How Should I Format My Fixed Voice Subscription Data?

Data Fields

Your Fixed Voice Subscription data should be arranged in a comma-delimited text file with the following 4 data fields:

Field	Description	Type	Example
Census Tract	11-digit 2010 census tract code. See More About Census Tracts.	Text	11001006202
Service Type	A variable indicating the type of service counted in each record: 0=VGE lines (for local exchange services) or 1=VoIP subscriptions (for interconnected VoIP services).	Integer	0
VGE lines or VoIP Subscriptions	The number of voice-grade equivalent lines and voice-grade equivalent wireless channels in service (if Service Type = 0) OR the number of VoIP subscriptions (if Service Type = 1) provided in the census tract.	Integer	1023
Consumer VGE lines or VoIP Subscriptions	The number of voice-grade equivalent lines and voice-grade equivalent wireless channels in service (if Service Type =0) OR the number of VoIP subscriptions (if Service Type = 1) provided in consumer-grade service plans in the census tract. A consumer service plan (or Mass market / consumer service plan) is a service plan designed for, marketed to, or purchased by primarily residential end users.	Integer	1002

For more information on how to assign connections to census tracts and how to count VGE lines and VoIP subscriptions, see Fixed Voice Subscribership Terms.

If we were to place the values in the "Example" column from the table above into a comma-delimited format for upload, they would make a single data row (record) like this:

`11001006202, 0, 1023, 1002`

The data row above can be translated as saying that at the time of the as-of date of the filing (June 30 or December 31), in tract 11001006202, the filer had a total of 1023 VGE lines in service, of which, 1002 were provided in consumer-grade service plans.

Rows must be unique by tract and service type. For example, there can only be one row in the data that begins `11001006202, 0, …`

An Example

Say that your company has both consumer and business voice customers…

…and that your residential and single-line business customers are served via traditional Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) format/circuit-switched local exchange telephone service lines, while you've recently switched your business customers over to a VoIP solution. So in this example, the circuit-switched lines are easy to count: one per subscription. To simplify things, let's assume that your pricing structure for business VoIP is a fixed cost plus a marginal cost for each additional user that can be placing calls to the public switched telephone network at the same time. In this case, counting VoIP subscriptions for Form 477 can be accomplished by just counting users.

Now, let's say that after geocoding your service addresses, you find that your company has connections in service in 3 tracts: 51179010404, 51179010405 and 51179010406. Summing connections by tract and service type, you find the following:

Tract Code	Service Type	VGE Lines / VoIP Subscriptions	Consumer VGE Lines / VoIP Subscriptions
51179010404	VoIP	201	0
51179010404	VGE lines	322	322
51179010405	VoIP	32	0
51179010405	VGE lines	2	2
51179010406	VoIP	5	0
51179010406	VGE lines	45	45

If you really had service in 3 tracts, it might be reasonable to input these data interactively. Nonetheless, uploading a file will work just as well. To prepare the data for upload, convert the words describing the service type to a 0 or 1 indicator where 0 represents VGE lines and 1 represents VoIP subscriptions…

Tract Code	Service Type	VGE Lines / VoIP Subscriptions	Consumer VGE Lines / VoIP Subscriptions
51179010404	1	201	0
51179010404	0	322	322
51179010405	1	32	0
51179010405	0	2	2
51179010406	1	5	0
51179010406	0	45	45

Then save the data as a comma-delimited, plain-text file. When opened in a text editor like NotePad, the file should look like this:

At this point, follow the directions on the Fixed Voice Subscription file upload page to insert these data into your filing. After you upload the file and it is virus-checked and validated, the **Continue to State** button should appear at the bottom of the screen. If you click **Continue to State** (Just click it once! It may take a few moments to tally all your tract-level data), you will be presented with a screen showing your lines or subscriptions for the first (alphabetically) state for which you entered subscribers. You'll need to group your lines and / or subscriptions into a few different categories for each state, first for all states in which you reported local exchange lines and then for all states in which you reported VoIP subscriptions. For more information on allocating your lines and / or subscriptions, please see sections 5.6 and 5.7 of the Instructions or How to Allocate Local Exchange Lines and How to Allocate VoIP Subscriptions.