



Planning the Voice Messaging Ports

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Planning the Port Setup

Before programming the phone system, you need to plan how the voice messaging ports are going to be used by Cisco Unity Connection. The following considerations affect the programming for the phone system (for example, setting up the hunt group or call forwarding for the voice messaging ports):

- The number of voice messaging ports installed.

For a Unity Connection cluster, each Unity Connection server must have enough ports to handle all voice messaging traffic in case the other server stops functioning. The Cisco Unified CM server must have enough ports installed for all Unity Connection servers.

- The number of voice messaging ports that answer calls.
- The number of voice messaging ports that only dial out, for example, to send message notification, to set message waiting indicators (MWIs), and to make telephone record and playback (TRAP) connections.

Determining the Number of Voice Messaging Ports

The following tasks describe the process for determining the number of voice messaging ports for Cisco Unity Connection to install, answer call and dial out calls:

- For determining the number of voice messaging ports to Install, see “[Voice Messaging Ports to Install](#)” section.
- For determining the number of voice messaging ports to Answer Calls, see “[Voice Messaging Ports to Answer Calls](#)” section.
- For determining the number of voice messaging ports to Dial Out, see “[Voice Messaging Ports to Dial Out](#)” section.

Voice Messaging Ports to Install

The number of voice messaging ports to install depends on numerous factors, including:

- The number of calls Unity Connection answers when call traffic is at its peak.
- The expected length of each message that callers record and that users listen to.
- The number of users.
- The number of ports that are set to dial out only.
- The number of calls made for message notification.
- The number of MWIs activated when call traffic is at its peak.
- The number of TRAP connections needed when call traffic is at its peak. (TRAP connections are used by Unity Connection web applications to play back and record over the phone.)
- The number of calls that use the automated attendant and call handlers when call traffic is at its peak.

It is best to install only the number of voice messaging ports that are needed so that system resources are not allocated to unused ports.

If your system is configured for a Cisco Unity Connection cluster, see the [Considerations for a Unity Connection Cluster](#).

Voice Messaging Ports to Answer Calls

The calls that the voice messaging ports answer can be incoming calls from unidentified callers or from users. Typically, the voice messaging ports that answer calls are the busiest.

You can set voice messaging ports to both answer calls and to dial out (for example, to send message notifications). However, when the voice messaging ports perform more than one function and are very active (for example, answering many calls), the other functions may be delayed until the voice messaging port is free (for example, message notifications cannot be sent until there are fewer calls to answer). For best performance, dedicate certain voice messaging ports for only answering incoming calls, and dedicate other ports for only dialing out. Separating these port functions eliminates the possibility of a collision, in which an incoming call arrives on a port at the same time that Unity Connection takes the port off-hook to dial out.

If your system is configured for a Cisco Unity Connection cluster, see the [Considerations for a Unity Connection Cluster](#).

Voice Messaging Ports to Dial Out

Ports that only dial out and do not answer calls can do one or more of the following:

- Notify users by phone, pager, or email of messages that have arrived.
- Turn MWIs on and off for user extensions.
- Make a TRAP Unity Connection so that users can use the phone as a recording and playback device in Unity Connection web applications.

Typically, these voice messaging ports are the least busy ports.

If your system is configured for a Cisco Unity Connection cluster, see the [Considerations for a Unity Connection Cluster](#).

**Caution**

In programming the phone system, do not send calls to voice messaging ports in Unity Connection that cannot answer calls (voice messaging ports that are not set to Answer Calls). For example, if a voice messaging port is set only to Send MWI Requests, do not send calls to it.

Considerations for a Unity Connection Cluster

If your system is configured for a Unity Connection cluster, consider how the voice messaging ports are used in different scenarios.

When Both Unity Connection Servers are Functioning

- The phone system is provisioned with twice the number SCCP voice mail port devices needed to handle the voice messaging traffic.
- A hunt group is configured to send incoming calls first to the subscriber server, then to the publisher server if no answering ports are available on the subscriber server.
- Both Unity Connection servers are active and handle voice messaging traffic for the system.
- In Cisco Unity Connection Administration, the voice messaging ports are assigned in the following manner:
 - The subscriber server answers most incoming calls for the system.
 - The publisher server handles most dial-out calls (MWI requests and notifications).

This guide directs you to assign the voice messaging ports to their specific Unity Connection server at the applicable time.

- The voice messaging ports on both the servers are registered with the phone system.
- The number of voice messaging ports that are assigned to one Unity Connection server must be sufficient to handle all of the voice messaging traffic for the system (answering calls and dialing out) when the other Unity Connection server stops functioning.

If both the Unity Connection servers are functioning to handle the voice messaging traffic, the system does not have sufficient capacity when one of the servers stops functioning.

- Each Unity Connection server is assigned half the total number of voice messaging ports.

If all the voice messaging ports are assigned to one Unity Connection server, the other Unity Connection server is not able to answer calls or to dial out.

- Each Unity Connection server must be assigned voice messaging ports that answer calls and that can dial out (for example, to set MWIs).

When Only One Unity Connection Server is Functioning

- The SCCP voice mail port devices that have stopped functioning on the phone system are unregistered from the voice messaging ports of Unity Connection server.
- The hunt group on the phone system sends all calls to the functioning Unity Connection server.

- The functioning Unity Connection server receives all voice messaging traffic for the system.
- The number of voice messaging ports that are assigned to the functioning Unity Connection server must be sufficient to handle all of the voice messaging traffic for the system (answering calls and dialing out).
- The functioning Unity Connection server must have voice messaging ports that answer calls and that can dial out (for example, to set MWIs).

If the functioning Unity Connection server does not have voice messaging ports for answering calls, the system is not able to answer incoming calls. Similarly, if the functioning Unity Connection server does not have voice messaging ports for dialing out, the system is not able to dial out (for example, to set MWIs).

All the ports for all Unity Connection servers must appear on the Search Ports page. Otherwise, the Unity Connection cluster has not been correctly configured and does not function correctly.