The Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) Server allows a user to interact directly with network-based functions from their GSM mobile phone.

The USSD Server provides the framework for a rich set of subscriber capabilities and services, including subscriber account management, balance inquiry, callback, messaging, voting, short quiz applications and interactive chat.

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USSD can minimize the use of voice-channel resources by reducing user interaction with Interactive Voice Response (IVR) applications. It provides rapid session-based short message response. It can improve the user experience by speeding transaction response as compared with latency delays common with typical store-and-forward Short Message Service (SMS).

All Homisco USSD Gateway services are accessed by dialing a string or strings of digits, with the # and * symbols acting as delimiters.

The Homisco USSD Gateway is ideal for menu-based services and has clear advantages over SMS.

The handset recognizes those numbers and forwards the request to the Homisco USSD Gateway server instead of initializing a normal call or a data call. No additional application, phone menu or SIM menu is needed for the Homisco USSD Gateway to function, as USSD is supported by nearly every GSM handset.

The Homisco USSD Server currently supports the following capabilities:

- **Account Top-Up** - allows users to add funds to their mobile account
- **Balance Inquiry** – users can retrieve their current account balance and expiration date with USSD messaging
- **Bonus Inquiry** – users can receive their account bonus or promotion status
- **Voting** – a user can submit a vote through USSD and receive confirmation of receipt
- **Call Me** – a user can send a USSD Call Me request message to another user and receive confirmation of receipt
- **Notify Me** - a user can submit a USSD request to be alerted when a selected mobile registers on the system
- **Self Care** - a user can change various parameters of their account, such as preferred language, rate plan, Friends & Family calling list, or personal security code.
- **User Services** – USSD provides the frame work for mobile subscribers to access third-party content and value-added services.

The Homisco USSD Gateway network topology supports the Homisco VANX Prepaid Database.

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