



TM
MultiSpeak®3

Integration made easier.

07.26.07

New! Upcoming MultiSpeak Web Conference

Thursday, August 16, 2007
2:00 PM Eastern Time

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Learn how the MultiSpeak specification simplifies data transfers and interface development between your existing and newly-developed software applications. MultiSpeak web services definition language (WSDL) files give you complete, computer-readable instructions on how to read data and create MultiSpeak-enabled software interfaces for all of your applications. This web conference will demonstrate how to build a sample web services client using Microsoft Excel to pull data from a server in real time. We will consume one of the MultiSpeak WSDLs, implement some basic calls and publish the results onto a spreadsheet. Using these techniques, creating your own field applications for a PDA or laptop and developing your own customized "digital dashboard" is a simple process. You can then enter your application in the MultiSpeak Connectivity Challenge. The web conference is free for all. For more information and registration go to Cooperative.com.

Now your Co-op can Become a MultiSpeak® Member

Show your support of the MultiSpeak Standard Software Integration Specification. Auditing membership entitles co-ops and other interested parties to take part in the technical and Business Planning activities that will shape the future direction and enhancements of MultiSpeak. The cost is \$400 for NRECA voting members and just \$100 for CRN members.

[Registration form](#)

Testing Update

Vendor interest continues to be high in developing and testing MultiSpeak interoperable applications. To date a total of 24 Version 3.0 interoperability tests have been completed--7 since the first of the year. Since the last MultiSpeak newsletter, the following tests have been completed:

- 1) Cannon Technologies' Yukon AMR system has passed two different interoperability tests with the iVUE System, provided by the National Information Solutions Cooperative, using Version 3.0 web services. The interfaces tested use (i) the Meter Reading (Cannon) – Customer Billing (NISC) interface (see the press release [here](#) and the test report [here](#)) and (ii) the Outage Detection (Cannon) – Outage Analysis (NISC) interface (see the press release [here](#) and the test report [here](#)).

2) The TWACS AMR system offered by Distribution Control Systems, Inc. (DCSI) has passed interoperability testing with the Prepaid Account Management System (PAMS), offered by Exceleron Software on two different interfaces. The interfaces tested use (i) the Meter Reading (TWACS) – Customer Billing (Exceleron's PAMS) interface (see the press release [here](#) and the test report [here](#)) and (ii) the Connect/Disconnect (TWACS) – Customer Billing (Exceleron's PAMS) interface (see the press release [here](#) and the test report [here](#)). Exceleron is a new member of MultiSpeak. Their PAMS software works with customer information systems and AMR systems to create a prepaid metering system that does not require special prepaid meters.

3) The TWACS AMR system offered by Distribution Control Systems, Inc. (DCSI) has passed two different interoperability tests with the iVUE System, provided by the National Information Solutions Cooperative, using Version 3.0 web services. The interfaces tested use (i) the Meter Reading (TWACS) – Customer Billing (NISC) interface (see the test report [here](#)) and (ii) the Outage Detection (TWACS) – Outage Analysis (NISC) interface (see the test report [here](#)).

New MultiSpeak Members

Two new members have joined the MultiSpeak Initiative, bringing the total number of members to 39. The latest members are:

- 1) [Clevest Solutions, Inc.](#) supplies workforce management solutions to utilities.
- 2) [Power Systems Engineering, Inc.](#) provides consulting services to electric utilities.

IEC/CIM Activities

We are following developments in the Common Information Model (CIM), a standard similar to MultiSpeak that is being developed by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on behalf of electric utilities and software vendors worldwide. The CIM takes a slightly different approach than that of MultiSpeak. CIM was originally defined for transmission systems and is being extended for distribution; MultiSpeak was designed for distribution from the first, but may be extended to transmission in the future. Both standards have value and each has its stronger and weaker points. For example, CIM covers a broader scope of applications than does MultiSpeak, including transmission and power scheduling, but it is less mature than MultiSpeak in terms of distribution applications. Currently CIM implementations need to be significantly customized at every installation. In addition, the implementation of CIM effectively requires the use of messaging middleware for a successful implementation. This may be a significant drawback for smaller utilities, but is seen as an advantage for many large utilities.

The MultiSpeak Initiative has begun working actively with Working Group 14 of Technical Committee 57, the body of the IEC that addresses distribution extensions of CIM to see where common ground exists and to see if the two standards can be brought closer together. Representatives of both groups are seeing benefits from this cross-fertilization of ideas.

This is a promotion from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.
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MultiSpeak is an NRECA Initiative

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