1998 IEEE Network Operations and Management Symposium

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PANEL: Session 20 – Interoperability: Mission Impossible?
(Information Modeling in an Evolving World)
Organizer and Chair: Salah Aidarous - NEC America, USA

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PANEL: Session 26 – OSS: Enabling or Derailing Deregulation
Organizer and Chair: Shaygan Keradpi - GTE, USA

The telecommunications industry is facing competitive pressures created by deregulation, privatization, and opening of the communications network. These pressures require the existing telecommunications service providers to allow new service providers access to their Operating Support Systems (OSS). Some of the new exchanges include resale of local services, implementation of network unbundling and local number portability. Current telecommunications providers are restructuring into wholesale and retail entities. Providing secure interfaces that allow a large volume of messages to be exchanged among industry participants, while maintaining the security of data and information that resides in the wholesaler's OS systems, presents complex problems for current OS systems, which were designed to be company proprietary. This panel will focus on approaches to provide secure, mediated access, including various implementations of "gateways" to exchange information across enterprises. Discussion will include the impact to the telecommunications industry and the state of supporting technologies that enable effective interaction with legacy environments. Implications of new technologies, such as JAVA and Internet technologies, in supporting real-time local service information exchange will also be explored.

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