



UC Provisioning Suite

2.1.0

Product Description

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1 Overview

Alpha-CNS UC Provisioning Suite is an advanced Provisioning and Number Management tool especially developed for Microsoft Skype for Business and Teams.

It provides a complete provisioning engine for users, Common Area Phones, and Skype for Business Analog Devices for an easy, centralized, and cost-effective management from policy and number assignments up to call forwarding configuration. All SfB entities can be managed individually or via the build-in bulk load feature. Provisioning and de-provisioning of entities can be automated as well by using build-in workflows or by integrating with existing IDM solutions.

The integrated number management allows you to keep track of all available, reserved, or assigned DDIs and extensions per number range and site.

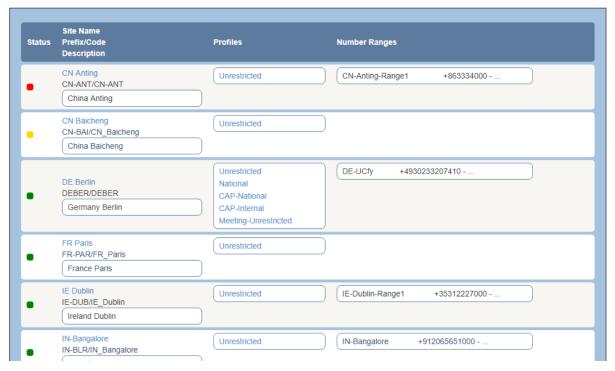
A simple role based access control design allows task delegation, audit, and additional security.

2 Sites and Profiles

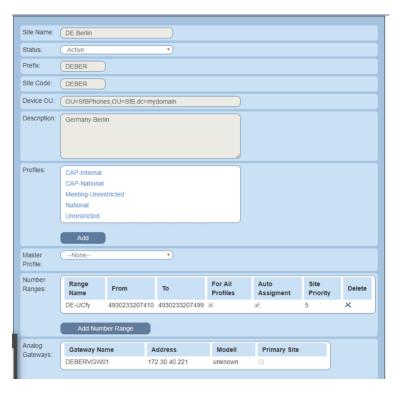
The alpha-CNS UC Provisioning suite uses sites and profiles to define required settings per location to be applied to users and other SfB entities. A site can be considered as a physical location where SfB has been deployed independently of where SfB servers or gateways have been installed. If users have been enabled for SfB and maybe provisioned with DDIs provided by a SIP trunk that is being terminated in a data center, then this location can be treated as a site and one can configure different profiles for this specific site. For certain sites it is required to configure users and phones differently, some users are allowed to make international calls, should have Exchange UM enabled, others should only receive calls. These can be achieved by defining different profiles and assign different SfB policies and Exchange provisioning settings to these profiles. SfB policies need to be created in Skype first but will automatically replicated to alpha-CNS UC Provisioning suite.

Number ranges whether provided by local gateways connected to local carriers or by central SIP trunks can be assigned to sites and profiles. When provisioning users and phones, numbers will be automatically taken from assigned ranges, or administrators can pick numbers and extensions manually.





Picture 1 - List of Sites



Picture 2 - Site Details

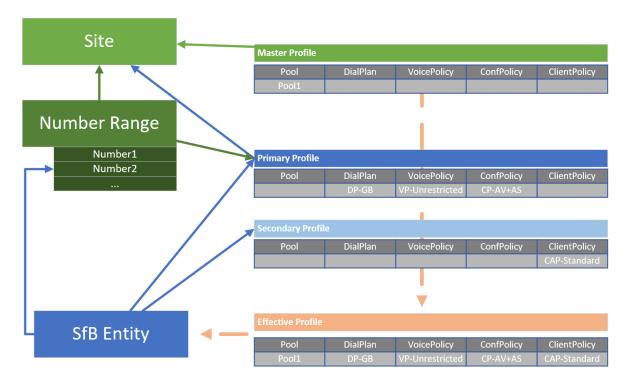
Administrative tasks can delegated by assigning permissions to individual sites. Local administrators would then be able to provision users and phones within their site or sites. Users and phones will be created in predefined containers in Active Directory and only number ranges assigned to those sites can be used to pick numbers from. This allows a complete separation between sites if required.

Profiles can be seen as templates as they hold the required configuration when adding new users or phones. But as users will permanently be assigned to a site and a profile, new settings can automatically be reapplied to users and phones when profile settings are being changed or



when users and phones are manually be modified in SfB itself and re-enforcement is enabled on the profile.

The UC Provisioning Suite supports different types of profiles to provide a most flexible configuration while minimizing management effort. While "Primary Profiles" will be used to assign sets of SfB or Teams policies to users, settings which are common to all profiles within a site can be configured on a "Master Profile" instead. A master profile can be assigned to one or more sites and will be used to calculate the "effective profile" for entities, which are assigned to those sites.

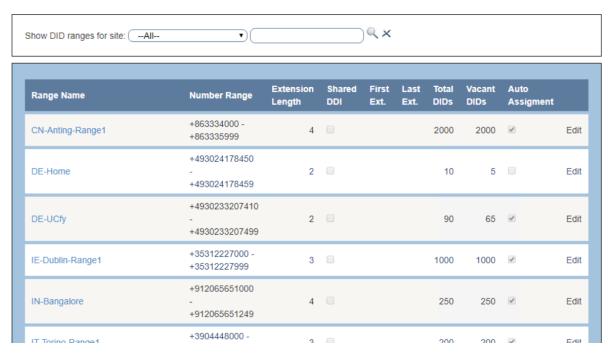


For minor deviations from Master or Primary Profiles a "Secondary Profile" can be used to set or overwrite settings. The effective profile will be calculated as described in the figure above.

3 Number Management

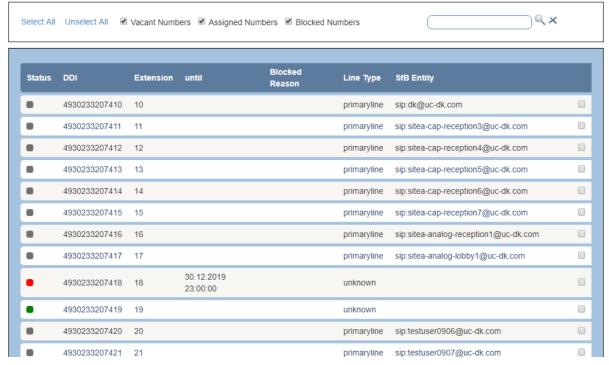
Alpha-CNS UC Provisioning Suite also provides a complete number management component. It helps you to keep track of all assigned DDIs or internally defined extension ranges worldwide. Within a few clicks administrators can see how many numbers are still available or reserved and can request new ranges from their carrier in time if required.





Picture 3 – List of Number Ranges

Number ranges are assigned to sites and can be used by different profiles.



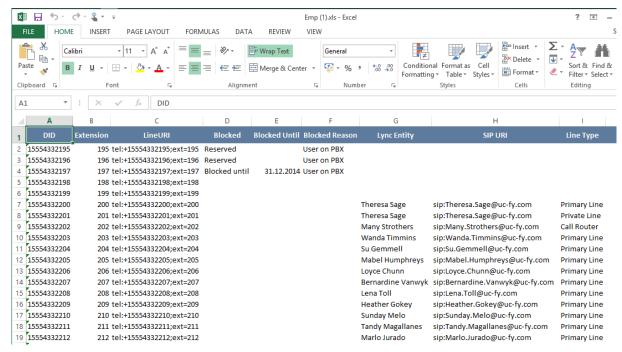
Picture 4 – List of Numbers and Extension within a Number Range

Numbers can easily be assigned to SfB users, common area phones and analog devices which are associated with analog ports on media gateways.



All SFB entities including assigned numbers will be synchronized with the UC Provisioning Suite by the Provisioning Engine including Response Group Workflows, Conference Dial-In numbers, and Lync Meeting Rooms to ensure a most up-to-date list of number assignments.

All policy and profile changes of all SfB Entities will be logged in the backend database. This allows tracking of all discovered changes.



Picture 5 – List of Numbers and Extensions exported to Excel

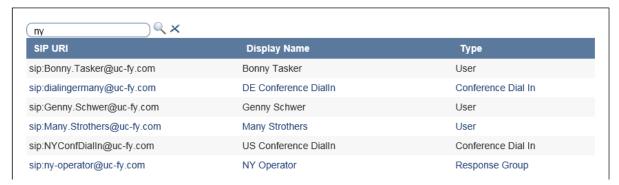
Number ranges can easily be exported to Excel for further processing.

4 Provisioning

4.1 User Management

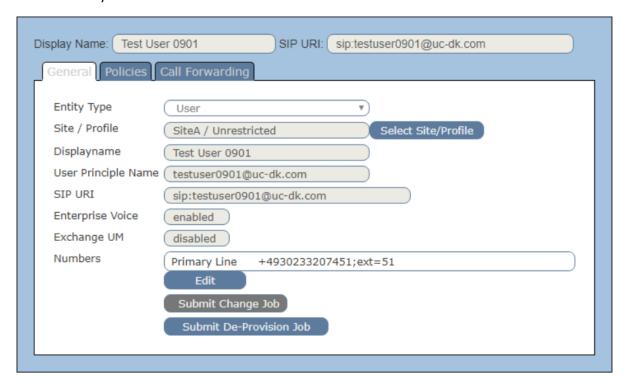
The UC Provisioning Suite provides an easy to use Web interface to add, modify, and delete SfB entities. Administrators can easily search for all SfB entities, whether it is a user, a common area phone, or a conference dial-in number, they will be shown in the search results. SfB users, common area phones, and analog devices can then directly be added or modified using the Web portal, response groups and conference dial-in numbers etc. will be read-only.



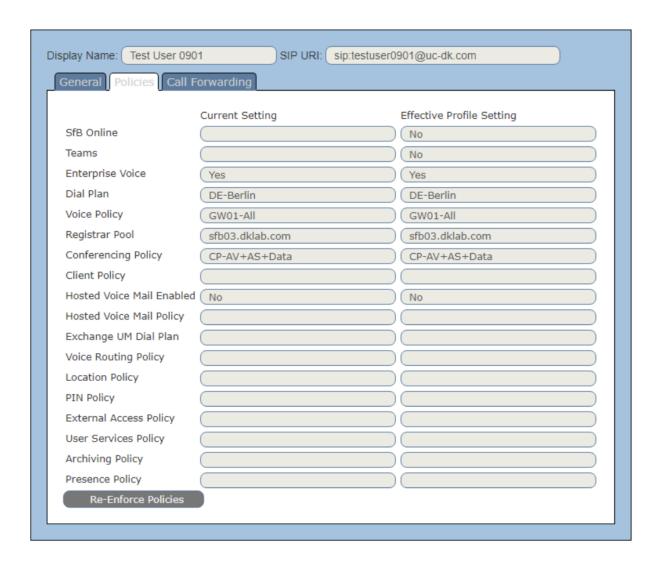


Picture 6 – Search Result List

Depending on the site permissions the user will only be able to search within the configured sites or when enabling existing users in Active Directory for Lync the user can only search within the configured Active Directory containers.







All relevant user details including the site and profile the user is assigned to and all assigned DDIs and extensions are shown on the General tab. When adding a new user or phone, or modifying an existing one all information required for the provisioning the user or phone will be taken from the assigned profile. The profile also controls whether Exchange Unified Messaging will be enabled.

Although it is recommended to use the UC Provisioning Suite for all SfB related provisioning tasks, Administrators can still use SfB Powershell commands or the SfB Control Panel to configure users. Those changes will always be replicated back to the Provisioning database to provide a current state view on all SfB entities and number assignments. Additional profile setting can be used to reinforce policy assignments. When they are changed manually or the profile is updated with new policies then these settings will be re-applied to all associated SfB entities.



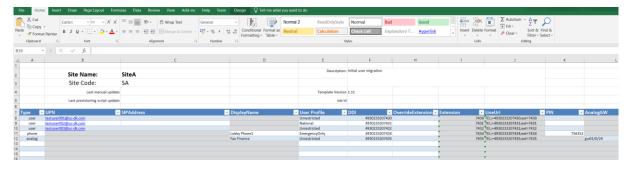


Picture 7 – Call Forwarding Settings of a SfB user

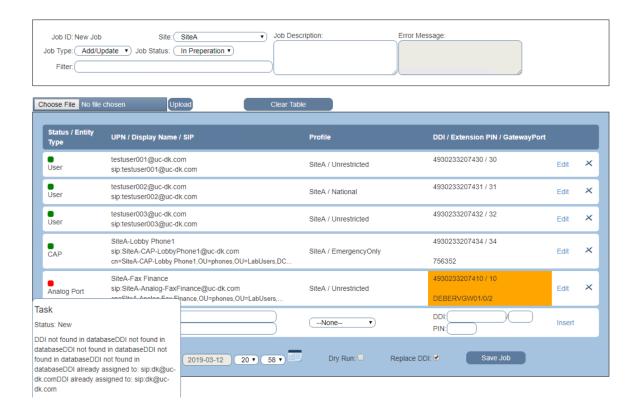
Administrators will also have access to call forwarding settings of users and Common Area Phones including delegate and team-call group settings.

4.2 Bulk Provisioning

The alpha-CNS UC Provisioning Suite also allows bulk provisioning of users, common area phones and analog devices. Administrators can import Excel sheets into the Web GUI or import them using powershell.







All data can then be edited. Before the actual job will be submitted to the provisioning engine a sanity check of the provided data will be done, e.g. users do exist already, numbers have been assigned to other users already, or are not in a configured range.

All jobs either individual or bulk jobs can be submitted for immediate execution or they can be scheduled to be executed at any date.

Jobs can also be prepared in advance and saved with status "in-preparation". This allows to collect and check all user details for site migration in advance.

4.3 Automated Provisioning

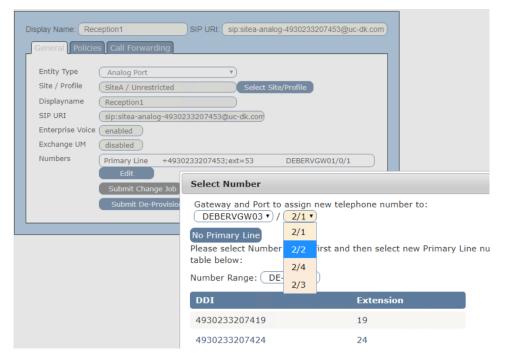
The alpha-CNS UC Provisioning Suite also allows a fully automated provisioning of SfB users. This would be useful when AD account provisioning is done by other provisioning tools and UC-fy User Manager should only take care of the Lync portion. The UC Provisioning Suite can be set up to monitor certain Active Directory containers and provision new users automatically with SfB accounts, assign them to the right profile and assign numbers if required.



4.4 Voice Gateways

SfB Analogue Devices are still widely used in SfB deployments. They allow an integration of analog ports for Fax, door opener, lift phones or other devices into Skype for Business to use the same PSTN breakouts as other SfB entities with the same call authorization and routing principles.

The alpha-CNS UC Provisioning Suite helps managing deployed voice gateways which provide analog ports to be used for SfB Analogue Devices. Administrators can add Voice Gateways to sites via the Provisioning Portal and when adding new analogue devices, they can be assigned to a physical analogue port on a gateway. The voice gateways will be managed via SNMP v3 and ports will automatically configured with the assigned DDI.

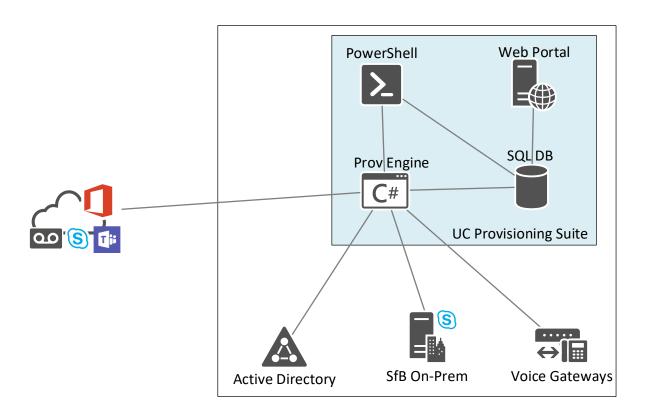


The gateway needs to be prepared once for use with UC Provisioning Suite. All available analogue ports (or other ports to be used with UC Provisioning Suite – like internal BRI ports) will be read automatically by the UC Provisioning Suite.



5 Components

UC Provisioning Suite uses a SQL Server database to store all information. The core is a set of powershell modules, which provide a full set of powershell commands to manage SfB Entities, profiles, sites, numbers and can be used to integrate with existing provisioning tools. A module to manage call forwarding settings for users and Common Area phones including delegates and contact lists (buddy list) is also provided.



To run jobs automatically, e.g. provisioning and maintenance jobs, the Provisioning Engine service must be installed. The Web portal provides an easy to use interface to manage the UC Provisioning suite.

6 Features at a glance

| Platforms | - The alpha-CNS Provisioning Suite supports Skype for Business Server, Skype for Business Online and Microsoft Teams. |
|------------|---|
| Interfaces | Web interface for easy provisioning of users, common area phones and analog devices |



| | Powershell module for integration into existing provisioning scripts for site and profile management, call forwarding settings and management of provisioning jobs. |
|--------------|---|
| Provisioning | - Single, bulk, and automated provisioning of SfB entities |
| | Profile controlled provisioning of SfB entities, Exchange Unified Messaging, Call Forwarding settings |
| | Integration into Audiocodes voice gateways (Mediant and Mediapacks) for automated number to analog port assignments |
| | Powerful, distributed provisioning engine to support multi forest and multi-domain environments |
| | - Immediate and scheduled execution of jobs |
| Number | - Central Number management for all sites |
| Management | - Supports DDI ranges as well as non-DDI numbers with internal extension ranges |
| | Automated import of number status from connected PBXs in Hybrid environments and migration scenarios via connectors |
| Reporting | Reports provided for: Number Ranges globally or per site, SfB entities with enabled features globally or per site |
| | - Export to Excel |
| Security | Role-based access control (WebGUI access) with local User database or Active Directory based authentication |
| | Delegation of administrative tasks to sites (read-only, user management, administrator) |
| | - Re-enforcement of user settings |
| | - Full auditing of all jobs and changes |