



APEX Voice Communications

Challenge: Providing prepaid solutions for European Internet customers

Solution: APEX prepaid system

for other opportunities and analyzed prepaid Internet, a solution was found."

Because it costs Europeans more to surf online, usage has not caught up to U.S. levels. To provide more access, ISPs can offer a calling card system where users can prepay for their Internet service. "Users can go into their operating system and not only put the string into their modem line for dialing the phone number but they can also enter the prepaid PIN. Minutes are deducted as

customers surf or send e-mails," Vahdat says. Prepaid offers time-based solutions instead of charging per content. Additionally, APEX's customer is investigating the possibility of adding a major credit card recharge option. ☎

Elhum Vahdat, vice president of APEX Communications, explains how one of its customers, a large prepaid carrier in Europe, purchased switches from APEX to diversify.

"Traditionally, the carrier has been a standard prepaid calling card carrier," notes Vahdat. "However, the company now is working to expand its market and become a regular portal on the Web. When the carrier began looking around

Siemens Communications Network

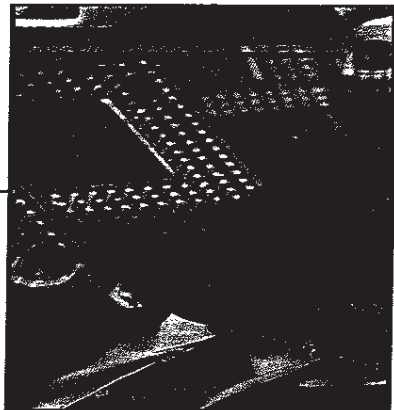
Challenge: Allow customers to more easily monitor, control and optimize their businesses

Solution: Fast Feature Platform (FFP)

Siemens is currently implementing e-commerce and Internet interactive features for Axis-Tel in Jersey City, N.J. Raymond L. Shedden, manager, AIN/ATM Solutions for Siemens, explains that Axis-Tel actually has its customer service center in Jamaica. Representatives obtain customer records, activate cards and give credits by accessing the Jersey City office via the FFP and the Internet.

"Simultaneously, the local AxisTel

staff might be setting up new programs using the Internet at the office, while the CEO and CFO use the Internet to print real-time business management reports from each of their homes," Shedden says. "At the same time, Siemens could add a new custom feature to the platform using the Internet, and that feature would then immediately be available and functional for all switches and in all AxisTel markets.



"With this hardware and software solution, Siemens' customers no longer need to maintain their own complete on-premises equipment and personnel in order to offer a proprietary product or service." ☎