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The Regulation of Telephone Numbers —A Legal and Policy Analysis

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Abstract

Telephone numbers play an important role when a new telecom entrant would like to offer voice services to its users. Moreover, the nature of telephone number is similar to that of spectrum, and therefore, is generally considered as scarce resources. In recent decades, the structure of the telecom market and the need of telephone numbers have changed a lot due to deregulation of the telecommunication market. As a result, a well developed telephone numbering plan is of significant importance. This article uses a comparative approach to analyze the telephone numbering plans of United Kingdom and Australia, and then compares them with the Taiwanese telephone numbering plan. In addition, this article suggests that the Taiwanese regulator of the telecom industry shall make some improvements on the telephone numbering plan so that the goals of maintaining fair competition and developing new telecom services can be achieved accordingly.

Keywords: telephone numbering plan, allocation of telephone numbers, numbering charges, withdraw of telephone numbers, transfer of telephone numbers