



The role of mobile network testing tools and measuring mobile voice and data quality of experience

Our view of the Current Situation

It is widely accepted that it is difficult for the consumer to compare mobile quality in the UK. One of the reasons is that many comparisons are subjective and the current ITU standards for testing voice for example are not used in the UK making results obtained inaccurate and unreliable.

Our view of the Complications

Amongst the operational factors involved in to solve this problem include Manpower, Methodology, Money, and Engineering Test Tools or Equipment.

Multiple tools to test different aspects mobile network quality and currently no single tool is used in the UK to test Voice (including VoIP /Skype), Data Video, SMS and quality of service.

Mobile networks are doing extensive testing incurring large costs but this is with legacy equipment and solutions all offering different tests and different methodologies again not to current ITU standards.

What is the role mobile network testing tools can play in improving the situation.?

Rohde and Schwarz (R&S) SwissQual currently provide Regulators, Network operators and Mobile network engineering companies with one box solutions capable of testing Voice (including VoIP /Skype), Video , Data and SMS in one box and to the latest ITU standards.

Use of the SwissQual tool available in car mounted, back pack and handheld formats would allow for collection of data to the latest ITU standard and presentation in easily understandable map formats.

In other countries the use of the tool has been extended to test Universal Service Obligations for Voice & Data.

The standardisation to one tool from many would reduce complexity and:

1. Save cost of multiple test tools and equipment in place of one box.
2. Increase quality and accuracy of testing and results providing more credible results
3. Provide tests already used and accepted throughout Europe and Internationally instead of a UK only approach. This allows consumers from the UK to compare the quality of home networks with networks abroad and visiting consumers to compare the quality of UK networks against their home network.
4. Reduce project risk by using tests approved by the ITU and tested by the major European operators.

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About Rhode & Schwarz SwissQual

SwissQual – A Rohde & Schwarz Company - is one of the largest independent suppliers of specialist equipment for wireless network service quality benchmarking and RF optimization, and is widely recognized as an expert contributor in the field of perceptual speech and video quality assessment.

Founded in 2000, SwissQual was acquired by Rohde & Schwarz in July 2012, and today serves more than 200 customers - including AT&T, Orange, Vodafone and Telefónica - in over 100 countries worldwide.

In 2010 SwissQual carried out network quality drive testing on the world's first commercial LTE network. SwissQual is also the only company selected by the ITU to provide next generation HD testing standard for both voice and video

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