

Checklist for selecting a conditional access provider

- The conditional access solution you select should meet these criteria:
- Widely used by cable operators and broadcasters around the world
- Provider is experienced in providing digital conditional access solutions
- High bandwidth efficiency in the digital cable environment
- Offers cable operators full management of out-of-band channels
- System is integrated with full range of third-party vendors of add-on applications such as video-on-demand and data-over-cable services
- Conditional access supplier can provide a list of existing customers with a wide range of system types and sizes
- Fully supports architectures where the entitlement management messages are transmitted in the out-of-band channels or in both in-band and out-of-band channels
- Complies with any necessary standards
- Supports anywhere from tens of thousands to millions of subscribers
- Supports tens or hundreds of different channels
- System has been fully integrated with at least two subscriber management system providers

The conditional access decision

- Conditional access supplier can list set-top box manufactures with whom they have integrated, or are in the process of integrating
- Provides flexible program packaging options, including subscription services, pay-per-view and tiring
- Allows the broadcaster to sell the same program within different marketing packages and at different prices
- Uses a smart card chip that is not commercially available, and is therefore more secure
- Includes a unique and reliable security system which provides proven, strong protection of the encrypted programs against piracy
- Supports removable conditional access modules, such as the Open Cable POD
- Supports session-level control for video-on-demand

- Permits subscribers to pause video-on-demand viewing, tune to another channel, then resume viewing without missing any of the event
- Has the ability to "pair" viewing cards to specific set-top boxes 0 Supports overt and covert "fingerprinting"
- Can send all renewal messages to renew an average of 100 services per subscriber, for a population of 1 million active subscribers, in under a minute
- Allows for all interaction with subscribers to be performed via the transmission stream or return path
- Supports cable modem return path
- Supports purchase of impulse pay-per-view with a real-time connection
- Supports store-and-forward technology for impulse pay-per-view ordering without a real-time connection
- Offers a secure return path providing an accurate report
- mechanism for impulse pay-per-view events the subscriber has purchased and viewed
- Supports order-ahead pay-per-view where the subscriber calls the broadcaster to purchase an event
- Supports impulse pay-per-view where the subscriber orders events using the electronic program guide
- Supports differential pricing of impulse pay-per-view events based on when the event is purchased
- Allows subscribers to cancel impulse pay-per-view events without being charged
- Provides unique security key or control words for each impulse pay-per-view event
- Supports impulse pay-per-view credit limits
- Allows subscribers to view history of impulse pay-per-view events
- Supports near-video-on-demand implementation of impulse pay-per-view where popular programs can be offered at regular intervals (for example, every 30 minutes)
- Does not require immediate report back connection for impulse pay-per-view purchase
- Supports quick report back for special events
- Provides flexibility in determining report back frequency and in defining triggers for reports
- For systems with a telephone return path, supports modifying or changing the report back phone number via the transmission stream
- Supports regular monthly report backs to match your billing cycle as well as special reports as needed to ensure that subscribers can purchase freely

- Allows for several flexible addressing methods, including group, logical, and individual
- Allows for password control
- Supports taping control
- Supports Internet and e-mail services
- Supports messaging features

- Interactive services integrated fully with the conditional access system
- Supports multiple-language audio and subtitle tracks, and allows subscribers to choose their favorite language
- Supports multiple languages for display of on-screen and stored messages
- Allows blackout and other viewing restrictions using any of the available addressing methods
- Supports multiple currencies
- Uses a modular architecture, allowing for future expansion
- Can support multiple subscriber management systems concurrently
- Can support distributed headend architectures
- System supports multiple set-top boxes in the home
- System supports a model where both analog and digital signals are broadcast
- Includes monitoring capabilities
- Offers fully redundant system architecture to ensure very high system availability and easy recovery from fault conditions
- Fully DVB Simulcrypt compliant
- Can simulcrypt with non-DVB compliant conditional access systems