Integrated Fax Data Router

Objective
Send faxes over Internet instead of PSTN.

Requirement
Without any change in fax user behavior, the faxes sent from a regular fax machine needs to be routed over Internet whenever possible. Otherwise, it should go over PSTN without the need to be resent. It must support all normal faxing features.

Solution
The WebRamp 300Fx, enables sending faxes over Internet in three different modes depending on the receiving end capability (i.e. depending on availability of a WebRamp 300Fx at the remote end).

Fax-to-Fax over IP:
When the receiving end fax machine has a WebRamp 300Fx connected to it, the faxes can be sent over the Internet to be printed on the fax machine. In this case both the sending and receiving end WebRamp 300Fxs' must have static public IP addresses assigned to them.

Fax-to-Fax over Email:
When the receiving end fax machine has a WebRamp 300Fx connected to it, but only has a dynamic IP assigned to it (dial-up connection), the faxes are sent to an email address assigned to WebRamp300Fx. The remote WebRamp 300Fx automatically fetches and prints the faxed messages sent to its e-mail address, every time it gets connected to the Internet.
Fax as Email:

When the receiving end is a regular email user, the fax message is sent as an email attachment to his email box. The e-mail attachment is an image of the faxed document. The user views the attachment (the fax) in an image viewer compliant with image’s format. WebRamp 300Fx supports a range of fax image formats including TIFF, DCX and JPEG.

**Technology, Platforms & Tools**

WebRamp 300Fx is an analog router with 2 internal 56K modems, a serial port for a third modem and a built-in 4-port Ethernet hub.

Initially, this FoIP technology was developed with the objective of delivering it as an OEM add-on card for fax machines. The prototype was released on a DOS based industrial PC with special purpose hardware. When Ramp Networks acquired our technology, it was ported to VxWorks to work along with their router software on a new hardware "WebRamp 300Fx" that integrated both the fax and data routing into a single board. All related modifications including redesign of their hardware and GUI to accommodate the fax functionality were done in-house and released in record time.

**Future Scope**

- Offering the solution as an add-on card to fax machine manufacturers.
- Support any IP-fax machine at receiving end.
- Offering IP based faxing solution as a service.

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For additional information, please contact:

**Mobax Networks Private Limited**

- 32 Race Course, Coimbatore 641 018, INDIA
- +1 (91) 422 222 3335
- +1 (91) 422 438 0780
- www.mobax.com