and end time) or dropdown menus.

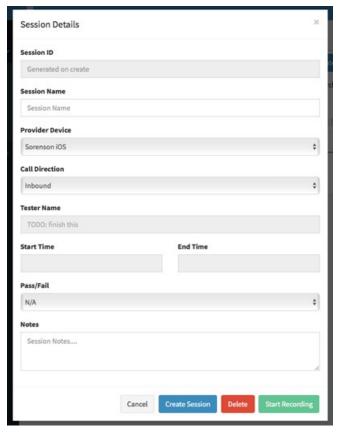


Figure 53. Screenshot of Session Details Page

The following data is required whenever a session is created:

- 1. **Session ID** A unique session identification number that is auto generated by the system.
- 2. **Session Name** User-provided name for this session.
- 3. **Provider Device** Identifies the provider device. A dropdown menu allows the user to pick a provider and device (e.g., Sorenson iOS, Purple VP2 P70, etc.).
- 4. Call Direction Inbound, outbound, or videomail.
- 5. **Tester Name** Identifies the tester running the test.
- 6. **Start Time** System-generated timestamp, identifies the start time of the data logging.
- 7. **End Time** System-generated timestamp, identifies the end time of the data logging.
- 8. **Pass/Fail** User-provided input, indicates if the test was successful or not, and the selected value is used to color the corresponding session cell in the matrix. Selectable options are N/A, Pass, and Fail.
- 9. **Notes** User-provided input about the test. For example, this could be used to note any issues that were encountered during the test that could help explain results, test-specific setup, or configuration, etc.

Once the Session Details page has been populated, push the "Start Recording" button to begin the logging session. (**Note:** the button changes to "Stop Recording.") To stop the recording session, press the "Stop Recording" button. To view the results for the session that was just recorded, press the "View Results" button; otherwise, press the "Cancel" button to close the Session Details screen.

After a session recording completes, the session will appear as a row in the Session Manager. Figure 54 shows the populated Session Manager screen. Each row is colored based on the Pass/Fail status selected on the Session Details screen.

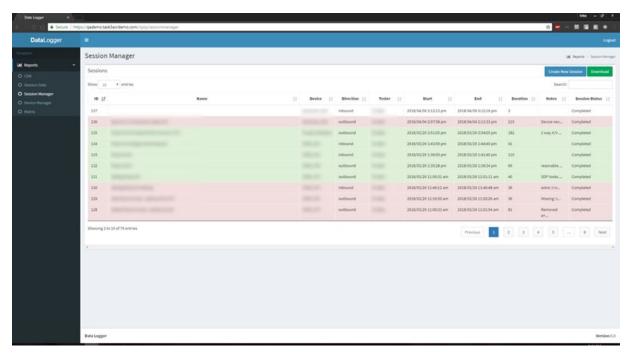


Figure 54. Screenshot of the Populated Session Manager

Click on a row to show specific details about the test and provide download links. Figure 55 shows the detail screen that appears after clicking on a row in the previous table. This screen shows the data provided by the user before the recording start. In addition, this screen contains download links for both the packet capture file (in pcap format) and the Asterisk log file (in text format).

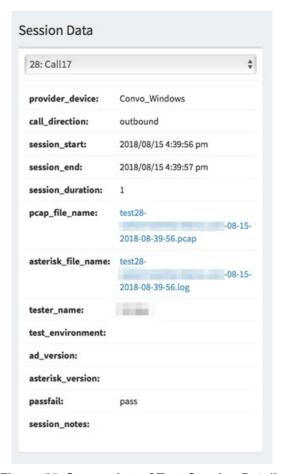


Figure 55. Screenshot of Test Session Details

2.13.3 Matrix View

The Matrix View provides a high-level view of tests to allow the user to quickly see status of the collected data (indicated as a pass or a fail). Figure 56 shows a screenshot of the Matrix View—each test session is indicated by a colored block.

There are three matrices defined: inbound calls, outbound calls, and videomail calls. Each matrix has a y-axis representing the different device manufactures and an x-axis representing device platforms for each manufacture. Some manufactures do not have a device for every platform/operating system (OS). In this case, the cell is gray and marked with an "N/A". Each matrix is color coded based on the outcome of each test session: red denotes failures, green denotes passes, and white denotes a session was created but was not marked pass or fail. Each cell contains the corresponding session ID and timestamp of the session.

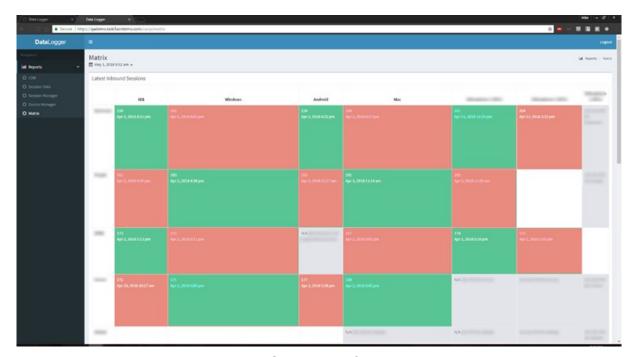


Figure 56. Screenshot of Matrix View

Clicking on a cell brings up detailed information about the selected test. Figure 57 shows an example of the details for a Data Logging Session. In addition to the details about the test, the Session Details screen also includes download links for both the pcap and Asterisk log files.

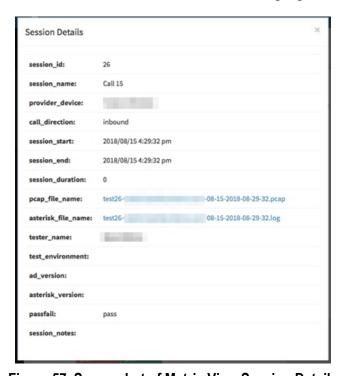


Figure 57. Screenshot of Matrix View Session Details

Acronyms

ACE Accessible Communications for Everyone

ADA Americans with Disabilities Act

AMA Automatic Message Accounting

API Application Programming Interface

ASL American Sign Language
AWS Amazon Web Services

CA Communication Assistant, Certificate Authority

CDR Call Detail Record

CMS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

COE Center of Expertise

COTS Commercial Off-the-Shelf

CRM Customer Relationship Management

CSR Customer Service Representative

CSV Comma Separated Value

DVC Direct Video Calling

EIP Elastic Internet Protocol

ENUM E.164 Number to URI Mapping

ESB Enterprise Service Bus

FCC Federal Communications Commission

FFRDC Federally Funded Research and Development Center

GUI Graphical User Interface

HSTS HyperText Transfer Protocol Strict Transport Security

HTTP HyperText Transfer Protocol

HTTPS HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure

iTRS Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service

IP Internet Protocol

JSON JavaScript Object Notation

KPI Key Performance Indicator

NAT Network Address Translation

OpenAM Open Access Management

OS Operating System

PBX Private Branch Exchange

POC Proof of Concept

PSTN Public Switched Telephone Network

REST Representational State Transfer

RFC Request for Comment

RTT Real-Time Text

SSL Secure Socket Layer

STUN Session Traversal Utilities for NAT

UDP User Datagram Protocol

URI Uniform Resource Identifier

URL Universal Resource Locator

VPN Virtual Private Network

VRS Video Relay Service

WebRTC Web Real-Time Communication

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