

Sharing a Telephone with Power Utility Electronic Meters

Power utilities are now installing electronic meters to collect and store power usage profiles for Time of Use pricing and to obtain data quickly for timelier billing of commercial and industrial customers. These electronic meters contain modems that use the public switched telephone network to either be called from or to dial to a host computer location.

Often a problem arises in obtaining a dedicated telephone circuit to connect with the electronic meter or multiple meters at the customer site. Either the installation of additional lines for the meters is too difficult and costly, or the Power Utility does not want to pay the additional business line monthly rate for lines which are used only minutes per month.

The Teltone Line Sharing Switch and Polling Controller offer an attractive solution to the above problem by allowing the Power Utility to unobtrusively share an existing telephone line and to eliminate the need to install and pay for additional business lines.

As shown in Figure 1, the Line Sharing Switch allows 2, 3, or 4 devices to share a single business line into a customer location. The Polling Controller, located at the host site, ensures minimum connect time, prevents modem downshifting, and hides the remote modems from access by unauthorized callers.

At the Line Sharing Switch, Emergency and Total Priority interrupt modes guarantee telephone availability for outbound priority calls for the business owner.

The Line Sharing Switch and Polling Controller Reference Manuals are available for download at www.teltone.com.

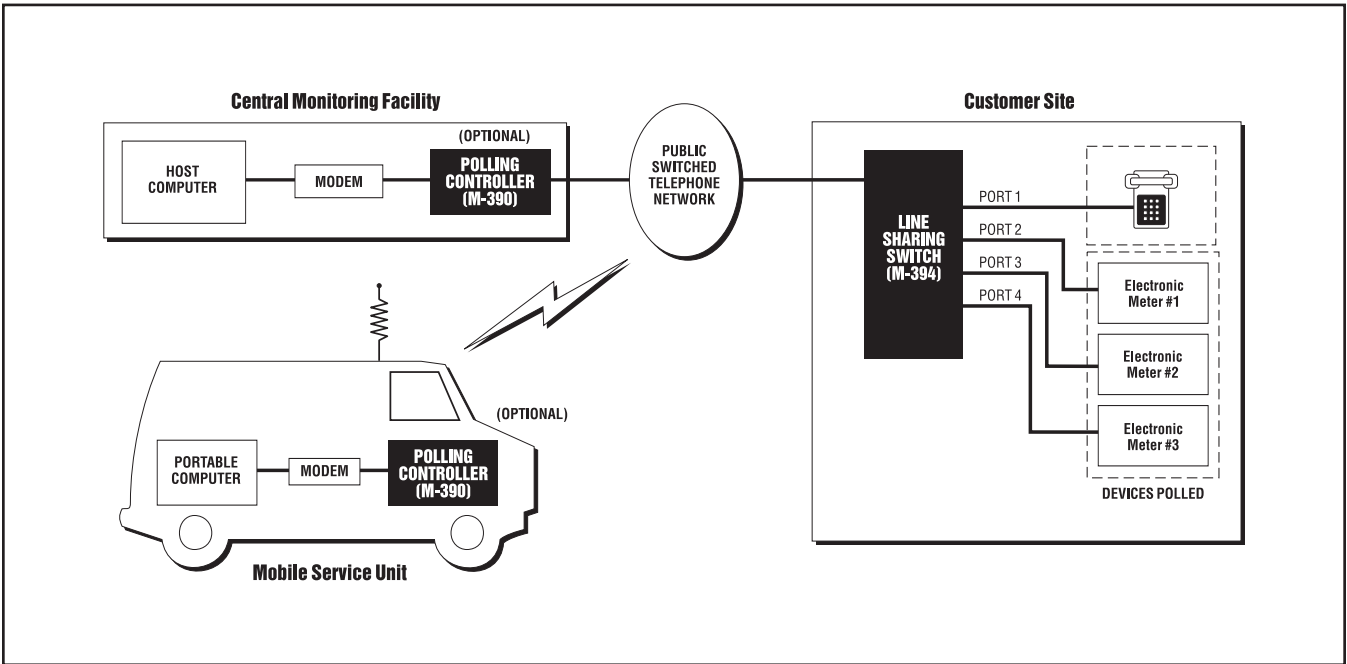


Figure 1