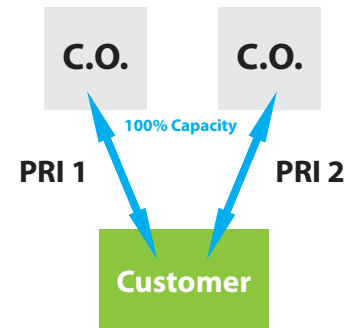


## Redundancy for Mission Critical Calls

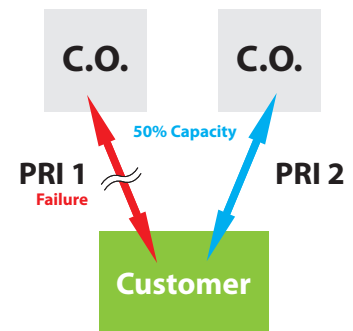
ALWAYS<sub>ON</sub> is an optional network diversity service for organizations with two or more PRI circuits. ALWAYS<sub>ON</sub> terminates PRI facilities into two geographically diverse switches and in doing so provides redundancy should an interoffice facility, loop or wire center failure occur. Inbound and Outbound Voice Services overflow between the facilities to allow full use of available capacity. Routing changes are required in the host phone system for outbound traffic. Inbound traffic which includes DID as well as Toll Free is split 50/50 between the paths. If the Billing Telephone Number (BTN) of the PRI is a dial able number, Oxford Networks will provide Local Number portability (LNP) to the alternate path in the event of a failure. LNP will be completed within a commercially reasonable timeframe.



## How it works:

Depending on the nature of the outage situation, the resulting functionality with ALWAYS<sub>ON</sub> will differ. Many different scenarios could occur and trying to explain all would be impossible.

The most likely event to occur would be loss of transport facility between Central Office and customer location. In this event, the serving Central Office of the affected circuit is able to continue processing calls which will result in all DID numbers and any toll free service destined for the customer premise to automatically failover to the geographically separated Central Office and into the PRI served by the ALWAYS<sub>ON</sub>. In this case, a complete outage is averted for those affected telephone numbers, but capacity has been reduced by 50%.



The second and more unlikely event is a catastrophic failure of one of the two Central Office switches. With this event occurring, the ability to process calls from the failed office is lost and subsequently the telephone numbers will fail when called. Services will continue with 50% trunk capacity for outbound calling. Any inbound calls will be limited to those telephone numbers that are served from the functioning switch. In this strategy, customers are advised to split the DID groups evenly between the two switches. For example, if the sales group has two primary 8XX toll free numbers and 20-DID extensions total, we recommend that 10-DID numbers and one 8XX number be provisioned from each of the diverse Central Offices.

