

## **EUROPEAN STANDARDS STRUGGLE ON FILE TRANSFER TAINTS ISDN IN USERS' EYES.**

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The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) is deeply divided over what should be the standard method of transferring files over ISDN. A recent vote on the subject by the national standards bodies belonging to ETSI revealed a majority in favor of pushing ahead two different protocols instead of a single solution which has been advocated long and hard by the European ISDN User Forum (EIUF).

**With file transfer widely accepted as the second biggest application of ISDN after voice, the standards split could have serious implications for the growth of the ISDN market in Europe.**

One source at ETSI conceded: "It doesn't do much for the credibility for European standards?making in the eyes of users."

The contenders for the file transfer crown are a simple form of File Transfer and Management (FTAM), an ISO International Standard and Open Systems Interconnections (OSI) application, and the European Telecommunications Standard (ETS) 300075, a videotext protocol. But as with most modern standards debates, **the technical merits of the rival proposals pale in comparison with the commercial considerations and political maneuvering.**