



Running a Draw in SMSP

SMSP platform (www.smsp.gr)
v.4.1

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<http://www.cytech.gr>

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Draws

All the Value-Added Services in SMSP 4.1 have a new functionality, that of performing draws between the participants of your service. This will help you if you have prizes that you want to award to random participants of your services, or if you are regularly running contests, or competitions. *In the final chapter you can find further information about the algorithm used to draw the participants.*

In the view page of every VAS (e.g. Opinion, Vote, Quiz) you will find a section at the top right like the one shown in the image on the right. By clicking the button, you will be taken to the wizard for running a new draw, which is shown in [Image 1: Draw wizard]. The steps of the wizard are described in full detail below:



 A screenshot of the SMSP Lottery Draw wizard interface. At the top, there is a header with the SMSP logo and a navigation breadcrumb: Home » Services management » View Active Opinion » View Opinion: 45986 » Lottery Draw. The main content area is divided into three steps:

- Step 1: Number of Winners**: A section with a heading and a text input field containing the number '1'. Below it is a link for 'Advanced Options'.
- Step 2: Time Periods (Optional)**: A section with a heading and a large greyed-out area for input.
- Step 3: Exceptions (Optional)**: A section with a heading and a large greyed-out area for input.

 At the bottom right of the wizard, there is a 'New Draw' button. The footer contains the text: SMSP v.4.1 © 2003 - 2008 Cytech Ltd, All Rights Reserved.

Image 1: Draw wizard

Step 1: Number of Winners

The first and most important field you need to fill in is the number of winners you wish to extract, as shown in [Image 2: Step 1 of the draw wizard]. In addition, you can also select some further options which you can access by clicking on "Advanced Options". These are:

- ✓ **Unique participants:** There might be some participants of your service, which have sent more than one SMS messages from their mobile phones. By selecting "Unique Participants" only the first message from each participant (i.e. mobile phone) will be inserted into the draw, regardless of how many each participant has sent. If you wish your participants to have more chances of winning the more SMS messages they send, then **do not** select this option.



- ✓ **Redraw Winners:** If you select this option, each participant has the same chances of winning each separate prize. This means that each participant can be drawn more than once as a winner, even if they have only sent one SMS message. This is useful if you want one participant to be able to win multiple prizes with one message.




Image 2: Step 1 of the draw wizard

Step 2: Time periods

The next step after the number of winners has been defined is optional and is shown in [Image 3: Draw wizard step 2]. You will only need to insert information here, if you wish to exclude SMS messages that were sent to your service during specific periods. There are cases when a service has been running for long intervals and you will need to run independent draws at different times. An example of this is a radio station show that gives out a pair of tickets at every show, but uses the same VAS every time. The user of this service will thus need to run a separate draw every time, only for the messages sent during the times of the latest show. If this field is left blank, then all messages are included into the draw. To define and add a time period you need to do the following:

- ✓ **From:** By clicking on the  button next to the "From" input field, you can select the date and time which defines the start date of this interval.
- ✓ **To:** By clicking on the  button next to the "To" input field, you can select the date and time which defines the end date of this interval.

Once these fields have been correctly filled in, you can then click on the  button, to add this interval to the ones for which SMS messages will be inserted into the draw.

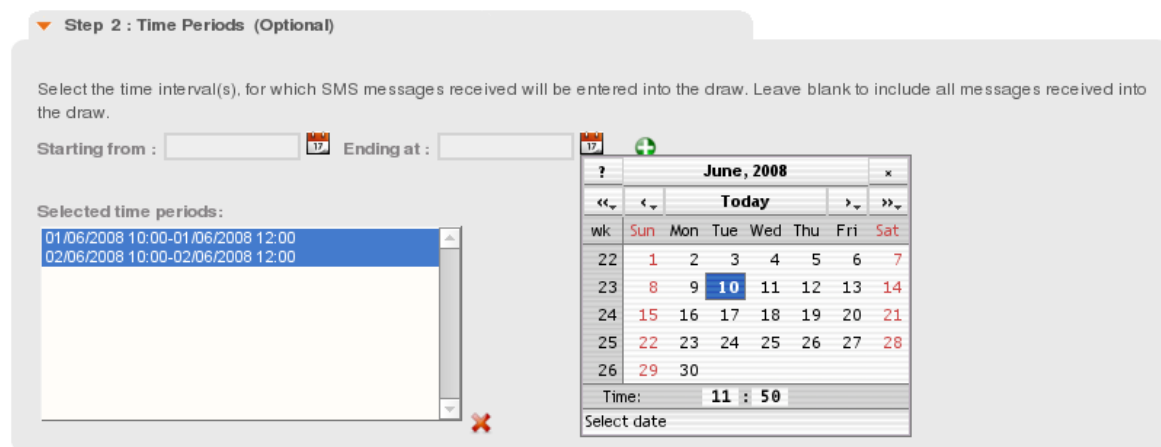


Image 3: Draw wizard step 2

If you wish to remove a specific interval you have added to the list, you can simply select it from the list and click on the ✖ button.

Step 3: Exceptions

The final step is also optional and allows you to specify the exclusion of specific numbers from the draw, as shown, for example, in [Image 4: Draw wizard step 3]. You can exclude as many phone numbers as you wish. To exclude a number you have to do the following:

- ✓ **Mobile phone:** You simply insert the mobile phone number you wish to exclude, starting with the country code, but with no leading '0's or '+'. E.g. 306932123456. You can use the '*' character as a wildcard, so if for example you wanted to exclude all mobile phones starting with '30693', you would write '30693*****'.

Once this field has been filled in, you must click the + button to add the number to the excluded numbers list below.

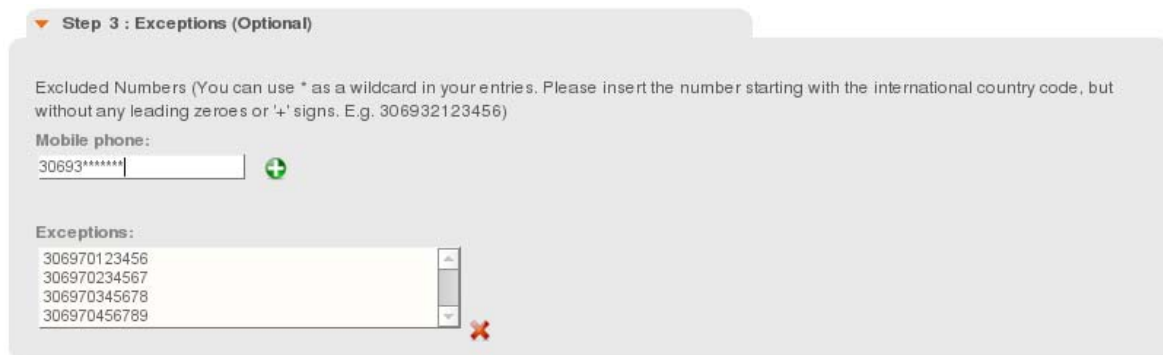


Image 4: Draw wizard step 3

To remove any of the excluded numbers, select it from the list and click the ✖ button. *Tip: to select multiple numbers, hold the Shift or Ctrl buttons while clicking on the numbers.*

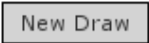
By clicking on the  button, the draw process begins. The platform will display a message showing you your request is being processed.



Image 5: Processing draw message.

Multiple draws

If you perform more than one draws while you are logged in, an additional button will appear in the draw wizard page, as shown in [Image 6: Previous draw results]. This is useful if you have already performed a draw, for some reason you navigated away from the page, and you then wish to access those results again.

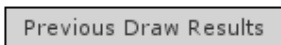


Image 6: Previous draw results

Draw results

Once the draw has been completed, you will be taken to a new page, similar to the one shown in [Image 8: Draw results], where you will see the results of your draw.



Please note: If no participants were found for the criteria you selected, you will be shown a notification message like the one in [Image 7: Previous draw results]

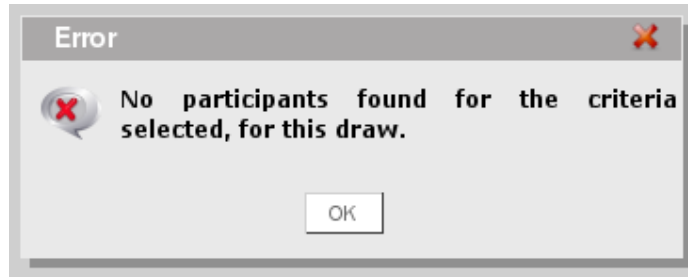


Image 7: Previous draw results

In this page you can see:

- ✓ **The draw parameters and criteria:** At the top of the page you will see the parameters and criteria you defined in the previous page, while preparing your draw. In particular:
 - **VAS Instance ID:** The unique id of the service for which this draw was performed.
 - **Number of winners requested:** The number of winners you defined in the 1st step of the draw wizard.
 - **Number of winners found:** The number of winners eventually found. This number can be smaller than the number of winners requested, in cases where there isn't a large enough number of participants fulfilling the criteria you defined in the wizard.
 - **Time Periods:** The time periods you defined in the wizard for messages to be included into the draw.
 - **Exceptions:** The numbers you defined should be excluded from the draw.
- ✓ **Participant data:** Directly below the draw criteria you can see the data for the winners. This includes:
 - **Mobile Phone:** The mobile phone of each participant.
 - **Message:** The body text of the SMS message with which he/she won.
 - **Date:** The exact date and time that the message was received. You will notice that if you selected specific time periods for your draw, all dates will lie within those intervals.
- ✓ **Exporting the results:** You can export the results of your draw in to EXCEL, PDF, and RTF formats. The files that will be created for you will contain all of the parameters and criteria used

for each draw, as these can be used as proof of the draw that took place. You can find more information about exporting your results in the [Exporting your results] Chapter.

Lottery Draw Results smsdemo :: Logout

Home » Services management » View Active Opinion » View Opinion: 45986 » Lottery Draw » Lottery Draw Results

Lottery Draw

✔ The parameters used for this draw were the following:

VAS Instance ID : 45986
 Number of Winners requested : 2
 found : 2
 Time periods : '01/01/2008 00:01-10/06/2008 11:54'
 Exceptions : '30693*****'
 '306970123456'

With unique participants

This draw took place on 11:54:57 Tuesday 10 Jun 2008

Mobile phone	Message	Date
306971066106	Message body hidden	31-03-2008 11:53:43
306941066101	Message body hidden	31-03-2008 11:53:43

Export to file options: Excel | PDF | RTF Note: Upper limit 60.000 records

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Image 8: Draw results

Exporting your results

From this section you can export your list of draw winners to the following file formats, as shown in [Image 9: Exporting to file options]:

- ✓ Excel: You can see an example of this in [Image 10: Draw results in EXCEL file format]
- ✓ PDF: You can see an example of this in [Image 11: Draw results in PDF file format]
- ✓ RTF: You can see an example of this in [Image 12: Draw results in RTF file format]

Export to file options: Excel | PDF | RTF Note: Upper limit 60.000 records

Image 9: Exporting to file options



Warning: There is an upper limit of 60.000 records for all exported files.

G2				
	A	B	C	D
1	Lottery Draw for VAS Instance ID : 45986			
2	Mobile phone	Message	Date	
3	306971066106	Message body hidden	31-03-2008 11:53:43	
4	306941066101	Message body hidden	31-03-2008 11:53:43	
5	<p>The parameters used for this draw were the following: <u>Number of Winners requested</u> : 2 , <u>found</u> : 2 <u>Time periods</u></p> <p>'01/01/2008 00:01-10/06/2008 11:54'</p> <p><u>Exceptions</u></p> <p>'30693*****' '306970123456'</p> <p><u>With unique participants</u> <u>This draw took place on</u> 11:54:57 <u>Tuesday</u> 10 <u>Jun</u> 2008</p>			
6				
7				

Image 10: Draw results in EXCEL file format

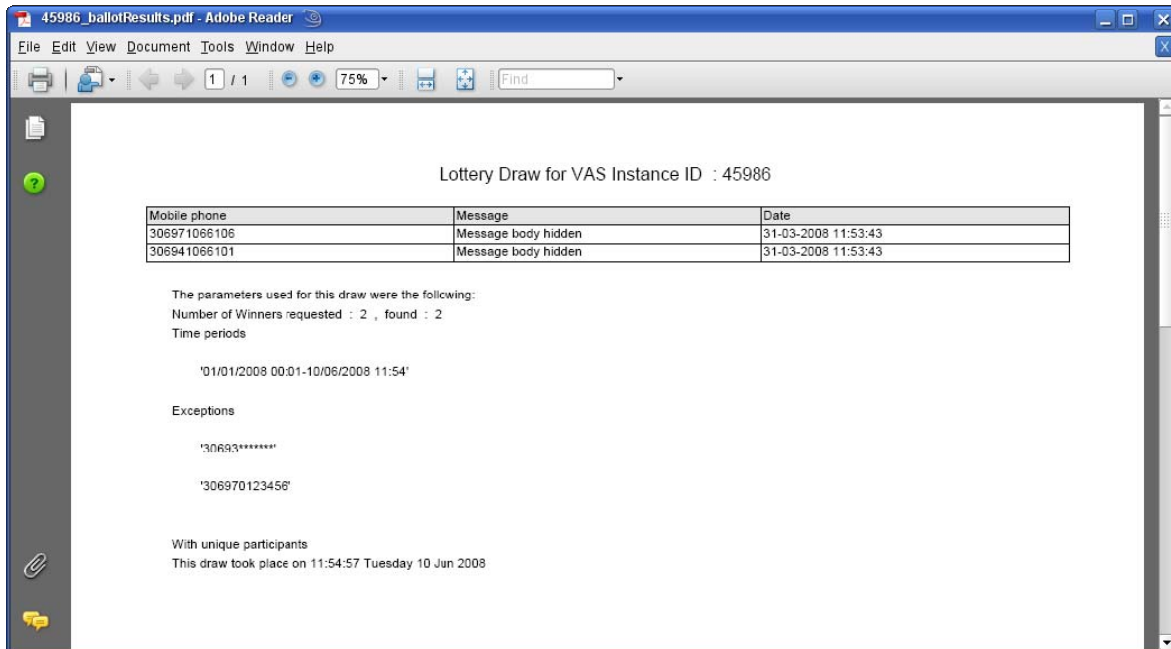


Image 11: Draw results in PDF file format

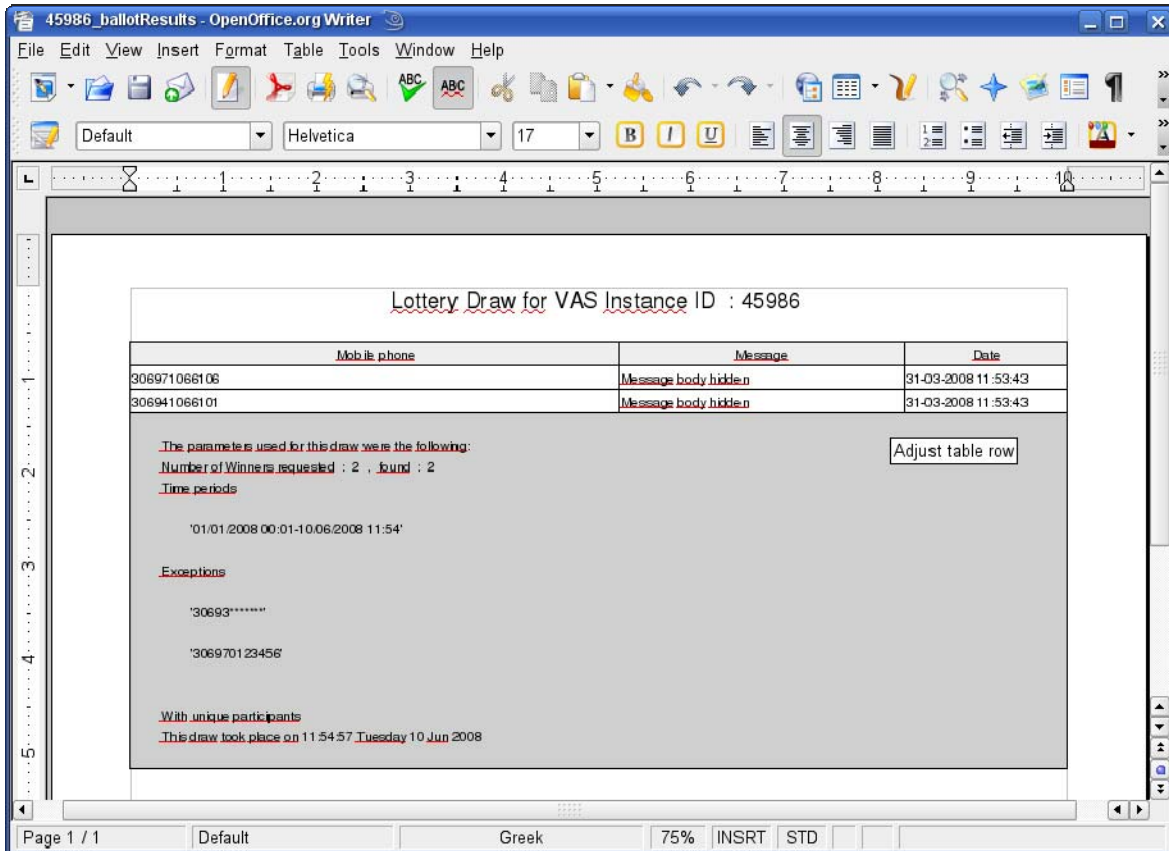


Image 12: Draw results in RTF file format

The Draw algorithm

To perform the draws we use the SHA1PRNG algorithm – *provided by Sun in the standard edition of Java 1.4.2 -*, which provides a cryptographically strong pseudo-random number generator (PRNG).

Based on this algorithm, we follow the following procedure:

1. We find all the participants within the date intervals specified, if any.
 - If “Unique Participants” has been selected, we only keep the first message received by the platform for each of these participants.
2. Depending on the draw criteria and parameters used, we create a list of all the participants assigning a number to each entry.
3. Using the SHA1PRNG algorithm, we extract random numbers which match the number of the winning entry.
 - If the “Redraw Winners” option has NOT been selected, we check if the participant has already won, and if he/she has, we draw a new random number, until we reach a participant that has not yet won.
4. The order in which the random numbers are drawn is the order in which they will appear in the results table.

Cytech Ltd

Cytech Ltd was founded in Heraklion in November 2001. Our main objective is to offer innovative business solutions in the area of Information Technology. We are currently active in the fields of mobile and proximity marketing where we have established our presence over the years through a range of successful solutions and services aimed at professionals.

Our main **goal** is to design and provide cutting-edge solutions that can fully cover the needs of modern businesses in the field of mobile services. To accomplish this goal, we combine our knowledge and experience in the field with the latest and most sophisticated technologies, for both our software development and consulting services.

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