

Application Notes

Secure Multi-Party Conferencing for the Coral Sea



Introduction

The Coral Sea Softswitch is more than just a SIP-based softswitch. It is also a powerful adjunct application server that can be connected to legacy telephone systems. One such application is a multiparty conference server. Many companies are paying for third party conferencing services that charge per connection and per minute. The Sea Softswitch provides this functionality at a fraction of the cost.

Up to 60 parties can simultaneously use conference services in each Sea Softswitch. If more than 60 simultaneous users are required, additional Sea Softswitches can be deployed to provide the needed capacity.

There is no limit to the number of access codes that can be assigned in the Sea Softswitch. This allows the system administrator to set up as many conference bridges in each server as required.

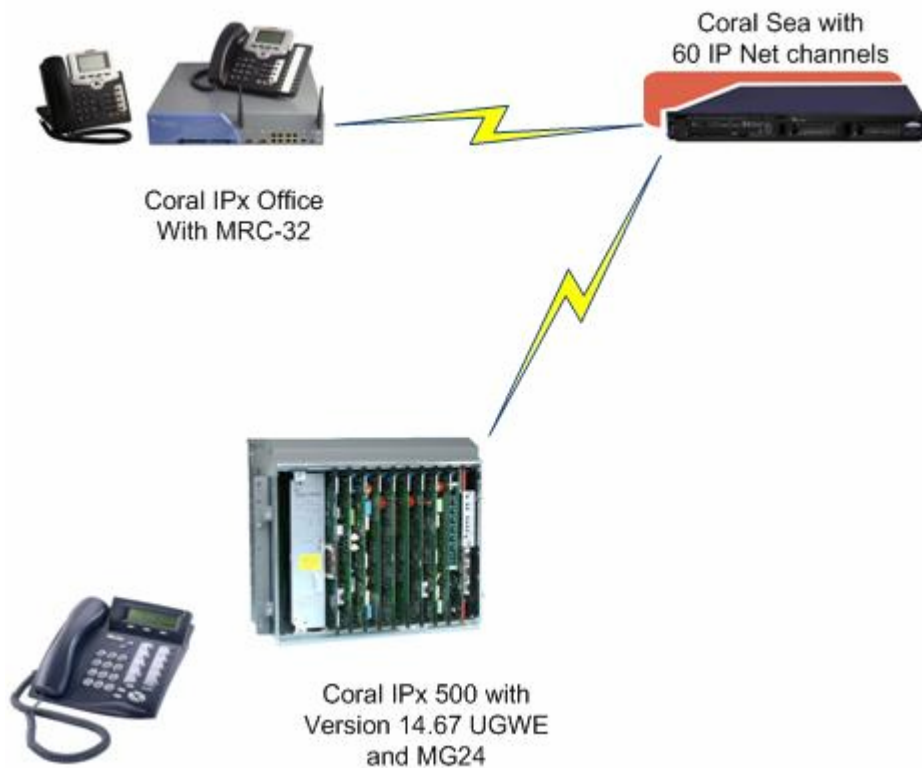
When any user dials a conference access code, the system administrator has the ability to require a security code be entered before the user may enter the conference.

Connectivity

Connection to the Coral Sea Conference Server is either through IP QSIG connectivity or through traditional gateways that convert T1, ISDN PRI or analog stations to IP. The number of available connections will determine the number of simultaneous users of the conferencing services in the Sea Softswitch.

Option 1 - IP Connection from a Coral IPX

With this option, the Coral needs to have version 14.67 or greater software and an IP gateway installed (either a UGW or PUGW card). The Coral IPx and Sea Softswitch need to have an IPNet QSIG connection between them. The number of channels authorized in the Coral and Sea Softswitch along with the Media Gateway or Media Resource card will determine the number of simultaneous conference users in the Coral Sea.

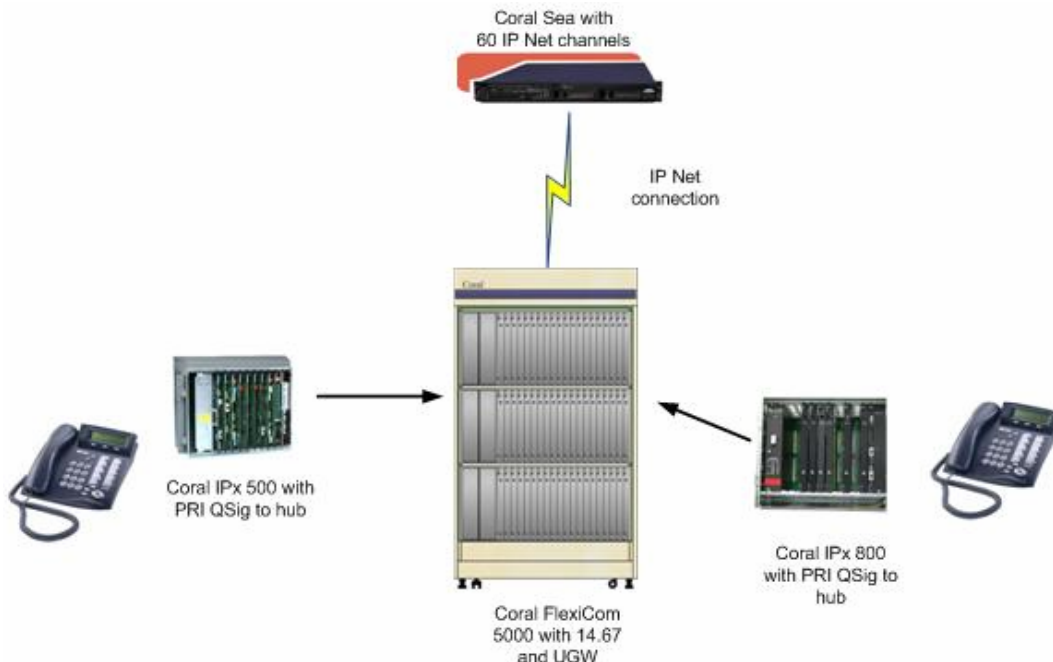


In the example above, one Coral Sea server is supporting two Coral systems using IP connectivity. The number of simultaneous people using conferencing services in the Coral Sea is licensed for 60 (32 channels in the IPx Office plus 24 channels from the IPx 500).

Option 2 - PRI QSIG connection and the Coral Sea

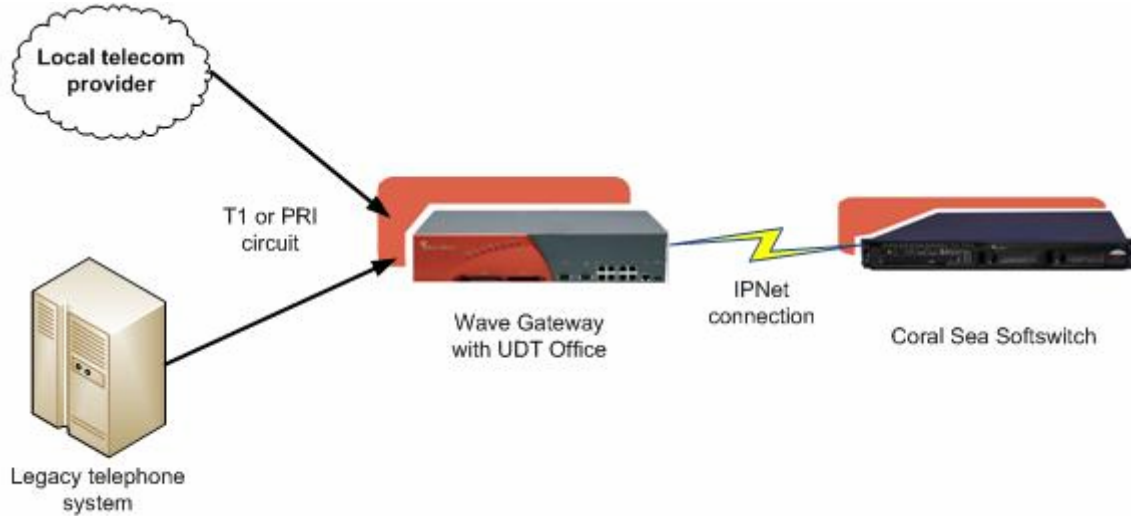
Many customers have Coral systems with network connections through dedicated T1 circuits using a protocol called QSIG. This allows access to centralized solutions such as voicemail, central trunking and other applications.

In a multi-site Coral system network, only one of the Coral systems has to upgrade and implement a single IP Network connection to allow all users access to the Coral Sea.



Option 3 - Traditional T1 connection to Coral Sea

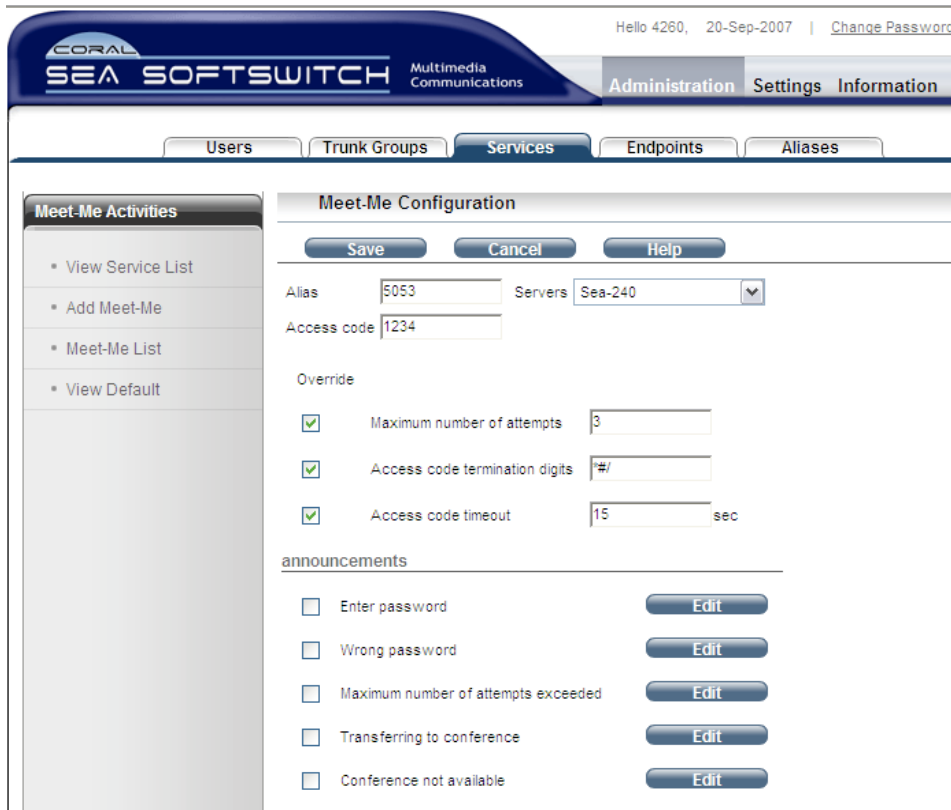
The Coral Sea can be connected to legacy telephone systems or directly to the telephone provider via a T1 or PRI circuit. By installing a Coral Sea with a WaveGateway, the Coral Sea can act as an adjunct application to existing telephone systems (see below).



Functionality

The Sea Softswitch server can support up to 60 people simultaneously in a conference state. Users access the individual conference bridges by dialing an access code. There is no limit to the number of conference bridge access codes allowed in the Sea Softswitch, only the total number of users on all conference bridges.

Below is a screen shot of the Meet Me Conference Bridge programming in the Sea Softswitch.

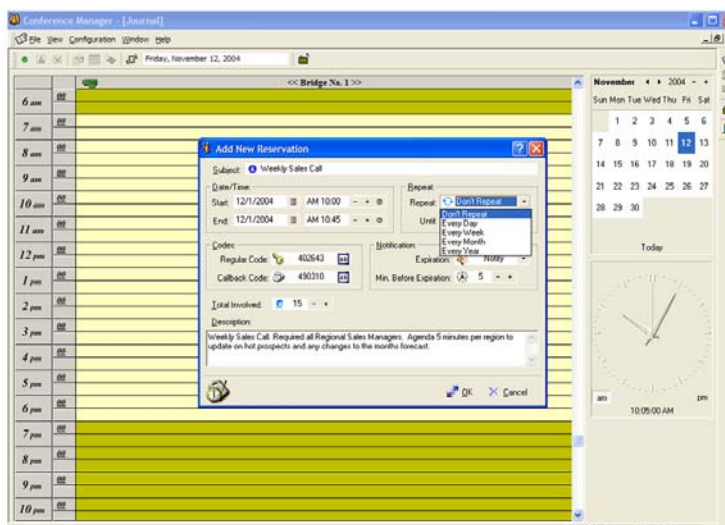


The items in the programming that can be set are the following:

1. Alias – the access code the user dials to enter the conference bridge. This number will have to be programmed in the Coral or legacy telephone system to be recognized and passed to the Sea across the network connection.
2. Server – the alias or access code for the conference bridge can point to a specific server.
3. Access Code – this is a 4 to 12 digit security code the user has to dial to enter the conference bridge. If there is no value in this box, the conference bridge is unsecured and a security code is not needed to enter the bridge.
4. Maximum number of attempts – the maximum number of attempts the user has to dial the correct security code.
5. Access code termination digit and time out – the digit that the Sea Soft switch will recognize as the termination digit for the access code. The Sea Softswitch will wait for the Access code timeout period, to make sure it has collected all the digits. If the user dials one of the termination digits, the Sea Softswitch will evaluate the access code immediately.

Option

The Coral Sea Conference Server can be further enhanced by adding the Conference Bridge Manager that allows you to easily schedule a conference call and automatically send the date, time and access information via email or SMS text messaging. Combining the Sea Softswitch with the Conference Bridge Manager in the Coral provides this functionality. The Conference Bridge Manager allows the scheduling, notification and security for the Meet Me Conference bridges in the Sea Softswitch.



Summary

Companies are spending hundreds to thousands of dollars each month for third party conferencing services. The Sea Softswitch allows the customer to house these services internally, saving those monthly expenses.

The Sea Softswitch is very scalable and flexible. It can be used either as a standalone system or to augment existing Coral and legacy telephone systems.