

Azblink Video/Voice/Text System - Multiple-Host Configuration Guide

Abstract

This document describes how to use multiple-host configuration to deploy Azblink Video/Voice/Text Communication Functions other than using standalone machine. It includes using LDAP for user authentication, the determination of VPN address pool, dialing rules associated with SIP trunks, XMPP cluster, the mechanism of sending FCM/APNS/PushKit, the storage space for "http file upload" in XMPP, recording of XMPP text messages, and recording of voice calls.

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Introduction

Azblink Video/Voice/Text System can be deployed with a standalone host. In this document, we focus on the setting by using multiple hosts to deliver the same functionalities. The settings described in this document are related to multiple-host configuration. We did not get into the details for each specific function. We just bring up the methods for devising a multiple-host system. For details in each specific function, please refer to the **Administration Guide**.

Using multiple-host configuration is to cope with performance issues in hope to distribute the loading into several hosts. However, to make multiple hosts work as a single host requires some more planning and managing efforts.

In Azblink system, Voice and Video calls are implemented by using **SIP** along with **RTP** streams whereas Text messaging system is implemented using XMPP. To go across the hosts to place voice/video calls from **host A** to **host B**, we set up **SIP trunk** between **host A** and **host B**. For **XMPP** to send message from one host to another, there are two possible ways:

- if host A and host B are with different domain names, it is necessary to establish server-to-server communication between the two hosts;
- 2. if **host A** and **host B** are **with the same domain name**, the two hosts should bind into a cluster in order to send messages between hosts; the host-to-host communication is counting on the internal mechanism of the cluster.

For voice or video calls using SIP, the user accounts can be created separately in each host; a host does not need to have the knowledge of the SIP accounts established on the other hosts. The behavior of hosts using XMPP with different domain names is quite similar that user accounts can be created



separately on each host without the knowledge of the accounts in other hosts. However, XMPP cluster works quite differently that **each host needs to have the knowledge of all accounts in the cluster**.

Therefore, we have LDAP server to have all the XMPP accounts for the cluster scenario to avoid creating the same accounts on each host. LDAP is an industry standard protocol so that there exist many vendors to provide the tools to manage the directories established in LDAP server. Those tools are known as "LDAP browser or editor". In this document we do not have the introduction of LDAP browser here. If you intend to use your own LDAP server, please remember to fetch the **DB schema of LDAP server** from Azblink.

If XMPP and SIP are intended to be used together, we provide the method to bind the two accounts together in LDAP database. Along with the VPN key, we have the client programs on mobile devices to voice/video/text messaging over VPN to achieve secure multimedia communication.

Within XMPP, it also offers "file sharing" between users via "http file upload and download". For "file sharing" to work across the hosts, it is necessary to have a common storage space that can be accessed by those servers. For hosts with different domain names, there might be some political issues to hinder the existence of the storage space shared by the those domains if those domains are owned by different organizations. So, we only consider the "file sharing" in XMPP under the context of single host or cluster scenario.

If voice calls and text messaging shall be recording for audit purpose, extra storage space is needed. At the moment of writing this document, recording video on server side is not available. We have the client program to record video calls.

While using a client program on mobile devices, the client program might fall into sleep (**preempted by the operation system** of the mobile device) to save the battery power so that it does not have the privilege to standby all the time. The current prevailing operation systems on the mobile devices provide



methods to send messages to the mobile devices while the APP falls into sleep. On Android, the mechanism is known as FCM for both sending messages and waking up the APP; on iOS of Apple's iPhones, it has APNS (to send messages) and PushKit (to wake up the APP).

The basic operation principle for FCM/APNS/PushKit is quite similar: the APP obtains a "device token" from the cloud maintained by Google or Apple and send this "device token" back to the application server that this APP is associated with. When the application server needs to send messages to the mobile device or wake up the APP on the mobile device, it sends the messages along with the "device token" to the cloud maintained by Google or Apple; and then, the cloud would dispatch the message to the mobile device if possible.

In Azblink Voice/Video/Text Messaging system, we offer the option to send out FCM/APNS/PushKit along with XMPP message to the callee if there is voice/video call coming to the host where the callee's account shall be registered. In this document, we only introduce the setup on Azblink server.



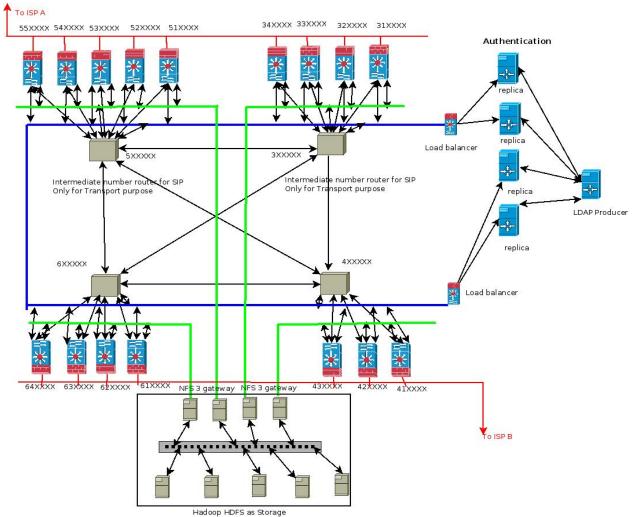


Illustration 1: Deployment Example

The diagram above is an example how the multiple-host configuration is deployed. In this document, we only briefly introduce the parts associated with "**Application Servers**" (Azblink Servers). For those related to **LDAP server** or **Hadoop HDFS**, you should refer their documents respectively.



LDAP Setting

LDAP configuration in Azblink Voice/Video/Text Messaging System is with two parts:

- 1. acting as LDAP client to fetch data from LDAP server for user authentication
- 2. acting as LDAP server

The server part is mainly to demonstrate how we expect the setting of LDAP server for user authentication; it can be used for small scale deployment. Our Web GUI does not provide sophisticated configuration for LDAP server; you need to turn to the documentation of LDAP for help.

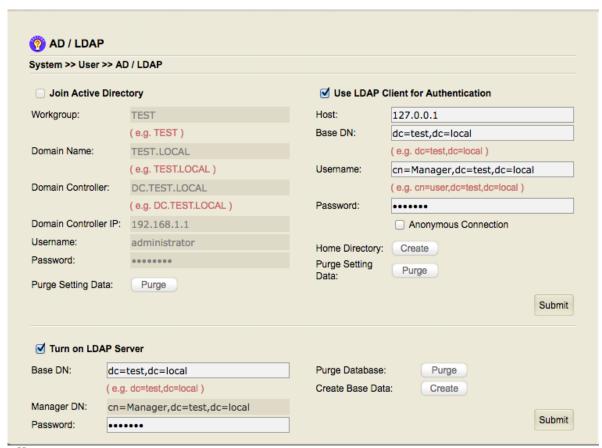


Illustration 2: LDAP Setting

The associated setting for LDAP in Azblink Voice/Video/Text Messaging System can be found at "System >> User >> AD / LDAP"; it is shown as the screen snapshot above. On the bottom of the screen, the button "Create Base"



Data" is to create some basic nodes in LDAP server. For example, if "**Base DN**" is "dc=test,dc=local", then the button will generate the following nodes in LDAP database:

dc=test,dc=local ou=People,dc=test,dc=local ou=sip,dc=test,dc=local

We usually create user data in LDAP server as follows:

dn: uid=nana6853,ou=People,dc=test,dc=local

uid: nana6853 cn: nana6853

objectClass: account objectClass: posixAccount objectClass: AsteriskSIPUser

objectClass: top

objectClass: inetLocalMailRecipient userPassword:: ZTJjZGJlMDk=

loginShell: /bin/bash uidNumber: 6853 gidNumber: 1007

homeDirectory: /home1/nana6853

gecos: Nana6853 Louis mailHost: 192.168.11.251 AstAccountName: 6853 AstAccountHost: dynamic AstAccountType: friend

AstAccountRealmedPassword: e2cdbe09 AstAccountCallerID: nana6853<6853>

AstAccountDirectMedia: no AstAccountCallGroup: 1 AstAccountPickupGroup: 1 AstAccountMailbox: 6853 AstAccountQualify: yes AstAccountContext: all

structuralObjectClass: account

entryUUID: d706f363-8ea4-4f4a-8cc0-d9a42fbeeb1c creatorsName: cn=Manager,dc=test,dc=local

createTimestamp: 20211001012917Z

entryCSN: 20211001012917.473081Z#000000#000#000000

modifiersName: cn=Manager,dc=test,dc=local

modifyTimestamp: 20211001012917Z

You might use your LDAP browser or editor to create user data.

In the example provided in the screen snapshot, we just bind the LDAP Server "127.0.0.1" (localhost) for user authentication. After pressing "**Submit**"



button, you should reboot the host to make the setting take effective properly.

To check if it is binding successfully, you can check from "System >> User >> Users" by switching the field on the top from "Local Users" to "Domain Users":

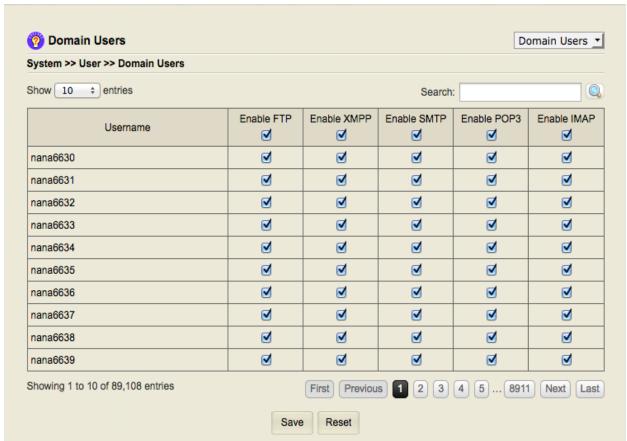


Illustration 3: Listing the User Accounts from binding LDAP Server

Please note that the screen would not give the complete list of the data in LDAP server if the volume of the data is too large. The "Search" function is provided for you to look up specific user account. Currently, "Search" in LDAP is only done by "exact match" – it only displays the user account exactly matched the search string.

Similarly, you can view the QR code for specific user account from "System >> User >> User QR". The QR code will be displayed by clicking the "View" button associated with user account on the left.



Those screens shown here for user account information are meant for checking if the binding is successful; it is not intended for user management. The User Management shall be done via LDAP browser/editor.

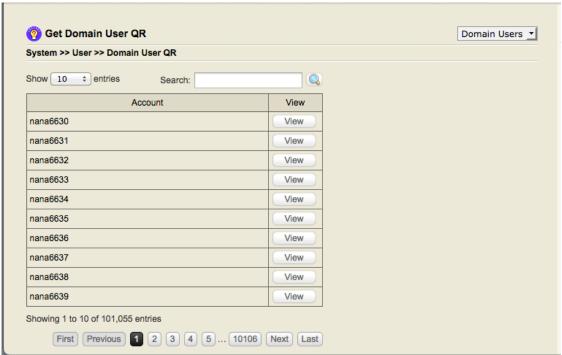


Illustration 4: Display the QR code associated with User Account - 1





Illustration 5: Display the QR code associated with User Account - 2



XMPP Cluster Setting

Before we go into the setting of XMPP cluster, Let's take a look at VPN address pool ("**Vpn** >> **Connection** >> **Address Pool**"):

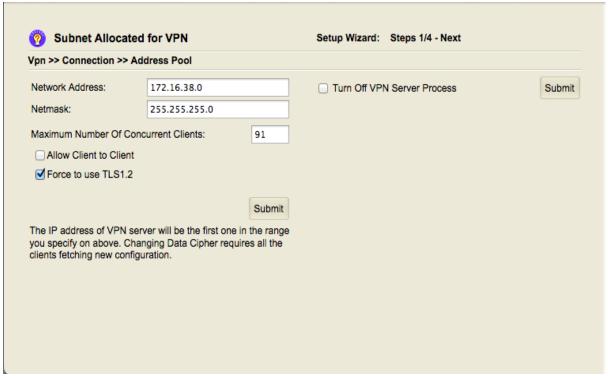


Illustration 6: VPN Address Pool

The diagram above reveals that the address pool for VPN is 172.16.38.0/24. And please remember that the first IP address of the address pool is the IP address of the host in VPN. In this case, it is "172.16.38.1".

With this information at hand, let's go to the setting at "System >> Management >> XMPP User Control".

The option "**Enable Chat Logging**" is to record XMPP messages between users. The conversation log will be kept in the directory "/home/chat".

Please note the field "**File Upload URL**". This is provided for XMPP clients to exchange files via HTTP. In the example above, we would like to force "**HTTP File Upload**" to go through VPN. Thus, "172.16.38.1" is used in URL –



that is the IP address of the host in VPN. The uploaded files will be kept in the directory "/home/flv".

For multiple-host configuration, we just let each host with the same IP addresses for VPN; and "**File Upload URL**" is the same on each host as well. As we know that every uploaded files will go to the directory "/home/flv" on each host. We use an external storage server such that the same storage space will be mount on the directory "/home/flv" on each host joining the XMPP cluster. Therefore, the file uploaded from host A can be accessed by the user on host B.

The recording of the XMPP text messaging is not related to VPN; but when users on host A chat with users on host B, the associated conversation shall be writing into the same place. Thus, we can also mount a remote file system to "/home/chat" to record the conversation.



Illustration 7: Setting of File Upload URL

With those issues settled, we start to configure XMPP cluster.



The operation principle for building XMPP cluster is straightforward. On each host in the cluster, it must have a "**Node Name**" to identify itself. This "**Node Name**" should associated with an IP address so that the other nodes know where to find the host by using "**Node Name**".

Please note: once you set "**Node Name**", all the databases for XMPP on this host will be purged, and recreated by using this "**Node Name**". Therefore, you have to decide if this host should join the cluster from the very beginning. Using this host for a while and joining the cluster later will cause the loss of the previous data (friend's list, off-line messages, ...)

For a node to join a cluster, it simply just binds any node in the cluster.

We start with one node. A host with a **Node Name** "a253" is created. Then we would like to have another node "a251" to bind "a253" in order to join the cluster.

For "a251" to join successfully, the following things shall be done in advance:

- check "System >> Setup >> Control Panel" to see if the IP address records of "a251" and "a253" exist;
- 2. export the "**cookie file**" from "a253" and place this cookie file to "a251".
- 3. From "a251", start the action to join the cluster by using "a253".



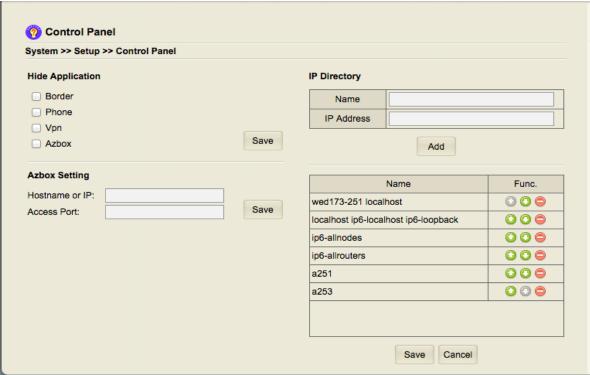


Illustration 8: IP Address Records of Nodes in XMPP Cluster



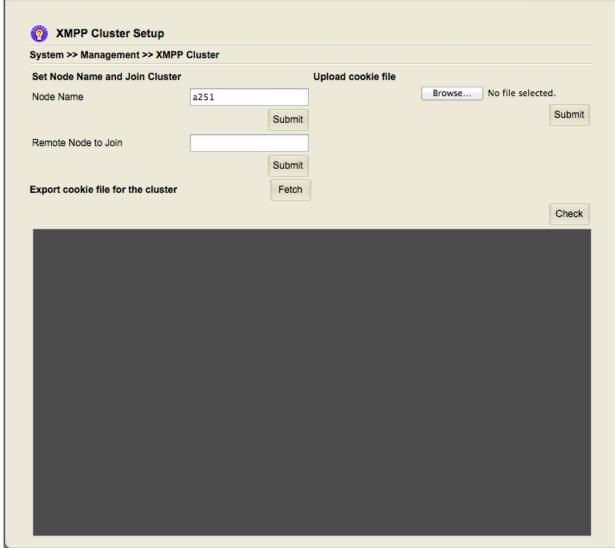


Illustration 9: Before Joining the Cluster

The diagram above is the screen snapshot of "a251" before joining the cluster. Enter "a253" in the field "**Remote Node to Join**" and Press "**Submit**" button. This should let "a251" join the cluster.

You might press "Check" button to check if it joins the cluster successfully. In the diagram below, it displays with the message that

running db nodes = [ejabberd@a253,ejabberd@a251]



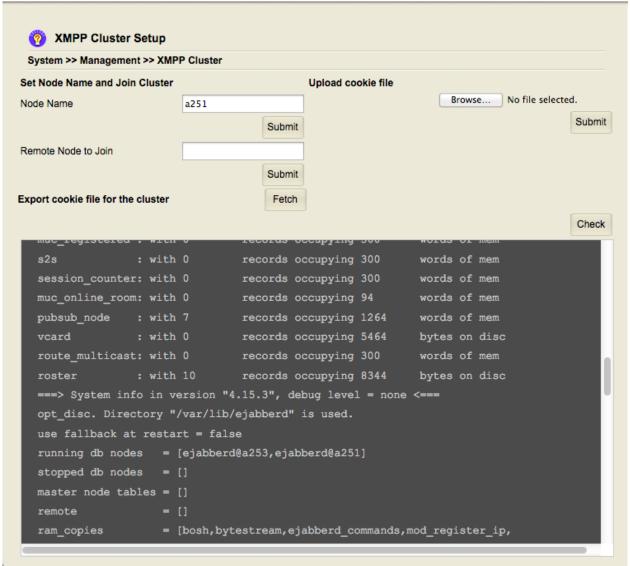


Illustration 10: After Joining the Cluster

This confirms the binding is successful.



SIP Setting

SIP is using "**number routing scheme**" between hosts. Specifically, we also use patterns of numbers to distinguish functions of the telephone system.

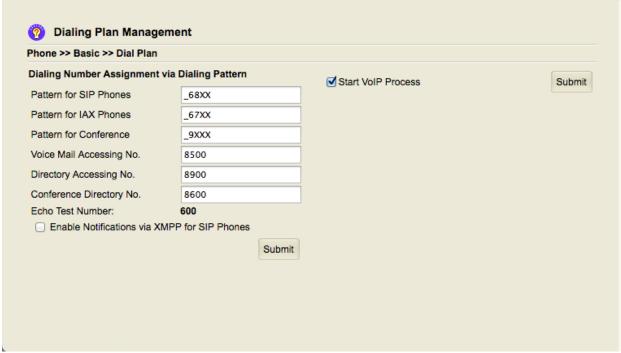


Illustration 11: Dialing Plan

While devising numbering schemes, we need to think if those numbers can be used "locally" or "globally across the hosts". For example, you can have people associated with the same host by dialing 68XX to each other, and people on the other hosts dialing to this host with 30168XX; you also can have the scheme that using 30168XX only without considering if the caller and callee are on the same host. Both schemes shall work, and users must be very clear about those dialing rules; otherwise, it would cause some confusions.

In general, we require people do **SIP registration and XMPP registration on the same host by using VPN** to that host. Theoretically, they can be on different hosts: for example, using VPN on **host C**, doing SIP registration on **host A**, and doing XMPP registration on **host B** -- but this increases the complexity of the management. In the scenario of multiple-host



configuration, we just require those features should be binding together.

Given on the situation described above, then we can think if we should send FCM/APNS/PushKit along with XMPP to notify the callee while there is a inbound call to the host. The notification via XMPP can be enabled by checking the box "Enable Notifications via XMPP for SIP Phones" along the setting in other screen.

For using the accounts established in LDAP server, it should bind the LDAP server properly. It can be done via "**Phone** >> **Basic** >> **SIP in LDAP**":

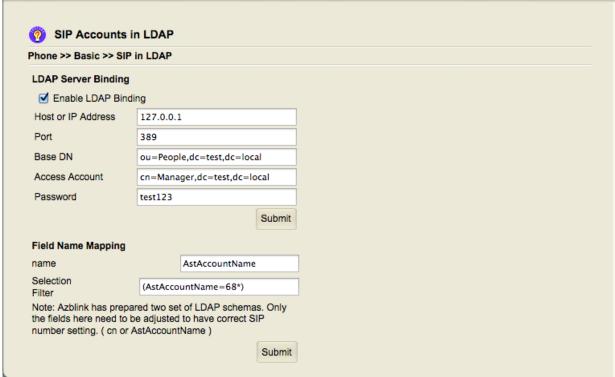


Illustration 12: Binding LDAP Server to get SIP Accounts

Please note that the SIP accounts on this host shall be like 68XX. Thus, we have "**Selection Filter**" set for extracting the SIP accounts we need for this host.

We continue with the topic to set up XMPP notification when there is an inbound call. On "**Phone** >> **Basic** >> **Notification**", you would notice a



"Sender Account" is required. You should have that "Sender Account" created at first in order to use that account to send "XMPP notification" from this host. Then, enter the phone number with associated the JID (the receiver's XMPP account). Thus, when the phone number is called, the system will send a notification to that XMPP account.

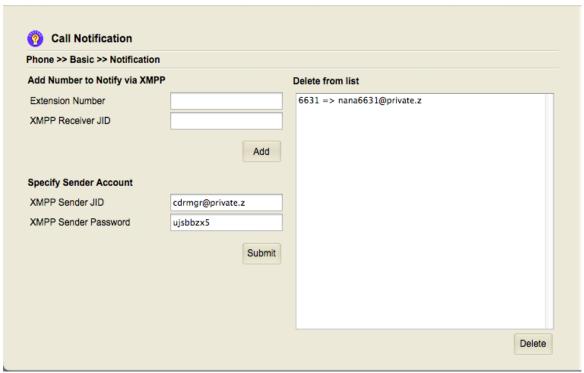


Illustration 13: Notify via XMPP while there is Inbound Call

And FCM/APNS/PushKit can be enabled via "**Phone >> Basic >> APNS**" and "**Phone >> Basic >> FCM**".

You can check if the associated device token exists or not. If devices tokens are not there, of course there is no FCM/APNS/PushKit.

The PushKit tokens are not listed; enabling APNS will enable PushKit as well. Please also not that **Apple requires the key and certificate of using APNS and PushKit be updated every year**. Once the certificate is expired, the developer of APP on mobile device should go to Apple's development website to fetch new certificate.



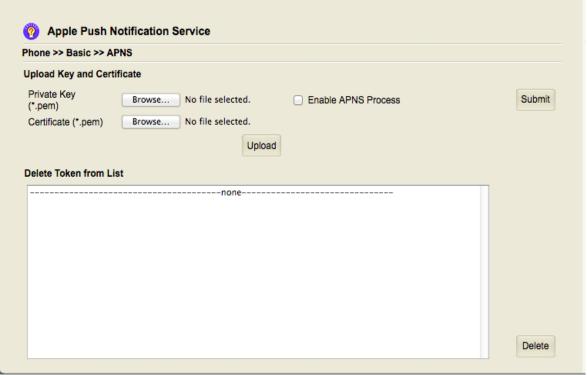


Illustration 14: APNS/PushKit Setting





Illustration 15: FCM Setting



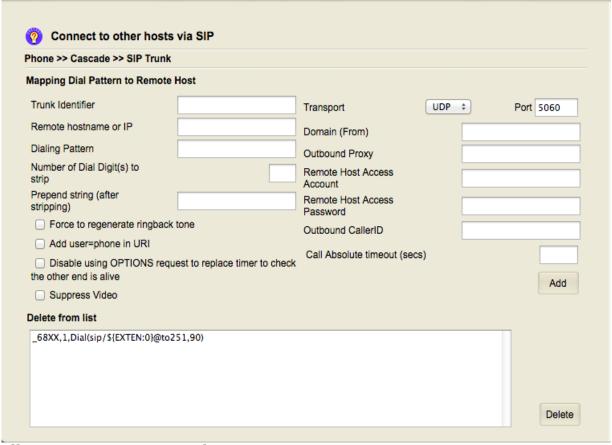


Illustration 16: SIP Trunk

SIP trunk can be set via "**Phone >> Cascade >> SIP Trunk**". For two Azblink hosts to set up SIP trunk between them, the simplest way is just using IP address to point to each other without further authentication.



Storage Space

The following two features would use huge amount of storage space: the **file transfer via HTTP in XMPP** and the **recording of voice calls and text messaging**. File transfer via HTTP in XMPP will use the directory "/home/flv" as deposit for the uploaded/downloaded files; the recording of the voice calls and text messaging will be kept under the directory "/home/chat". In the scenario of single-host deployment, we may or may not resort to the external storage for help.

However, in multiple-host configuration, mounting remote file system to those directories on each host is not only the issue regarding to storage space issue, but also that we have the need for multiple hosts to access a common spot in order to exchange files or merging the data from different hosts. Thus, if we intend to use "File Transfer via HTTP in XMPP" or "Recording Voice or Text Messaging", it is necessary to have external storage in place.

In "System >> Storage >> Remote Mount", Samba (CIFS), NFS, or GlusterFS (in "wed" build) can be used to mount remote file system to a local directory.



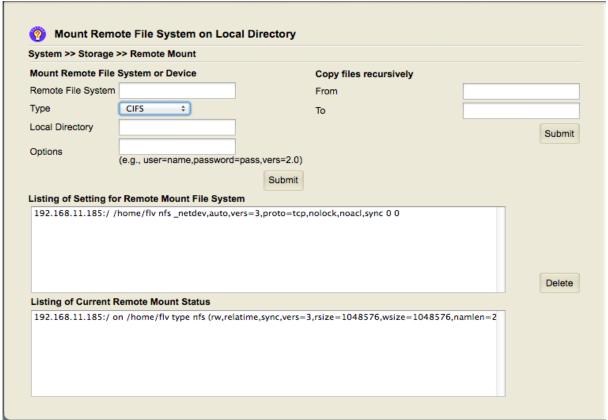


Illustration 17: Mount Remote File System to a Local Directory

Samba (CIFS) allows using a user account to mount a file system. And please make sure that the directory on the remote storage should allow **READ** and **WRITE** privilege via this user account – the directory should be writable/readable right after the login process.

On NFS, we use "root" user to mount remote file system and **READ/WRITE** actions will be done via "root" user as well. The remote system has to allow "root" user to perform those actions, for example, doing "**no_root_squash**" while exporting the file system or changing the ownership of that directory.

At the end of the day (the recording day), the directories or files under "/home/flv" will be moved to "/home/chat" for archive purpose. Thus, the same remote file system should not be mount on "/home/flv" and "/home/chat" at the



same time; it needs another storage system if both functions are in use. And we do not have automatic scheme to purge the directories or files under "/home/chat". Thus, it needs proper capacity planning for using these functions.



Voice Recording

Some variants of our software provide the function of recording voice calls. In "**Phone >> Basic >> Dial Plan**", if you see the check box "**Monitor SIP phones by recording incoming calls**", the recording function will be triggered when there is a inbound call to those SIP phones specified in the dialing pattern when the box is checked.

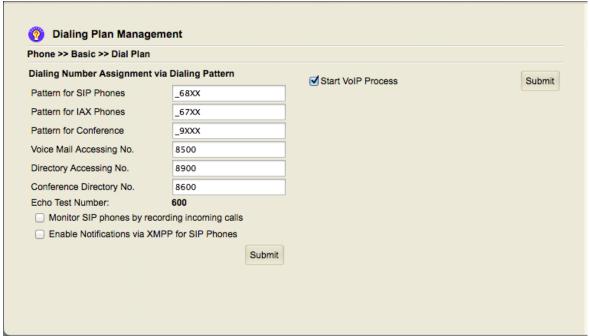


Illustration 18: Recording the Inbound Calls

The recorded files can be found via Web GUI "**Phone** >> **Audit** >> **Voice Records**" at the same day. By the end of the day, those files will be moved to the directory "/home/chat" to archive.



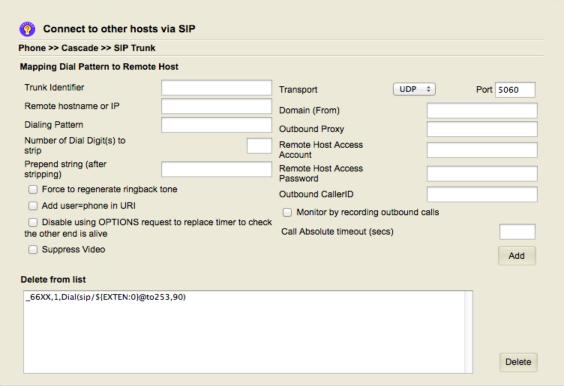


Illustration 19: Recording Outbound Calls While Setting Up SIP Trunk

The SIP trunk setting can also provide the function for recording. In "Phone >> Cascade >> SIP Trunk", if the check box "Monitor by recording outbound calls " is shown and checked, the outgoing calls via this SIP trunk will be recorded. Similarly, the recorded files will be shown in "Phone >> Audit >> Voice Records" at the same day; by the end of the day, they will be moved to "/home/chat".

Please note that we do not have automatic mechanism about how often to purge those files under the directory "/home/chat". You shall be prudent about the capacity planning on those recording functions.