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1 Foreword

Digital cellular networks based on the GSM specification were designed in the late 1980ies and first deployed in the early 1990ies in Europe. Over the last 25 years, hundreds of networks were established globally and billions of subscribers have joined the associated networks.

The technological foundation of GSM was based on multi-vendor interoperable standards, first created by government bodies within CEPT, then handed over to ETSI, and now in the hands of 3GPP. Nevertheless, for the first 17 years of GSM technology, the associated protocol stacks and network elements have only existed in proprietary black-box implementations and not as Free Software.

In 2008 Dieter Spaar and I started to experiment with inexpensive end-of-life surplus Siemens GSM BTSs. We learned about the A-bis protocol specifications, reviewed protocol traces and started to implement the BSC-side of the A-bis protocol as something originally called bs11-abis. All of this was just for fun, in order to learn more and to boldly go where no Free Software developer has gone before. The goal was to learn and to bring Free Software into a domain that despite its ubiquity, had not yet seen any Free / Open Source software implementations.

bs11-abis quickly turned into bsc-hack, then OpenBSC and its OsmoNITB variant: A minimal implementation of all the required functionality of an entire GSM network, exposing A-bis towards the BTS. The project attracted more interested developers, and surprisingly quickly also commercial interest, contribution and adoption. This allowed adding support for more BTS models.

After having implemented the network-side GSM protocol stack in 2008 and 2009, in 2010 the same group of people set out to create a telephone-side implementation of the GSM protocol stack. This established the creation of the Osmocom umbrella project, under which OpenBSC and the OsmocomBB projects were hosted.

Meanwhile, more interesting telecom standards were discovered and implemented, including TETRA professional mobile radio, DECT cordless telephony, GMR satellite telephony, some SDR hardware, a SIM card protocol tracer and many others.

Increasing commercial interest particularly in the BSS and core network components has lead the way to 3G support in Osmocom, as well as the split of the minimal OsmoNITB implementation into separate and fully featured network components: OsmoBSC, OsmoMSC, OsmoHLR, OsmoMGW and OsmoSTP (among others), which allow seamless scaling from a simple “Network In The Box” to a distributed installation for serious load.

It has been a most exciting ride during the last eight-odd years. I would not have wanted to miss it under any circumstances.
— Harald Welte, Osmocom.org and OpenBSC founder, December 2017.

1.1 Acknowledgements

My deep thanks to everyone who has contributed to Osmocom. The list of contributors is too long to mention here, but I’d like to call out the following key individuals and organizations, in no particular order:

• Dieter Spaar for being the most amazing reverse engineer I’ve met in my career
• Holger Freyther for his many code contributions and for shouldering a lot of the maintenance work, setting up Jenkins - and being crazy enough to co-start syssmocom as a company with me :) 
• Andreas Eversberg for taking care of Layer2 and Layer3 of OsmocomBB, and for his work on OsmoBTS and OsmoPCU
• Sylvain Munaut for always tackling the hardest problems, particularly when it comes closer to the physical layer
• Chaos Computer Club for providing us a chance to run real-world deployments with tens of thousands of subscribers every year
• Bernd Schneider of Netzing AG for funding early ip.access nanoBTS support
• On-Waves ehf for being one of the early adopters of OpenBSC and funding a never ending list of features, fixes and general improvement of pretty much all of our GSM network element implementations
• syssmocom, for hosting and funding a lot of Osmocom development, the annual Osmocom Developer Conference and releasing this manual.
• Jan Luebbe, Stefan Schmidt, Daniel Willmann, Pablo Neira, Nico Golde, Kevin Redon, Ingo Albrecht, Alexander Huemer, Alexander Chemeris, Max Suraev, Tobias Engel, Jacob Erlbeck, Ivan Kluchnikov

May the source be with you!
— Harald Welte, Osmocom.org and OpenBSC founder, January 2016.

1.2 Endorsements

This version of the manual is endorsed by Harald Welte as the official version of the manual. While the GFDL license (see Appendix C) permits anyone to create and distribute modified versions of this manual, such modified versions must remove the above endorsement.

2 Preface

First of all, we appreciate your interest in Osmocom software. Osmocom is a Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) community that develops and maintains a variety of software (and partially also hardware) projects related to mobile communications. Founded by people with decades of experience in community-driven FOSS projects like the Linux kernel, this community is built on a strong belief in FOSS methodology, open standards and vendor neutrality.

2.1 FOSS lives by contribution!

If you are new to FOSS, please try to understand that this development model is not primarily about “free of cost to the GSM network operator”, but it is about a collaborative, open development model. It is about sharing ideas and code, but also about sharing the effort of software development and maintenance.

If your organization is benefitting from using Osmocom software, please consider ways how you can contribute back to that community. Such contributions can be many-fold, for example

• sharing your experience about using the software on the public mailing lists, helping to establish best practises in using/operating it,
• providing qualified bug reports, work-arounds
• sharing any modifications to the software you may have made, whether bug fixes or new features, even experimental ones
• providing review of patches
• testing new versions of the related software, either in its current “master” branch or even more experimental feature branches
• sharing your part of the maintenance and/or development work, either by donating developer resources or by (partially) funding those people in the community who do.

We’re looking forward to receiving your contributions.

2.2 Osmocom and sysmocom

Some of the founders of the Osmocom project have established sysmocom - systems for mobile communications GmbH as a company to provide products and services related to Osmocom. sysmocom and its staff have contributed by far the largest part of development and maintenance to the Osmocom mobile network infrastructure projects.

As part of this work, sysmocom has also created the manual you are reading. At sysmocom, we draw a clear line between what is the Osmocom FOSS project, and what is sysmocom as a commercial entity. Under no circumstances does participation in the FOSS projects require any commercial relationship with sysmocom as a company.
2.3 Corrections

We have prepared this manual in the hope that it will guide you through the process of installing, configuring and debugging your deployment of cellular network infrastructure elements using Osmocom software. If you do find errors, typos and/or omissions, or have any suggestions on missing topics, please do take the extra time and let us know.

2.4 Legal disclaimers

2.4.1 Spectrum License

As GSM and UMTS operate in licensed spectrum, please always double-check that you have all required licenses and that you do not transmit on any ARFCN or UARFCN that is not explicitly allocated to you by the applicable regulatory authority in your country.

Warning
Depending on your jurisdiction, operating a radio transmitter without a proper license may be considered a felony under criminal law!

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Copyleft licensing is a legal instrument to ensure that this software and any modifications, extensions or derivative versions will always be publicly available to anyone, for any purpose, under the same terms as the original program as developed by Osmocom.

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Every Osmocom software includes a file called COPYING in its source code repository which explains the details of the license. The majority of programs is released under GNU Affero General Public License, Version 3 (AGPLv3).

If you have any questions about licensing, don’t hesitate to contact the Osmocom community. We’re more than happy to clarify if your intended use case is compliant with the software licenses.

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ip.access® and nanoBTS® are registered trademarks of ip.access Ltd.

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2.4.5 Documentation License

Please see Appendix C for further information.

3 Introduction

3.1 Required Skills

Please note that even while the capital expenses of running mobile networks has decreased significantly due to Osmocom software and associated hardware like sysmBTS, GSM networks are still primarily operated by large GSM operators.

Neither the GSM specification nor the GSM equipment was ever designed for networks to be installed and configured by anyone but professional GSM engineers, specialized in their respective area like radio planning, radio access network, back-haul or core network.

If you do not share an existing background in GSM network architecture and GSM protocols, correctly installing, configuring and optimizing your GSM network will be tough, irrespective whether you use products with Osmocom software or those of traditional telecom suppliers.

GSM knowledge has many different fields, from radio planning through site installation to core network configuration/administration.

The detailed skills required will depend on the type of installation and/or deployment that you are planning, as well as its associated network architecture. A small laboratory deployment for research at a university is something else than a rural network for a given village with a handful of cells, which is again entirely different from an urban network in a dense city.

Some of the useful skills we recommend are:

- general understanding about RF propagation and path loss in order to estimate coverage of your cells and do RF network planning.
- general understanding about GSM network architecture, its network elements and key transactions on the Layer 3 protocol
- general understanding about voice telephony, particularly those of ISDN heritage (Q.931 call control)
- understanding of GNU/Linux system administration and working on the shell
- understanding of TCP/IP networks and network administration, including tcpdump, tshark, wireshark protocol analyzers.
- ability to work with text based configuration files and command-line based interfaces such as the VTY of the Osmocom network elements

3.2 Getting assistance

If you do have a support package / contract with sysmocom (or want to get one), please contact support@sysmocom.de with any issues you may have.

If you don’t have a support package / contract, you have the option of using the resources put together by the Osmocom community at http://projects.osmocom.org/, checking out the wiki and the mailing-list for community-based assistance. Please always remember, though: The community has no obligation to help you, and you should address your requests politely to them. The information (and software) provided at osmocom.org is put together by volunteers for free. Treat them like a friend whom you’re asking for help, not like a supplier from whom you have bought a service.

4 Overview

4.1 About this manual

This manual should help you getting started with the OsmoBTS software. It will cover aspects of configuring and running OsmoBTS as well as some introduction about its internal architecture and external interfaces.
4.2 About OsmoBTS

OsmoBTS is an implementation of a GSM BTS (Base Transceiver Station). A BTS serves as the interface between the Um radio interface towards phones and the wired Abis interface towards the BSC (Base Station Controller). It also implements the network side of the Layer 2 of the Um radio interface: The LAPDm protocol.

OsmoBTS is licensed as Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) under GNU AGPLv3 [gnu-agplv3]. It is developed as one GSM network infrastructure component part of the overall Osmocom project.

As perhaps the first implementation of a GSM BTS ever in the industry, OsmoBTS is implemented in a vendor-independent way and supports a large variety of transceiver hardware and physical layer implementations from many vendors.

4.3 Credits

OsmoBTS was originally developed in 2011 by Andreas Eversberg and Harald Welte. It has since been maintained by Harald Welte and Holger Freyther at sysmocom.

4.4 OsmoBTS in the Osmocom GSM network architecture

OsmoBTS can be used in combination with the various other GSM network elements developed under the umbrella of the Osmocom project.

Typical configurations either use OsmoBTS with OsmoBSC, or with OsmoNITB, as can be seen in the following figures.

![Figure 1: Classic GSM architecture using OsmoBTS with OsmoBTS components](image)

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DRAFT 1.2.0-49-g71fd, 2020-Mar-23
If intended by the user, it is of course also possible to implement an OsmoBTS-compatible Abis-over-IP interface in any third party BSC. The Abis/IP interface and its protocol are documented in the *OsmoBTS Abis Protocol Specification* [osmobts-abis-spec]. However, be advised that such a configuration is currently not officially supported by Osmocom.

## 5 Abis/IP Interface

### 5.1 A-bis Operation & Maintenance Link

The GSM Operation & Maintenance Link (OML) is specified in 3GPP TS 12.21 and is used between a GSM Base-Transceiver-Station (BTS) and a GSM Base-Station-Controller (BSC). The default TCP port for OML is 3002. The connection will be opened from the BTS to the BSC.

Abis OML is only specified over E1 interfaces. The Abis/IP implementation of OsmoBTS and OsmoBSC extend and/or deviate from the TS 12.21 specification in several ways. Please see the *OsmoBTS Abis Protocol Specification* [osmobts-abis-spec] for more information.

### 5.2 A-bis Radio Signalling Link

The GSM Radio Signalling Link (RSL) is specified in 3GPP TS 08.58 and is used between a GSM Base-Transceiver-Station and a GSM Base-Station-Controller (BSC). The default TCP port for RSL is 3003. The connection will be opened from the BTS to BSC after it has been instructed by the BSC.

Abis RSL is only specified over E1 interfaces. The Abis/IP implementation of OsmoBTS and OsmoBSC extend and/or deviate from the TS 08.58 specification in several ways. Please see the *OsmoBTS Abis Protocol Specification* [osmobts-abis-spec] for more information.

### 5.3 Locate Abis/IP based BTS

We can use a tool called abisip-find to be able to find BTS which is connected in the network. This tool is located in the OsmoBSC project repository under: `/src/ipaccess`

#### 5.3.1 abisip-find

abisip-find is a small command line tool which is used to search and find BTS devices in your network (e.g. sysmoBTS, nanoBTS).
It uses broadcast packets of the UDP variant of the Abis-IP protocol on port 3006, and thus will find any BTS that can be reached by the all-network broadcast address 255.255.255.255.

When program is started it will print one line for each BTS it can find.

**Example: using abisip-find to find BTS in your network**

```bash
$ ./abisip-find
abisip-find (C) 2009 by Harald Welte
This is FREE SOFTWARE with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY

you might need to specify the outgoing
network interface, e.g. `abisip-find eth0`
Trying to find ip.access BTS by broadcast UDP...

MAC_Address='24:62:78:01:02:03' IP_Address='192.168.0.171' Serial_Number='123'
Unit_ID='sysmoBTS 1002'

MAC_Address='24:62:78:04:05:06' IP_Address='192.168.0.182' Serial_Number='456'
Unit_ID='sysmoBTS 1002'

MAC_Address='00:01:02:03:04:05' IP_Address='192.168.100.123' Serial_Number='00123456'
Unit_ID='0001/0/0'
Location_1='' Location_2='BTS_NBT131G' Equipment_Version='165a029_55'
Software_Version='168a302_v142b13d0' Unit_Name='nbts-00-02-95-00-4E-B3'

^C
```

You may have to start the program as a root:

```bash
$ sudo ./abisip-find eth0
```

### 5.4 Deploying a new nanoBTS

A tool called ipaccess-config can be used to configure a new ip.access nanoBTS.

#### 5.4.1 ipaccess-config

This program is very helpful tool which is used to configure Unit ID and Primary OML IP. You can find this tool in the OsmoBSC repository under: ./src/ipaccess

**Example: using ipaccess-config to configure Unit ID and Primary OML IP of nanoBTS**

```bash
$ ./ipaccess-config -u 1801/0/0 10.9.1.195 -o 10.9.1.154
```

ipaccess-config (C) 2009-2010 by Harald Welte and others
This is FREE SOFTWARE with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY

Trying to connect to ip.access BTS...
abis_nm.c:316 OC=SITE-MANAGER(00) INST=(ff,ff,ff) STATE CHG:
OP_STATE=Disabled AVAIL=Not installed(07)
abis_nm.c:316 OC=BASEBAND-TRANSCEIVER(04) INST=(00,00,ff) STATE CHG:
OP_STATE=Disabled AVAIL=Not installed(07) ADM=Locked
OML link established using TRX 0
setting Unit ID to '1801/0/0'
setting primary OML link IP to '10.9.1.154'
abis_nm.c:316 OC=CHANNEL(03) INST=(00,00,00) STATE CHG:
OP_STATE=Disabled AVAIL=Not installed(07) ADM=Locked
abis_nm.c:2433 OC=BASEBAND-TRANSCEIVER(04) INST=(00,00,ff) IPACCESS(0xf0): SET NVATTR ACK
Set the NV Attributes.

- Unit ID
- IP address of the NITB
- IP address of the nanoBTS

6 OsmoBTS Interfaces

OsmoBTS offers a set of interfaces to interact with external entities:

- A-bis/IP interface to talk to the BSC
- bts_model specific PHY interface
- VTY interface
- Osmocom control interface
- GSMTAP interface
- PCU interface

6.1 OsmoBTS Abis/IP Interface

OsmoBTS implements the GSM A-bis interface as described in the relevant 3GPP specifications:

- A-bis RSL according to 3GPP TS 08.58
- A-bis OML according to 3GPP TS 12.21

As the 3GPP specifies A-bis only over E1 interfaces and not over IP, significant enhancements and modifications to the 3GPP specifications are employed. Nevertheless, the implementation tries to stay as close as possible to the 3GPP specifications. Please see the OsmoBTS Abis Protocol Specification [osmobts-abis-spec] for more information on this subject.

6.2 bts_model specific PHY interface

This interface is specific to the bts_model that OsmoBTS was compiled for. It can take any form as required by the respective hardware. Please see the PHY documentation of your respective BTS hardware for more details.

6.3 OsmoBTS VTY Interface

See Section 12 for further information.

6.4 OsmoBTS Control Interface

The general structure of the Omsocom control interface is described in Section 24. The number of control interface commands/attributes is currently quite limited and largely depends on the bts_model used.
6.4.1 trx.N.thermal-attenuation

The idea of this parameter is to attenuate the system output power as part of thermal management. In some cases the PA might be passing a critical level, so an external control process can use this attribute to reduce the system output power.

Please note that all values in the context of transmit power calculation are integers in milli-dB (1/10000 bel), so the below example is setting the attenuation at 3 dB:

```
bsc_control.py -d localhost -p 4238 -s trx.0.thermal-attenuation 3000
Got message: SET_REPLY 1 trx.0.thermal-attenuation 3000
```

```
bsc_control.py -d localhost -p 4238 -g trx.0.thermal-attenuation
Got message: GET_REPLY 1 trx.0.thermal-attenuation 3000
```

6.5 OsmoBTS GSMTAP Interface

GSMTAP is a standard created by Osmocom to UDP-encapsulate GSM protocol messages normally communicated over non-IP interfaces for the primary purpose of protocol analysis in the wireshark dissector.

The initial purpose was to encapsulate GSM Um frames including some meta-data like ARFCN and GSM frame number into something that can be parsed and dispatched within the wireshark dissector.

This interface has since been extended to many other GSM/GPRS/UMTS interfaces and protocols, and even to TETRA and GMR.

In OsmoBTS, it is possible to export both uplink and downlink Um messages via GSMTAP. There is a set of VTY configuration options to specify for which logical channels of the Um interface GSMTAP messages shall be emitted, and to which destination IP address they shall be sent.

Using GSMTAP it is possible to place a virtual tap at the air interface between BTS and MS, without going through the trouble of setting up an actual radio receiver at the same frequencies. Also, GSMTAP export is performed before the Um air-interface encryption (A5) is performed, so all frames are always in plain text.

Please refer to Section 14.2.2 for more information on how to configure and use this interface.

6.6 OsmoBTS PCU Socket Interface

In order to assist the provisioning of GPRS services over the same radio interface as circuit-switched GSM, OsmoBTS exposes a Unix domain socket based interface towards OsmoPCU.

OsmoPCU is the Osmocom implementation of the GPRS Packet Control Unit (PCU), which is co-located with the BTS in the Osmocom implementation. Contrary to that, many classic E1-based implementations of the GSM RAN co-locate the PCU with the BSC. However, the GSM specifications keep the location up to the implementor.

The GPRS network architecture is shown in Figure 3.

```
Figure 3: GPRS network architecture
```

The PCU socket interface serves the following purposes:
• to pass PCU relevant configuration from BTS to PCU
• to forward paging requests from BTS to PCU
• to forward RACH Requests from BTS to PCU

Depending on your bts_model, the PCU may also be passing actual PH-DATA.request / PH-DATA.indication / PH-RTS.indication primitives for the PDCH. This is considered sub-optimal, and some BTS models offer a direct interface by which the PCU can exchange those primitives directly with the PHY.

The default PCU socket interface name is /tmp/pcu_sock, but this can be overridden by the pcu-socket VTY command in the BTS configuration VTY node.

7 Control interface

The actual protocol is described in Section 24, the variables common to all programs using it are described in Section 24.2. Here we describe variables specific to OsmoBTS. The commands starting with prefix "net.btsN." are specific to a certain BTS so N have to be replaced with BTS number when issuing command. Similarly the TRX-specific commands are additionally prefixed with TRX number e. g. "net.bts1.trx2.thermal-attenuation".

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Trap</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>net.btsN.trxM.thermal-attenuation</td>
<td>RW</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>integer</td>
<td>See Section 7.1 for details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.1 thermal-attenuation

Allowed SET value for thermal attenuation is between 0 to 40 dB. Note: the value is SET in dB units but GET will return value in mdB units used internally.

8 Osmocom Counters

The following gives an overview of all the types of counters available:

8.1 Osmo Counters (deprecated)

Osmo counters are the oldest type of counters added to Osmocom projects. They are not grouped.

• Printed as part of VTY show stats
• Increment, Decrement
• Accessible through the control interface: counter.<counter_name>

8.2 Rate Counters

Rate counters count rates of events.

• Printed as part of VTY show stats
• Intervals: per second, minute, hour, day or absolute value
• Increment only
• Accessible through the control interface
• Rate counters are grouped and different instances per group can exist

The control interface command to get a counter (group) is:
rate_ctr.per_{sec,min,hour,day,abs}.<group_name>.<idx>.[counter_name]
It is possible to get all counters in a group by omitting the counter name

8.3 Stat Item

Stat items are a grouped replacement for osmo counters.

• Printed as part of VTY show stats
• Replacement for osmo counters
• Not yet available through the control interface
• Grouped and indexed like rate counters
• Items have a unit
• Keeps a list of the last values measured, so could return an average, min, max, std. deviation. So far this is not implemented in any of the reporting options.

8.4 Statistic Levels

There are three levels on which a statistic can be aggregated in Osmocom projects: globally, per-peer and per-subscriber.

8.4.1 Global

These are global statistics.

8.4.2 Peer

These statistics relate to a peer the program connects to such as the NSVC in an SGSN.
This level also includes reporting global statistics.

8.4.3 Subscriber

These statistics are related to an individual mobile subscriber. An example would be bytes transferred in an SGSN PDP context.
This level also includes global and peer-based statistics.

8.5 Stats Reporter

The stats reporter periodically collects osmo counter, rate counter and stat item values and sends them to a backend. Currently implemented are outputting to the configured log targets and a statsd connector.
8.5.1 Configuring a stats reporter

Periodically printing the statistics to the log can be done in the following way:

**Example 8.1 Log statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC&gt; enable</td>
<td>The interval determines how often the statistics are reported.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC# configure terminal</td>
<td>Write the statistic information to any configured log target.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC(config)# stats interval 60</td>
<td>Report only global statistics (can be global, peer, or subscriber).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC(config)# stats reporter log</td>
<td>Enable the reporter, disable will disable it again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC(config-stats)# level global</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC(config-stats)# enable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The counter values can also be sent to any aggregation/visualization tool that understands the statsd format, for example a statsd server with graphite or prometheus using the statsd_exporter together with grafana.

The statsd format is specified in [https://github.com/b/statsd_spec](https://github.com/b/statsd_spec)

**Example 8.2 Report statistics to statsd**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC&gt; enable</td>
<td>Configure the statsd reporter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC# configure terminal</td>
<td>Prefix the reported statistics. This is useful to distinguish statistics from multiple instances of the same service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC(config)# stats interval 10</td>
<td>Report only global statistics or include peer or subscriber statistics as well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC(config)# stats reporter statsd</td>
<td>IP address of the statsd server.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC(config-stats)# prefix BSC1</td>
<td>UDP port of the statsd server. Statsd by default listens to port 8125.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC(config-stats)# level subscriber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC(config-stats)# remote-ip 1.2.3.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC(config-stats)# remote-port 8125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OsmoBSC(config-stats)# enable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Setting up a statsd server and configuring the visualization is beyond the scope of this document.

9 Counters

These counters and their description based on OsmoBTS 0.8.1.346-33ed (OsmoBTS).

9.1 Rate Counters
Table 2: e1inp - E1 Input subsystem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hdlc:abort</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>HDLC abort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hdlc:bad_fcs</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>HLDC Bad FCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hdlc:overrun</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>HDLC Overrun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alarm</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Alarm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>removed</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Line removed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: cbch - cell broadcast channel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cbch:rcvd_queued</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Received + queued CBCH messages (Abis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cbch:rcvd_dropped</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Received + dropped CBCH messages (Abis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cbch:sent_single</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Sent single CBCH messages (Um)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cbch:sent_default</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Sent default CBCH messages (Um)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cbch:sent_null</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Sent NULL CBCH messages (Um)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: cbch - cell broadcast channel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cbch:rcvd_queued</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Received + queued CBCH messages (Abis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cbch:rcvd_dropped</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Received + dropped CBCH messages (Abis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cbch:sent_single</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Sent single CBCH messages (Um)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cbch:sent_default</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Sent default CBCH messages (Um)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cbch:sent_null</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Sent NULL CBCH messages (Um)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: bts - base transceiver station

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>paging:rcvd</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Received paging requests (Abis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paging:drop</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Dropped paging requests (Abis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paging:send</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Sent paging requests (Um)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rach:rcvd</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Received RACH requests (Um)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rach:drop</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Dropped RACH requests (Um)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rach:handover</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Received RACH requests (Handover)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rach:cs</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Received RACH requests (CS/Abis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rach:ps</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Received RACH requests (PS/PCU)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agch:rcvd</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Received AGCH requests (Abis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agch:send</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Sent AGCH requests (Abis)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agch:delete</td>
<td>[?]</td>
<td>Sent AGCH DELETE IND (Abis)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10 Osmo Stat Items

11 Osmo Counters

12 The Osmocom VTY Interface

All human interaction with Osmocom software is typically performed via an interactive command-line interface called the VTY.

Note
Integration of your programs and scripts should not be done via the telnet VTY interface, which is intended for human interaction only: the VTY responses may arbitrarily change in ways obvious to humans, while your scripts’ parsing will likely break often. For external software to interact with Osmocom programs (besides using the dedicated protocols), it is strongly recommended to use the Control interface instead of the VTY, and to actively request / implement the Control interface commands as required for your use case.

The interactive telnet VTY is used to

• explore the current status of the system, including its configuration parameters, but also to view run-time state and statistics,
• review the currently active (running) configuration,
• perform interactive changes to the configuration (for those items that do not require a program restart),
• store the current running configuration to the config file,
• enable or disable logging; to the VTY itself or to other targets.

The Virtual Tele Type (VTY) has the concept of nodes and commands. Each command has a name and arguments. The name may contain a space to group several similar commands into a specific group. The arguments can be a single word, a string, numbers, ranges or a list of options. The available commands depend on the current node. there are various keyboard shortcuts to ease finding commands and the possible argument values.

Configuration file parsing during program start is actually performed the VTY’s CONFIG node, which is also available in the telnet VTY. Apart from that, the telnet VTY features various interactive commands to query and instruct a running Osmocom program. A main difference is that during config file parsing, consistent indenting of parent vs. child nodes is required, while the interactive VTY ignores indenting and relies on the exit command to return to a parent node.

Note
In the CONFIG node, it is not well documented which commands take immediate effect without requiring a program restart. To save your current config with changes you may have made, you may use the write file command to overwrite your config file with the current configuration, after which you should be able to restart the program with all changes taking effect.

This chapter explains most of the common nodes and commands. A more detailed list is available in various programs’ VTY reference manuals, e.g. see [vty-ref-osmomsc].

There are common patterns for the parameters, these include IPv4 addresses, number ranges, a word, a line of text and choice. The following will explain the commonly used syntactical patterns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pattern</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.B.C.D</td>
<td>127.0.0.1</td>
<td>An IPv4 address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEXT</td>
<td>example01</td>
<td>A single string without any spaces, tabs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.TEXT</td>
<td>Some information</td>
<td>A line of text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(OptionA</td>
<td>OptionB</td>
<td>OptionC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;0-10&gt;</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>A number from a range</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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12.1 Accessing the telnet VTY

The VTY of a given Osmocom program is implemented as a telnet server, listening to a specific TCP port. Please see Appendix A to check for the default TCP port number of the VTY interface of the specific Osmocom software you would like to connect to.

As telnet is insecure and offers neither strong authentication nor encryption, the VTY by default only binds to localhost (127.0.0.1) and will thus not be reachable by other hosts on the network.

---

Warning
By default, any user with access to the machine running the Osmocom software will be able to connect to the VTY. We assume that such systems are single-user systems, and anyone with local access to the system also is authorized to access the VTY. If you require stronger security, you may consider using the packet filter of your operating system to restrict access to the Osmocom VTY ports further.

---

12.2 VTY Nodes

The VTY by default has the following minimal nodes:

**VIEW**
When connecting to a telnet VTY, you will be on the **VIEW** node. As its name implies, it can only be used to view the system status, but it does not provide commands to alter the system state or configuration. As long as you are in the non-privileged **VIEW** node, your prompt will end in a > character.

**ENABLE**
The **ENABLE** node is entered by the enable command, from the **VIEW** node. Changing into the **ENABLE** node will unlock all kinds of commands that allow you to alter the system state or perform any other change to it. The **ENABLE** node and its children are signified by a # character at the end of your prompt. You can change back from the **ENABLE** node to the **VIEW** node by using the disable command.

**CONFIG**
The **CONFIG** node is entered by the configure terminal command from the **ENABLE** node. The config node is used to change the run-time configuration parameters of the system. The prompt will indicate that you are in the config node by a (config)# prompt suffix. You can always leave the **CONFIG** node or any of its children by using the end command. This node is also automatically entered at the time the configuration file is read. All configuration file lines are processed as if they were entered from the VTY **CONFIG** node at start-up.

**Other**
Depending on the specific Osmocom program you are running, there will be few or more other nodes, typically below the **CONFIG** node. For example, the OsmoBSC has nodes for each BTS, and within the BTS node one for each TRX, and within the TRX node one for each Timeslot.

12.3 Interactive help

The VTY features an interactive help system, designed to help you to efficiently navigate is commands.

---

Note
The VTY is present on most Osmocom GSM/UMTS/GPRS software, thus this chapter is present in all the relevant manuals. The detailed examples below assume you are executing them on the OsmoMSC VTY. They will work in similar fashion on the other VTY interfaces, while the node structure will differ in each program.
12.3.1 The question-mark (?) command

If you type a single ? at the prompt, the VTY will display possible completions at the exact location of your currently entered command.

If you type ? at an otherwise empty command (without having entered even only a partial command), you will get a list of the first word of all possible commands available at this node:

Example: Typing ? at start of OsmoMSC prompt

```
OsmoMSC> show
  show  Show running system information
  list   Print command list
  exit   Exit current mode and down to previous mode
  help   Description of the interactive help system
  enable Turn on privileged mode command
  terminal Set terminal line parameters
  who    Display who is on vty
  logging Configure logging
  no     Negate a command or set its defaults
  sms    SMS related commands
  subscriber Operations on a Subscriber
```

Type ? here at the prompt, the ? itself will not be printed.

If you have already entered a partial command, ? will help you to review possible options of how to continue the command. Let’s say you remember that show is used to investigate the system status, but you don’t remember the exact name of the object. Hitting ? after typing show will help out:

Example: Typing ? after a partial command

```
OsmoMSC> show
  version Displays program version
  online-help Online help
  history Display the session command history
  cs7 ITU-T Signaling System 7
  logging Show current logging configuration
  alarams Show current logging configuration
  talloc-context Show talloc memory hierarchy
  stats Show statistical values
  asciidoc Asciidoc generation
  rate-counters Show all rate counters
  fsm Show information about finite state machines
  fsm-instances Show information about finite state machine instances
  sgs-connections Show SGs interface connections / MMEs
  subscriber Operations on a Subscriber
  bsc BSC
  connection Subscriber Connections
  transaction Transactions
  statistics Display network statistics
  sms-queue Display SMSqueue statistics
  smpp SMPP Interface
```

Type ? after the show command, the ? itself will not be printed.

You may pick the bsc object and type ? again:

Example: Typing ? after show bsc

```
OsmoMSC> show bsc
```

By presenting <cr> as the only option, the VTY tells you that your command is complete without any remaining arguments being available, and that you should hit enter, a.k.a. “carriage return”.

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12.3.2 TAB completion

The VTY supports tab (tabulator) completion. Simply type any partial command and press <tab>, and it will either show you a list of possible expansions, or completes the command if there’s only one choice.

Example: Use of <tab> pressed after typing only s as command

```
OsmoMSC> s
show sms subscriber
```

Type <tab> here.

At this point, you may choose show, and then press <tab> again:

Example: Use of <tab> pressed after typing show command

```
OsmoMSC> show
version online-help history cs7 logging alarms
tALLOC-context stats asciidoc rate-counters fsm fsm-instances
sgs-connections subscriber bsc connection transaction statistics
sms-queue smpp
```

Type <tab> here.

12.3.3 The list command

The list command will give you a full list of all commands and their arguments available at the current node:

Example: Typing list at start of OsmoMSC VIEW node prompt

```
OsmoMSC> list
show version
show online-help
list
exit
help
enable
terminal length <0-512>
terminal no length
who
show history
show cs7 instance <0-15> users
show cs7 (sua|m3ua|ipa) [<0-65534>]
show cs7 instance <0-15> asp
show cs7 instance <0-15> as (active|all|m3ua|sua)
show cs7 instance <0-15> sccp addressbook
show cs7 instance <0-15> sccp users
show cs7 instance <0-15> sccp ssn [<0-65535>]
show cs7 instance <0-15> sccp connections
show cs7 instance <0-15> sccp timers
logging enable
logging disable
logging filter all (0|1)
logging color (0|1)
logging timestamp (0|1)
logging print extended-timestamp (0|1)
logging print category (0|1)
logging print category-hex (0|1)
logging print level (0|1)
logging print file (0|1|basename) [last]
```
logging set-log-mask MASK
logging level {rll|cc|mm|rr|mncc|pag|mcp|ho|db|ref|ctrl|smpp|ranap|vlr|iucs|bssap|←
sqs|lglobal|llapd|lina|lmux|lmib|lmsm|ctlr|lgtp|lstats|lgd|loap|ls7|lsc|lsua←
l3ua|migcp|ljibuf|lspro} (debug|info|notice|error|fatal)
logging level set-all {debug|info|notice|error|fatal}
logging level force-all {debug|info|notice|error|fatal}
nologging level force-all
no show logging vty
show alarms
show globalcontext (application|all) {full|brief|DEPTH}
show globalcontext (application|all) {full|brief|DEPTH} tree ADDRESS
show globalcontext (application|all) {full|brief|DEPTH} filter REGEXP
show stats
show stats level {global|peer|subscriber}
show asidoc counters
show rate-counters
show fsm NAME
show fsm all
show fsm-instances NAME
show fsm-instances all
show sgctx-contexts
show subscriber (msisdn|extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID
show subscriber cache
show bsc
show connection
show transaction
sms send pending
sms delete expired
subscriber create imsi ID
subscriber (msisdn|extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID sms sender (msisdn|extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ←
  SENDER_ID send .LINE
subscriber (msisdn|extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID silent-sms sender (msisdn|extension|imsi|←
  tmsi|id) SENDER_ID send .LINE
subscriber (msisdn|extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID silent-call start (any|tch/f|tch/any|sdch)
subscriber (msisdn|extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID silent-call stop
subscriber (msisdn|extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID ussd-notify {0|1|2} .TEXT
subscriber (msisdn|extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID ms-test close-loop {a|b|c|d|e|f|i}
subscriber (msisdn|extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID ms-test open-loop
subscriber (msisdn|extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID paging
show statistics
show sms-queue
logging filter imsi IMSI
show smpp esme

Tip
Remember, the list of available commands will change significantly depending on the Osmocom program you are accessing, its software version and the current node you're at. Compare the above example of the OsmoMSC VIEW node with the list of the OsmoMSC NETWORK config node:

Example: Typing list at start of OsmoMSC NETWORK config node prompt

OsmoMSC(config-net)# list
  help
  list
  write terminal
  write file
  write memory
  write
  show running-config
exit
end
network country code <1-999>
mobile network code <0-999>
short name NAME
long name NAME
encryption a5 <0-3> [<0-3>] [<0-3>] [<0-3>]
authentication (optional|required)
rrlp mode (none|ms-based|ms-preferred|ass-preferred)
mm info (0|1)
timezone <-19-19> (0|15|30|45)
timezone <-19-19> (0|15|30|45) <0-2>
no timezone
periodic location update <6-1530>
no periodic location update

13 libosmocore Logging System

In any reasonably complex software it is important to understand how to enable and configure logging in order to get a better insight into what is happening, and to be able to follow the course of action. We therefore ask the reader to bear with us while we explain how the logging subsystem works and how it is configured.

Most Osmocom Software (like osmo-bts, osmo-bsc, osmo-nitb, osmo-sgsn and many others) uses the same common logging system.

This chapter describes the architecture and configuration of this common logging system.

The logging system is composed of

- log targets (where to log),
- log categories (who is creating the log line),
- log levels (controlling the verbosity of logging), and
- log filters (filtering or suppressing certain messages).

All logging is done in human-readable ASCII-text. The logging system is configured by means of VTY commands that can either be entered interactively, or read from a configuration file at process start time.

13.1 Log categories

Each sub-system of the program in question typically logs its messages as a different category, allowing fine-grained control over which log messages you will or will not see. For example, in OsmoBSC, there are categories for the protocol layers rsl, rr, mm, cc and many others. To get a list of categories interactively on the vty, type: logging level ?

13.2 Log levels

For each of the log categories (see Section 13.1), you can set an independent log level, controlling the level of verbosity. Log levels include:

- **fatal**
  Fatal messages, causing abort and/or re-start of a process. This shouldn’t happen.

- **error**
  An actual error has occurred, its cause should be further investigated by the administrator.
notice
A noticeable event has occurred, which is not considered to be an error.

info
Some information about normal/regular system activity is provided.

debug
Verbose information about internal processing of the system, used for debugging purpose. This will log the most.

The log levels are inclusive, e.g. if you select info, then this really means that all events with a level of at least info will be logged, i.e. including events of notice, error and fatal.

So for example, in OsmoBSC, to set the log level of the Mobility Management category to info, you can use the following command: log level mm info.

There is also a special command to set all categories as a one-off to a desired log level. For example, to silence all messages but those logged as notice and above issue the command: log level set-all notice

Afterwards you can adjust specific categories as usual.

A similar command is log level force-all <level> which causes all categories to behave as if set to log level <level> until the command is reverted with no log level force-all after which the individually-configured log levels will again take effect. The difference between set-all and force-all is that set-all actually changes the individual category settings while force-all is a (temporary) override of those settings and does not change them.

13.3 Log printing options

The logging system has various options to change the information displayed in the log message.

log color 1
With this option each log message will log with the color of its category. The color is hard-coded and can not be changed. As with other options a 0 disables this functionality.

log timestamp 1
Includes the current time in the log message. When logging to syslog this option should not be needed, but may come in handy when debugging an issue while logging to file.

log print extended-timestamp 1
In order to debug time-critical issues this option will print a timestamp with millisecond granularity.

log print category 1
Prefix each log message with the category name.

log print category-hex 1
Prefix each log message with the category number in hex (<000b>).

log print level 1
Prefix each log message with the name of the log level.

log print file 1
Prefix each log message with the source file and line number. Append the keyword last to append the file information instead of prefixing it.

13.4 Log filters

The default behavior is to filter out everything, i.e. not to log anything. The reason is quite simple: On a busy production setup, logging all events for a given subsystem may very quickly be flooding your console before you have a chance to set a more restrictive filter.

To request no filtering, i.e. see all messages, you may use: log filter all 1
In addition to generic filtering, applications can implement special log filters using the same framework to filter on particular context.

For example in OsmoBSC, to only see messages relating to a particular subscriber identified by his IMSI, you may use: log filter imsi 262020123456789

13.5 Log targets

Each of the log targets represent certain destination for log messages. It can be configured independently by selecting levels (see Section 13.2) for categories (see Section 13.1) as well as filtering (see Section 13.4) and other options like logging timestamp for example.

13.5.1 Logging to the VTY

Logging messages to the interactive command-line interface (VTY) is most useful for occasional investigation by the system administrator.

Logging to the VTY is disabled by default, and needs to be enabled explicitly for each such session. This means that multiple concurrent VTY sessions each have their own logging configuration. Once you close a VTY session, the log target will be destroyed and your log settings be lost. If you re-connect to the VTY, you have to again activate and configure logging, if you wish.

To create a logging target bound to a VTY, you have to use the following command: logging enable This doesn’t really activate the generation of any output messages yet, it merely creates and attaches a log target to the VTY session. The newly-created target still doesn’t have any filter installed, i.e. all log messages will be suppressed by default.

Next, you can configure the log levels for desired categories in your VTY session. See Section 13.1 for more details on categories and Section 13.2 for the log level details.

For example, to set the log level of the Call Control category to debug, you can use: log level cc debug

Finally, after having configured the levels, you still need to set the filter as it’s described in Section 13.4.

Tip

If many messages are being logged to a VTY session, it may be hard to impossible to still use the same session for any commands. We therefore recommend to open a second VTY session in parallel, and use one only for logging, while the other is used for interacting with the system. Another option would be to use different log target.

To review the current vty logging configuration, you can use: show logging vty

13.5.2 Logging to the ring buffer

To avoid having separate VTY session just for logging output while still having immediate access to them, one can use alarms target. It lets you store the log messages inside the ring buffer of a given size which is available with show alarms command.

It’s configured as follows:

```
OsmoBSC> enable
OsmoBSC# configure terminal
OsmoBSC(config)# log alarms 98
OsmoBSC(config-log)#
```

In the example above 98 is the desired size of the ring buffer (number of messages). Once it’s filled, the incoming log messages will push out the oldest messages available in the buffer.
13.5.3 Logging via gsmtap

When debugging complex issues it’s handy to be able to reconstruct exact chain of events. This is enabled by using GSMTAP log output where frames sent/received over the air are interspersed with the log lines. It also simplifies the bug handling as users don’t have to provide separate .pcap and .log files anymore - everything will be inside self-contained packet dump.

It’s configured as follows:

```
OsmoBSC> enable
OsmoBSC# configure terminal
OsmoBSC(config)# log gsmtap 192.168.2.3
OsmoBSC(config-log)#
```

The hostname/ip argument is optional: if omitted the default 127.0.0.1 will be used. The log strings inside GSMTAP are already supported by Wireshark. Capturing for port 4729 on appropriate interface will reveal log messages including source file name and line number as well as application. This makes it easy to consolidate logs from several different network components alongside the air frames. You can also use Wireshark to quickly filter logs for a given subsystem, severity, file name etc.

```
+ Frame 1: 265 bytes on wire (1648 bits), 265 bytes captured (1648 bits) on
+ Linux cooked capture
+ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 127.0.0.1, Dst: 127.0.0.1
+ User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 42895, Dst Port: 4729
+ GSMTAP libosmocore logging OsmoBSC(0): WM/5: /dev/null
  Timestamp: Jan 5, 2018 19:40:56.072447088 UTC
  Application: OsmoBSC
  Process ID: 0
  Log level: NOTICE (5)
Source File Name: /dev/null
Source File Line Number: 2843
String: (bits=6,trx=6) Changing adm. state Unlocked -> Unlocked [vty]
```

```
+ Frame 2: 265 bytes on wire (1648 bits), 265 bytes captured (1648 bits) on
+ Linux cooked capture
+ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 127.0.0.1, Dst: 127.0.0.1
+ User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 42895, Dst Port: 4729
+ GSMTAP libosmocore logging OsmoBSC(0): WM/5: /dev/null
  Timestamp: Jan 5, 2018 19:40:56.072447088 UTC
  Application: OsmoBSC
  Process ID: 0
  Log level: NOTICE (5)
Source File Name: /dev/null
Source File Line Number: 2843
String: (bits=6,trx=6) Changing adm. state Unlocked -> Unlocked [vty]
```

Figure 4: Wireshark with logs delivered over GSMTAP

Note: the logs are also duplicated to stderr when GSMTAP logging is configured because stderr is the default log target which is initialized automatically. To decrease stderr logging to absolute minimum, you can configure it as follows:

```
OsmoBSC> enable
OsmoBSC# configure terminal
OsmoBSC(config)# log stderr
OsmoBSC(config-log)# logging level force-all fatal
```

13.5.4 Logging to a file

As opposed to Logging to the VTY, logging to files is persistent and stored in the configuration file. As such, it is configured in sub-nodes below the configuration node. There can be any number of log files active, each of them having different settings
regarding levels / subsystems.

To configure a new log file, enter the following sequence of commands:

```
OsmoBSC> enable
OsmoBSC# configure terminal
OsmoBSC(config)# log file /path/to/my/file
OsmoBSC(config-log)#
```

This leaves you at the config-log prompt, from where you can set the detailed configuration for this log file. The available commands at this point are identical to configuring logging on the VTY, they include logging filter, logging level as well as logging color and logging timestamp.

Tip
Don't forget to use the `copy running-config startup-config` (or its short-hand `write file`) command to make your logging configuration persistent across application re-start.

Note
libosmocore provides file close-and-reopen support by SIGHUP, as used by popular log file rotating solutions such as https://github.com/logrotate/logrotate found in most GNU/Linux distributions.

### 13.5.5 Logging to syslog

syslog is a standard for computer data logging maintained by the IETF. Unix-like operating systems like GNU/Linux provide several syslog compatible log daemons that receive log messages generated by application programs.

libosmocore based applications can log messages to syslog by using the syslog log target. You can configure syslog logging by issuing the following commands on the VTY:

```
OsmoBSC> enable
OsmoBSC# configure terminal
OsmoBSC(config)# log syslog daemon
OsmoBSC(config-log)#
```

This leaves you at the config-log prompt, from where you can set the detailed configuration for this log file. The available commands at this point are identical to configuring logging on the VTY, they include logging filter, logging level as well as logging color and logging timestamp.

Note
Syslog daemons will normally automatically prefix every message with a time-stamp, so you should disable the libosmocore time-stamping by issuing the `logging timestamp 0` command.

### 13.5.6 Logging to stderr

If you’re not running the respective application as a daemon in the background, you can also use the stderr log target in order to log to the standard error file descriptor of the process.

In order to configure logging to stderr, you can use the following commands:

```
OsmoBSC> enable
OsmoBSC# configure terminal
OsmoBSC(config)# log stderr
OsmoBSC(config-log)#
```
14  BTS Configuration

The role of the BTS is to handle the GSM radio interface. When the BTS application is starting, the A-bis OML connection is established towards the BSC. Almost all BTS configuration (such as ARFCN, channel configuration, transmit power, etc.) will be sent from the BSC to the BTS via OML messages. After OML start-up has completed, the BSC will instruct the BTS to establish the RSL connections.

Given that most configuration is downloaded from the BSC into the BTS at start-up time, only some very basic settings have to be made in the OsmoBTS software.

14.1  Command Line Options

The OsmoBTS executables (osmo-bts-sysmo, osmo-bts-trx, osmo-bts-octphy, osmo-bts-litecell15,...) share the following generic command line options:

14.1.1  SYNOPSIS

```
```

14.1.2  OPTIONS

- **-h, --help**
  Print a short help message about the supported options

- **-V, --version**
  Print the compile-time version number of the OsmoBTS program

- **-d, --debug DBGMASK,DBGLEVELS**
  Set the log subsystems and levels for logging to stderr. This has mostly been superseded by VTY-based logging configuration, see Section 13 for further information.

- **-D, --daemonize**
  Fork the process as a daemon into background.

- **-c, --config-file CONFIGFILE**
  Specify the file and path name of the configuration file to be used. If none is specified, use osmo-bts.cfg in the current working directory.

- **-s, --disable-color**
  Disable colors for logging to stderr. This has mostly been deprecated by VTY based logging configuration, see Section 13 for further information.

- **-T, --timestamp**
  Enable time-stamping of log messages to stderr. This has mostly been deprecated by VTY based logging configuration, see Section 13 for further information.

- **-e, --log-level LOGLEVEL**
  Set the global log level for logging to stderr. This has mostly been deprecated by VTY based logging configuration, see Section 13 for further information.

- **-r, --realtime PRIO**
  Enable use of the Linux kernel realtime priority scheduler with the specified priority. It is recommended you use this option on low-performance embedded systems or systems that encounter high non-GSM/GPRS load.

- **-i, --gsmtap-ip GSMTAP-IP**
  Specify the destination IP address for GSMTAP messages.
-t, --trx-num <1-255>
   Specify the number of TRX supported by this BTS.

There may be additional, hardware specific command line options by the different bts_model implementations.

## 14.2 Configuration using the VTY

Most configuration as well as run-time monitoring and system introspection is implemented using a command-line based interface called **VTY**. A full reference syntax of all existing VTY command is available as a separate document.

See Section 12 for further information on the VTY.

### 14.2.1 Required BTS/TRX configuration

There are some settings that have to be configured locally in the sysmOBTS, as they cannot be set remotely from the BSC. Those settings are stored in the OsmoBTS configuration file, which commonly is stored in `/etc/osmocom/osmo-bts.cfg`.

#### Example Minimal configuration file

```
! OsmoBTS (0.0.1.100-0455) configuration saved from vty
!!
! phy 0
   instance 0
   bts 0
   band DCS1800
   ipa unit-id 1801 0
   oml remote-ip 192.168.100.11
   trx 0
   phy 0 instance 0
```

1. You must configure at least one PHY link by means of the PHY node
2. You must configure at least one PHY instance in the PHY link
3. There is always exactly one BTS (bts 0) configured in OsmoBTS
4. The ipa unit-id is what is used to identify this BTS to the BSC
5. The OML Remote IP is the IP address of the BSC, to which the BTS shall connect to.
6. There must be at least one trx (trx 0) in each BTS
7. Every TRX must be mapped to a specific PHY instance this way

For a full reference of all available VTY configuration parameters, please refer to the OsmoBTS VTY Reference document.

### 14.2.2 Configuring GSMTAP tracing

In addition to being able to obtain pcap protocol traces of the A-bis communication and the text-based logging from the OsmoBTS software, there is also the capability of tracing all communication on the radio interface. To do so, OsmoBTS can encapsulate MAC blocks (23byte messages at the L2-L1 interface) into **GSMTAP** and send them via UDP/IP. At that point, they can be captured with utilities like `tcpdump` or `tshark` for further analysis by the `wireshark` protocol analyzer.

In order to activate this feature, you first need to make sure to start OsmoBTS using the `-i` or `--gsmtap-ip` command line option, specifying the destination IP address for the GSMTAP messages. In most cases, using 127.0.0.1 for passing the messages over the loopback (`lo`) device will be sufficient.
OsmoBTS can selectively trace such messages by their L1 SAPI, for both Rx and Tx. For a complete list of L1 SAPI values, please refer to the OsmoBTS VTY reference manual [vty-ref-osmobts].

For example, to enable GSMTAP tracing for messages on all SDCCH channels, you can use the gsmtap-sapi sdcch command at the CONFIG TRX node of the OsmoBTS VTY.

**Example: Enabling GSMTAP for SDCCH**

```plaintext
OsmoBTS> enable
OsmoBTS# configure terminal
OsmoBTS(config)# bts 0
OsmoBTS(bts)# trx 0
OsmoBTS(trx)# gsmtap-sapi sdcch
OsmoBTS(trx)# write
```

The `write` command will make the configuration persistent in the configuration file. This is not required if you wish to enable GSMTAP only in the current session of OsmoBTS.

De-activation can be performed similarly by using the `no gsmtap-sapi sdcch` command at the `trx` node of the OsmoBTS VTY.

From the moment they are enabled via VTY, GSMTAP messages will be generated and sent in UDP encapsulation to the IANA-registered UDP port for GSMTAP (4729) at the IP address specified in the command line argument.

### 14.2.3 Configuring power ramping

OsmoBTS can ramp up the power of its trx over time. This helps reduce cell congestion in busy environments.

In this example, the trx starts with 5dBm output power which increases by 1dB every two seconds until it reaches nominal power. Power ramping can use the power-ramp commands at the CONFIG TRX node of the OsmoBTS VTY.

**Example: Configure power ramping on trx 0**

```plaintext
OsmoBTS> enable
OsmoBTS# configure terminal
OsmoBTS(config)# bts 0
OsmoBTS(bts)# trx 0
OsmoBTS(trx)# power-ramp max-initial 5 dBm
OsmoBTS(trx)# power-ramp step-size 1 dB
OsmoBTS(trx)# power-ramp step-interval 2
OsmoBTS(trx)# write
```

The `write` command will make the configuration persistent in the configuration file.

De-activating power-ramping can be performed by setting the max-initial value to the nominal power. The default max-initial value is 23 dBm.

### 14.2.4 Running multiple instances

It is possible to run multiple instances of osmo-bts on one and the same machine, if the phy-interface is flexible enough to distinguish between different phy hardware interfaces.

Since usually a BTS instance runs in conjunction with a dedicated PCU instance, the socket path between PCU and BTS has to be distinguished between the running instances. It is possible to change the default socket path via VTY config:

**Example: Personalize PCU socket path**

```plaintext
bts 0
pcu-socket /tmp/pcu_bts_2
```
It is also necessary to separate the VTY and CTRL interfaces of the different instances. The VTY, as well as the CTRL interface can be bound to a free IP address from the loopback range:

**Example: Binding VTY and CTRL interface to a specific IP address**

```plaintext
line vty
  bind 127.0.0.2

ctrl
  bind 127.0.0.2
```

## 15 Support for Dynamic Timeslots (TCH/F, TCH/H, PDCH)

OsmoBTS supports dynamic switchover of timeslots between different physical channel configurations, initiated by the BSC via (non-standard) Abis messages — see the *OsmoBTS Abis Protocol Specification* [osmobts-abis-spec].

The Abis message handling for dynamic timeslots is independent of the BTS model. However, dynamic switchover will only work for BTS models that implement the internal API to reconnect a timeslot *(bts_model_ts_disconnect() and bts_model_ts_connect()*, see also Section 16).

Currently, these OsmoBTS models support dynamic timeslots:

- `osmo-bts-sysmo`
- `osmo-bts-litecell15`
- `osmo-bts-trx`

Dynamic timeslots are driven by the BSC and need to be configured there. When using OsmoBSC or OsmoNITB, see the BTS configuration chapter on dynamic timeslots in [userman-osmobsc] or [userman-osmonitb], respectively.

## 16 OsmoBTS hardware support

OsmoBTS consists of a *common* part that applies to all BTS models as well as *hardware-specific* parts for each BTS model. The hardware specific parts are generally referred to as the *bts_model* code.

The common part includes the core BTS architecture as well as code for implementing the external interfaces such as Abis, control, PCU socket and GSMTAP.

The bts_model parts include support for driving one particular implementation of a GSM physical layer (PHY). Such a physical layer implementation can come in many forms. Sometimes it runs on a general purpose CPU, sometimes on a dedicated ARM core, a dedicated DSP, a combination of DSP and FPGA.

Every PHY implementation offers some kind of primitives by which the PHY can be controlled, and by which the PHY exchanges data with the higher layers of the protocol stack in the OsmoBTS code.

The PHY-specific primitives are encapsulated in the bts_model code, and offered as a PHY-independent L1SAP interface towards the common part of OsmoBTS.

In addition, each bts_model implements a set of functions that the common part calls. Those functions are pre-fixed by `bts_model_`

Each bts_model may offer

- model-specific VTY commands for both configuration and run-time interaction
- model-specific command line arguments
- model-specific control interface commands
17 osmo-bts-sysmo for sysmocom sysmoBTS

The sysmocom sysmocom is a range of GSM BTSs based around an embedded system implementing the PHY in a combination of DSP+FPGA. The PHY is configured by a set of primitives described by header files. Those primitives are exchanged over a set of message queues exposed on the Linux-running ARM core via device nodes in /dev/msgq/. Internally, the message queues map to shared memory between the Linux-running ARM core and the DSP running the PHY implementation.

The OsmoBTS bts_model code for the sysmocom can be found in the src/osmo-bts-sysmo sub-directory of the OsmoBTS code base.

osmo-bts-sysmo has been the primary target platform for OsmoBTS for many years and is thus the most feature-complete and mature platform supported by OsmoBTS at this point.

The sysmocom PHY supports a direct PHY interface to OsmoPCU, reducing the latency and amount of primitives that OsmoBTS would otherwise need to pass through from the PHY message queues to the PCU socket and vice-versa.

17.1 osmo-bts-sysmo specific command line arguments

--dsp-trace DSPMASK
   Set the DSP trace flags (a single hexadecimal 32bit value). This has been deprecated by VTY based commands, see Section 17.2.1.2 for further information.

--pcu-direct
   Indicate that an external PCU (e.g. OsmoPCU) will directly open the DSP message queues to the PHY / PH-SAP, and only MPH primitives are passed via OsmoBTS.

17.2 osmo-bts-sysmo specific VTY commands

For a auto-generated complete syntax reference of the VTY commands, please see the associated OsmoBTS VTY reference manual [vty-ref-osmobts]. The section below only lists the most important commands.

17.2.1 at the SHOW node

17.2.1.1 show trx 0 clock-source
   Display the currently active clock source configuration for the TRX

17.2.1.2 show trx 0 dsp-trace-flags
   Show the currently active DSP trace flags for the TRX

17.2.1.3 trx 0 dsp-trace-flag
   Use this command to enable/disable/configure the DSP tracing flags that define what debug messages will appear on /dev/rtfifo/dsp_trace.

17.2.2 at the ENABLE node

17.2.2.1 trx 0 tx-power <-110-100>
   Change the current TRX transmit power to the given value in dBm.

17.2.2.2 trx 0 rf-clock-info reset
   Part of the clock calibration procedure: Reset the clock correction value.
17.2.2.3 **trx 0 rf-clock-info correct**

Part of the clock calibration procedure: Apply the current measured correction value between the reference clock and the local clock.

17.2.3 **at the PHY instance node**

17.2.4 **clock-calibration eeprom**

Obtain clock calibration value from EEPROM.

17.2.5 **clock-calibration default**

Use hardware default clock calibration value.

17.2.6 **clock-calibration <-4095-4095>**

Use specified clock calibration value (not EEPROM/default).

17.2.7 **clock-source (tcxo|ocxo|ext|gps)**

Specify the clock source for the PHY:

- **tcxo**
  - Use the TCXO. This is the default on sysmoBTS 2050.

- **ocxo**
  - Use the OCXO (only valid on units equipped with OCXO). This is the default on all sysmoBTS 1002/1020/1100 and SOB-BTS.

- **ext**
  - Use the external clock input.

- **gps**
  - Use the clock derived from GPS. You shouldn’t use this clock directly, but rather use the TCXO and regularly re-calibrate against GPS.

17.2.8 **trx-calibration-path PATH**

Use calibration files from the given `PATH`, rather than calibration values from the EEPROM.

17.3 **osmo-bts-sysmo specific control interface commands**

17.3.1 **trx.0.clock-info**

Obtain information on the current clock status:

```
bsc_control.py -d localhost -p 4238 -g trx.0.clock-info
Got message: GET_REPLY 1 trx.0.clock-info -100,ocxo,0,0,gps
```

which is to be interpreted as:

- current clock correction value is -100 ppb
• current clock source is OCXO
• deviation between clock source and calibration source is 0 ppb
• resolution of clock error measurement is 0 ppt (0 means no result yet)
• current calibration source is GPS

When this attribute is set, any value passed on is discarded, but the clock calibration process is re-started.

17.3.2 trx.0.clock-correction

This attribute can get and set the current clock correction value:

```
bsc_control.py -d localhost -p 4238 -g trx.0.clock-correction
Got message: GET_REPLY 1 trx.0.clock-correction -100
```

```
bsc_control.py -d localhost -p 4238 -s trx.0.clock-correction -- -99
Got message: SET_REPLY 1 trx.0.clock-correction success
```

18 osmo-bts-trx for OsmoTRX

OsmoTRX is a C-language implementation of the GSM radio modem, originally developed as the Transceiver part of OpenBTS. This radio modem offers an interface based on top of UDP streams.

The OsmoBTS bts_model code for OsmoTRX is called osmo-bts-trx. It implements the UDP stream interface of OsmoTRX, so both parts can be used together to implement a complete GSM BTS based on general-purpose computing SDR.

As OsmoTRX is general-purpose software running on top of Linux, it is thus not tied to any specific physical hardware. At the time of this writing, OsmoTRX supports a variety of Lime Microsystems and Ettus USRP SDRs via the UHD driver, as well as the Fairwaves UmTRX and derived products.

OsmoTRX is not a complete GSM PHY but just the radio modem. This means that all of the Layer 1 functionality such as scheduling, convolutional coding, etc. is actually also implemented inside OsmoBTS.

As such, the boundary between OsmoTRX and osmo-bts-trx is at a much lower interface, which is an internal interface of other more traditional GSM PHY implementations.

Besides OsmoTRX, there are also other implementations (both Free Software and proprietary) that implement the same UDP stream based radio modem interface.

18.1 osmo-bts-trx specific VTY commands

For a auto-generated complete syntax reference of the VTY commands, pleas see the associated OsmoBTS VTY reference manual [vty-ref-osmobts]. The section below only lists the most important commands.

18.1.1 at the SHOW node

18.1.1.1 show transceivers

Display information about configured/connected OsmoTRX transceivers in human-readable format to current VTY session.

18.1.2 at the PHY configuration node

18.1.2.1 osmotrx ip HOST

Set the IP address for the OsmoTRX interface for both the local (OsmoBTS) and remote (OsmoTRX) side of the UDP flows. This option has been deprecated by the more detailed option osmotrx ip (local|remote) A.B.C.D.
18.1.2.2 osmotrx ip (local|remote) A.B.C.D

Set the IP address for the OsmoTRX interface for either the local (OsmoBTS) or remote (OsmoTRX) side of the UDP flows.

18.1.2.3 osmotrx base-port (local|remote) <0-65535>

Configure the base UDP port for the OsmoTRX interface for either the local (OsmoBTS) or remote (OsmoTRX) side of the UDP flows.

18.1.2.4 osmotrx fn-advance <0-30>

Set the number of frames to be transmitted to transceiver in advance of current GSM frame number.

GSM is a TDMA (time division multiple access) system on the radio interface. OsmoTRX is the "clock master" of that in the Osmocom implementation. It informs OsmoBTS of the current GSM frame number. However, as there is non-zero delays (UDP packet transmission delay, operating system scheduler delay on both OsmoTRX and OsmoBTS side, ...), OsmoBTS must compensate for that delay by "advancing" the clock a certain amount of time.

In other words, if OsmoTRX informs us that the current frame number is N, we advance it by fn-advance and transmit burst data for N + fn-advance towards OsmoTRX.

The fn-advance should be kept as low as possible to avoid additional delays to the user voice plane as well as to improve the performance of the control plane (LAPDm) as well as GPRS.

However, fn-advance must be kept sufficiently high to ensure no underruns on the OsmoTRX side.

The detailed value will depend on your underlying computer systems, operating system and related tuning parameters. Running OsmoTRX on a remote host will inevitably require a higher fn-advance then running it on the same machine, where the UDP packets are just passed over the loopback device.

The default value for fn-advance is 20 (corresponding to 92 milliseconds).

18.1.2.5 osmotrx rts-advance <0-30>

Set the number of frames to be requested from L1SAP in advance of current frame number and fn-advance.

The value specified as rts-advance is added to the current GSM frame number as reported by OsmoTRX and the osmotrx fn-advance in order to generate the PH-RTS.ind (ready to send indications) across the L1SAP interface inside osmo-bts. This will trigger the Layer 2 (LAPDm for the control plane, RTP for the voice plane, and OsmoPCU for GPRS) to generate a MAC block and input it into the osmo-bts-trx TDMA scheduler.

If OsmoTRX reported N as the current frame number, the actual frame number reported on L1SAP to higher layers will be computed as follows:

N + fn-advance + rts-advance

The default value of rts-advance is 5 (corresponding to 23 milliseconds). Do not change this unless you have a good reason!

18.1.2.6 osmotrx rx-gain <0-50>

Set the receiver gain (configured in the hardware) in dB.

18.1.2.7 osmotrx tx-attenuation <0-50>

Set the transmitter attenuation (configured in the hardware) in dB.

18.1.2.8 osmotrx tx-attenuation oml

Use the Value in the A-bis OML Attribute MAX_POWER_REDUCTION as transmitter attenuation.
18.1.3 at the PHY Instance configuration node

18.1.3.1 slotmask (1|0) (1|0) (1|0) (1|0) (1|0) (1|0) (1|0) (1|0)
Configure which timeslots should be active on this TRX. Normally all timeslots are enabled, unless you are running on a cpu-constrained deeply embedded system.

18.1.3.2 osmotrx maxdly <0-31>
Set the maximum delay for received symbols (in number of GSM symbols).

19 osmo-bts-octphy for Octasic OCTPHY-2G

The Octasic OCTPHY-2G is a GSM PHY implementation inside an Octasic proprietary 24-core DSP called OCTDSP.
This DSP has a built-in Gigabit Ethernet interface, over which it exchanges PHY-layer primitives in raw Ethernet frames with the upper layers running on another CPU attached to the same Ethernet. Those primitives are described in a set of C-language header files.
OsmoBTS implements the raw Ethernet frame based primitives as well as the associated transport protocol (OKTPKT/OCTVC1) in the osmo-bts-octphy bts_model code.
You can run the osmo-bts-octphy on any system connected to the same Ethernet as the OCTDSP running the OCTPHY. This can be either an embedded ARM or x86 SoM part of the OCTBTS hardware, or it can be any other Linux system attached via an Ethernet switch.
Each OCTDSP running OCTSDR-2G offers a set of primitives part of a OCTPKT session, which is mapped to an OsmoBTS PHY link. Depending on the OCTSDR-2G software version, you may create multiple software TRX by creating multiple OsmoBTS PHY instances inside that PHY link.
Multiple DSPs may exist in one circuit board, then each of the DSPs is interfaced by one OsmoBTS PHY link, and each of them may have one or more OsmoBTS PHY instances creating a Multi-TRX configuration.

20 osmo-bts-litecell15 for Nutaq/Nuran LiteCell 1.5

The Nutaq/Nuran LiteCell 1.5 implements a dual-transceiver GSM BTS based on a mixed ARM/DSP/FPGA architecture. The PHY layer is implemented on DSP/FPGA and similar to that of the sysmobTS: It exchanges primitives described in a set of C-language header files over message queues between the ARM and the DSP.
This interface is implemented in the osmo-bts-litecell15 bts_model of OsmoBTS. You would run osmo-bts-litecell15 on the ARM/Linux processor of the Litecell 1.5.
The two transceivers of the Litecell 1.5 each have their own set of DSP message queues. Each set of message queues is wrapped into one OsmoBTS PHY link, offering one OsmoBTS PHY instance.
The Litecell 1.5 PHY supports a direct PHY interface to OsmoPCU, reducing the latency and amount of primitives that OsmoBTS would otherwise need to pass through from the PHY message queues to the PCU socket and vice-versa.

20.1 osmo-bts-trx specific VTY commands
For a auto-generated complete syntax reference of the VTY commands, please see the associated OsmoBTS VTY reference manual [vty-ref-osmobts]. The section below only lists the most important commands.

20.1.1 at the SHOW node

20.1.1.1 show phy <0-255> system-information
Show information about the hardware platform, DSP and OCTPHY-2G software version.
20.1.2 show phy <0-255> rf-port-stats <0-1>
Show information about the RF port interfaces.

20.1.3 show phy <0-255> clk-sync-stats
Show information about the clock synchronization manager.

20.1.2 at the **PHY** configuration node

20.1.2.1 octphy hw-addr HWADDR
Specify the Ethernet hardware address (mac address) of the DSP running the OCTPHY-2G software for this PHY link.

20.1.2.2 octphy net-device NAME
Specify the Ethernet network device (like *eth0*) through which the DSP can be reached from OsmoBTS.

20.1.2.3 octphy rf-port-index <0-255>
Specify which RF port should be used for this PHY link.

20.1.2.4 octphy rx-gain <0-73>
Configure the receiver gain in dB.

20.1.2.5 octphy tx-attenuation <0-359>
Configure the transmitter attenuation in quarter-dB

21 **osmo-bts-virtual** for Virtual Um Interface

This is a special BTS model used for research, simulation and testing. Rather than communicating over a wireless RF interface, the GSM Um messages are encapsulated over GSMTAP/UDP/IP.

The Virtual Um interface (i.e. virtual radio layer) between OsmoBTS and OsmocomBB allows us to run a complete GSM network with 1-N BTSs and 1-M MSs without any actual radio hardware, which is of course excellent for all kinds of testing scenarios.

The Virtual Um layer is based on sending L2 frames (blocks) encapsulated via GSMTAP UDP multicast packets. There are two separate multicast groups, one for uplink and one for downlink. The multicast nature simulates the shared medium and enables any simulated phone to receive the signal from multiple BTSs via the downlink multicast group.

In OsmoBTS, this is implemented via the `osmo-bts-virtual` BTS model.

Setting up OsmoBTS in its `osmo-bts-virtual` flavor isn’t really much different from setting it up with real hardware. The amount of required configuration at the BTS configuration file is (as always) very minimal, as in the GSM network architecture provides almost all relevant configuration to the BTS from the BSC.

An example configuration file is provided as part of the *osmo-bts* source code: `doc/examples/virtual/osmobts-virtual.cfg`

For more information see [http://osmocom.org/projects/cellular-infrastructure/wiki/Virtual_Um](http://osmocom.org/projects/cellular-infrastructure/wiki/Virtual_Um)
21.1 osmo-bts-virtual specific VTY commands

For a auto-generated complete syntax reference of the VTY commands, please see the associated *OsmoBTS VTY reference manual* [vty-ref-osmobts]. The section below only lists the most important commands.

21.1.1 at the PHY config node

21.1.1.1 virtual-um net-device NETDEV

Configure the network device used for sending/receiving the virtual Um interface messages (e.g. eth0).

21.1.1.2 virtual-um ms-udp-port <0-65535>

Configure the UDP port used for sending virtual Um downlink messages towards the MS (default: GSMTAP 4729).

21.1.1.3 virtual-um ms-multicast-group GROUP

Configure the IP multicast group used for sending virtual Um downlink messages towards the MS (default: 239.193.23.1)

21.1.1.4 virtual-um bts-udp-port <0-65535>

Configure the UDP port used for receiving virtual Um uplink messages from the MS (default: GSMTAP 4729).

21.1.1.5 virtual-um bts-multicast-group GROUP

Configure the IP multicast group used for receiving virtual Um uplink messages from the MS (default: 239.193.23.2)

22 OsmoBTS software architecture

22.1 OsmoBTS PHY interface abstraction

The OsmoBTS PHY interface serves as an internal abstraction layer between given PHY hardware (as provided by the bts_model) and the actual logical transceivers (TRXs) of a BTS inside the OsmoBTS code base.

22.1.1 PHY link

A PHY link is a physical connection / link towards a given PHY. This might be, for example,

- a set of file descriptors to device nodes in the /dev/ directory (sysmobts, litecell15)
- a packet socket for sending raw Ethernet frames to an OCTPHY
- a set of UDP sockets for interacting with OsmoTRX

Each PHY interface has a set of attribute/parameters and a list of 1 to n PHY instances.

PHY links are numbered 0..n globally inside OsmoBTS.

Each PHY link is configured via the VTY using its individual top-level vty node. Given the different bts-model / phy specific properties, the VTY configuration options (if any) of the PHY instance differ between BTS models.

The PHY links and instances must be configured above the BTS/TRX nodes in the configuration file. If the file is saved via the VTY, the code automatically ensures this.
22.1.2 PHY instance

A PHY instance is an instance of a PHY, accessed via a PHY link.

In the case of osmo-bts-sysmo and osmo-bts-trx, there is only one instance in every PHY link. This is due to the fact that the API inside that PHY link does not permit for distinguishing multiple different logical TRXs.

Other PHY implementations like the OCTPHY however do support addressing multiple PHY instances via a single PHY link. PHY instances are numbered 0..n inside each PHY link.

Each PHY instance is configured via the VTY as a separate node beneath each PHY link. Given the different bts-model / phy specific properties, the VTY configuration options (if any) of the PHY instance differ between BTS models.

22.1.3 Mapping PHY instances to TRXs

Each TRX node in the VTY must use the phy N instance M command in order to specify which PHY instance is allocated to this specific TRX.

22.2 Internal control flow

22.2.1 start-up / sequencing during OsmoBTS start

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>function</th>
<th>description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>main()</td>
<td>Entering main() from glibc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts_main()</td>
<td>initialization of talloc contexts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts_log_init()</td>
<td>initialization of logging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>handle_options()</td>
<td>common option parsing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts_model_handle_options()</td>
<td>model-specific option parsing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gsm_bts_alloc()</td>
<td>allocation of BTS/TRX/TS data structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vty_init()</td>
<td>Initialization of VTY core, libosmo-abis and osmo-bts VTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>main()</td>
<td>Setting of scheduler RR priority (if configured)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>main()</td>
<td>Initialization of GSMTAP (if configured)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts_init()</td>
<td>configuration of defaults in bts/trx/s object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts_model_init()</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abis_init()</td>
<td>Initialization of libosmo-abis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vty_read_config_file()</td>
<td>Reading of configuration file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts_model_phy_link_set_defaults()</td>
<td>Called for every PHY link created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts_model_phy_instance_set_defaults()</td>
<td>Called for every PHY Instance created</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts_ctrlif_setup()</td>
<td>Initialization of Control Interface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts_model_ctrl_cmds_install()</td>
<td>Install model-specific control interface commands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telnet_init()</td>
<td>Initialization of telnet interface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pcu_sock_init()</td>
<td>Initialization of PCU socket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>main()</td>
<td>Installation of signal handlers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abis_open()</td>
<td>Start of the A-bis connection to BSC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phy_links_open()</td>
<td>Iterate over list of configured PHY links</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts_model_phy_link_open()</td>
<td>Open each of the configured PHY links</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>write_pid_file()</td>
<td>Generate the pid file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>osmo_daemonize()</td>
<td>Fork as daemon in background (if configured)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts_main()</td>
<td>Run main loop until global variable quit &gt;&gt;= 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 7: Control flow at OsmoBTS start-up procedure
22.2.2 At time of OML establishment

Table 8: Control flow at time of OML establishment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>section</th>
<th>function</th>
<th>description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bts-specific</td>
<td>bts_model_oml_estab()</td>
<td>Called by core once OML link is established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts-specific</td>
<td>bts_model_check_oml()</td>
<td>called each time OML sets some attributes on a MO, checks if attributes are valid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts-specific</td>
<td>bts_model_apply_oml()</td>
<td>called each time OML sets some attributes on a MO, stores attribute contents in data structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts-specific</td>
<td>bts_model_opstart()</td>
<td>for NM_OC_BTS, NM_OC_SITE_MANAGER, NM_OC_GPRS_NSE, NM_OC_GPRS_CELL, NMO_OC_GPRS_NSVC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts-specific</td>
<td>bts_model_opstart()</td>
<td>for NM_OC_RADIO_CARRIER for each trx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts-specific</td>
<td>bts_model_opstart()</td>
<td>for NM_OC_BASEB_TRANSC for each trx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts-specific</td>
<td>bts_model_opstart()</td>
<td>for NM_OC_CHANNEL for each timeslot on each trx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bts-specific</td>
<td>bts_model_change_power()</td>
<td>change transmit power for each trx (power ramp-up/ramp-down)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22.2.3 At time of RSL connection loss

Table 9: Control flow at time of RSL connection loss

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>section</th>
<th>function</th>
<th>description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bts-specific</td>
<td>bts_model_abis_close()</td>
<td>called when either one of the RSL links or the OML link are down</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23 TRX Manager UDP socket interface

This is the protocol used between osmo-trx (the transceiver) and osmo-bts-trx (the BTS or core).

Each TRX Manager UDP socket interface represents a single transceiver (ARFCN). Each of these channels is a pair of UDP sockets, one for control (TRXC) and one for data (TRXD). Additionally, there’s a separate global socket managing the Master Clock Interface, shared among all channels.

Given a base port \( B \) (5700), and a set of channels \( 0 \ldots N \), the ports related to a channel \( 0 \leq X \leq N \) are:

- The Master clock interface is located on port \( P=B \).
- The TRXC interface for channel \( X \) is located on port \( P=B+2X+1 \).
- The TRXD interface for channel \( X \) is located on port \( P=B+2X+2 \).

The corresponding interface for every socket is at \( P+100 \) on the BTS side.

23.1 Indications on the Master Clock Interface

The master clock interface is output only (uplink, from the radio to the BTS). Messages are “indications”.

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CLOCK gives the current value of the transceiver clock to be used by the BTS. This message is usually sent around once per second (217 GSM frames), but can be sent at any time. The clock value is NOT the current transceiver time. It is a time setting that the BTS should use to give better packet arrival times. The initial clock value is taken randomly, and then increased over time as the transceiver submits downlink packets to the radio.

IND CLOCK <totalFrames>

23.2 TRXC protocol

The per-ARFCN control interface uses a command-response protocol. Each command has a corresponding response. Commands are sent in downlink direction (BTS → TRX), and responses are sent in uplink direction (TRX → BTS). Commands and responses are NULL-terminated ASCII strings.

Every command is structured this way:

CMD <cmdtype> [params]

The <cmdtype> is the actual command. Parameters are optional depending on the commands type.

Every response is of the form:

RSP <cmdtype> <status> [result]

The <status> is 0 for success and a non-zero error code for failure. Successful responses may include results, depending on the command type.

23.2.1 Power Control

POWEROFF shuts off transmitter power and stops the demodulator.

CMD POWEROFF
RSP POWEROFF <status>

POWERON starts the transmitter and starts the demodulator. Initial power level is very low. This command fails if the transmitter and receiver are not yet tuned. This command fails if the transmit or receive frequency creates a conflict with another ARFCN that is already running. If the transceiver is already on, it answers successfully to this command.

CMD POWERON
RSP POWERON <status>

SETPOWER sets output power in dB wrt full scale. This command fails if the transmitter and receiver are not running.

CMD SETPOWER <dB>
RSP SETPOWER <status> <dB>

ADJPOWER adjusts power by the given dB step. Response returns resulting power level wrt full scale. This command fails if the transmitter and receiver are not running.

CMD ADJPOWER <dBStep>
RSP ADJPOWER <status> <dBLevel>

23.2.2 Tuning Control

RXTUNE tunes the receiver to a given frequency in kHz. This command fails if the receiver is already running. (To re-tune you stop the radio, re-tune, and restart.) This command fails if the transmit or receive frequency creates a conflict with another ARFCN that is already running.
CMD RXTUNE <kHz>
RSP RXTUNE <status> <kHz>

TXTUNE tunes the transmitter to a given frequency in kHz. This command fails if the transmitter is already running. (To re-tune you stop the radio, re-tune, and restart.) This command fails if the transmit or receive frequency creates a conflict with another ARFCN that is already running.

CMD TXTUNE <kHz>
RSP TXTUNE <status> <kHz>

23.2.3 Timeslot Control

SET SLOT sets the format of a given uplink timeslot in the ARFCN. The <timeslot> indicates the timeslot of interest. The <chantype> indicates the type of channel that occupies the timeslot. A chantype of zero indicates the timeslot is off.

CMD SET SLOT <timeslot> <chantype>
RSP SET SLOT <status> <timeslot> <chantype>

Here’s the list of channel combinations and related values (<chantype>):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>value</th>
<th>Channel Combination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Channel is transmitted, but unused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TCH/FS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>TCH/HS, idle every other slot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>TCH/HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Downlink: FCCH + SCH + CCCH + BCCH, Uplink: RACH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Downlink: FCCH + SCH + CCCH + BCCH + SDCCH/4 + SACCH/4, Uplink: RACH+SDCCCH4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Downlink: CCCH+BCCH, Uplink: RACH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SDCCH/8 + SACCH/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>TCH/F + FACCH/F + SACCH/M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>TCH/F + SACCH/M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>TCH/FD + SACCH/MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>PBCCCH+PCCCH+PDTCCH+PACCH+PTCCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>PCCCH+PDTCCH+PACCH+PTCCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>PDTCCH+PACCH+PTCCH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23.2.4 TRXD header version negotiation

Messages on DATA interface may have different header formats, defined by a version number, which can be negotiated on the control interface. By default, the Transceiver will use the legacy header version (0).

The header format negotiation can be initiated by the BTS using SETFORMAT command. If the requested version is not supported by the transceiver, status code of the response message should indicate a preferred (basically, the latest) version. The format of this message is the following:

CMD SETFORMAT <ver_req>
RSP SETFORMAT <ver_resp> <ver_req>
where:

- `<ver_req>` is the requested version (suggested by the BTS),
- `<ver_rsp>` is either the applied version if matches `<ver_req>`, or a preferred version if `<ver_req>` is not supported.

If the transceiver indicates `<ver_rsp>` different than `<ver_req>`, the BTS is supposed to re-initiate the version negotiation using the suggested `<ver_rsp>`. For example:

```
BTS -> TRX: CMD SETFORMAT 2
BTS <- TRX: RSP SETFORMAT 1 2
BTS -> TRX: CMD SETFORMAT 1
BTS <- TRX: RSP SETFORMAT 1 1
```

If no suitable `<ver_rsp>` is found, or the `<ver_req>` is incorrect, the status code in the response shall be -1.

As soon as `<ver_rsp>` matches `<ver_req>` in the response, the process of negotiation is complete. Changing the header version is supposed to be done before POWERON, but can be also done afterwards.

### 23.3 TRXD protocol

Messages on the data interface carry one radio burst per UDP message.

#### 23.3.1 Uplink Data Burst

Uplink data burst message structure differs from version 0 to 1. Basically, version 1 contains an extended header with regards to version 0, and the final padding existence is completely dropped.

![Uplink data burst message structure](image)

Figure 5: TRXDv0 Uplink data burst message structure
Figure 6: TRXDv1 Uplink data burst message structure

**VER:** 4 bits  
TRXD header version, v0 and v1 are specified so far.

**TN:** 3 bits  
Timeslot number.

**RES:** 1 bit  
Reserved, shall be 0. It can be used in the future to extend the TDMA TN range to (0..15), in case anybody would need to transfer UMTS bursts.

**FN:** 32 bits (4 bytes)  
GSM frame number, big endian.

**RSSI:** 8 bits (1 byte)  
Received Signal Strength Indication in -dBm, encoded without the negative sign.

**TOA256:** 16 bits (2 bytes)  
Timing of Arrival in units of 1/256 of symbol, big endian.

**MTS:** 8 bits (1 byte)  
Contains the Modulation and Training Sequence information. See Section 23.3.1.1 for more information on the encoding.

**C/I:** 16 bits (2 bytes)  
Contains the Carrier-to-Interference ratio in centiBels, big endian. The C/I value is computed from the training sequence of each burst, where the "ideal" training sequence is compared to the actual training sequence and the result expressed in centiBels.

**Payload:** 148 bytes for GSM, 444 bytes for EDGE  
Contains the uplink burst. Unlike the downlink bursts, the uplink bursts are designated using the soft-bits notation, so the receiver can indicate its assurance from 0 to -127 that a given bit is 1, and from 0 to +127 that a given bit is 0. The Viterbi algorithm allows to approximate the original sequence of hard-bits (1 or 0) using these values. Each soft-bit (-127..127) of the burst is encoded as an unsigned value in range (0..255) respectively using the constant shift. This way:

- 0 → definite "0"
- 255 → definite "1".

**PAD:** 2 bits (optional)  
Padding at the end, historical reasons (OpenBTS inheritance). Bits can take any value, but 0 is preferred. Only expected on TRXDv0 headers.
23.3.1.1 Coding of MTS: Modulation and Training Sequence info

3GPP TS 45.002 version 15.1.0 defines several modulation types, and a few sets of training sequences for each type. The most common are GMSK and 8-PSK (which is used in EDGE).

MTS field structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</th>
<th>bit numbers (value range)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X . . . . . . .</td>
<td>IDLE / nope frame indication (0 or 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. X X X X . . .</td>
<td>Modulation, TS set number (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. . . . . X X X</td>
<td>Training Sequence Code (0..7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IDLE / nope frame indication

The bit number 7 (MSB) is set to high when either nothing has been detected, or during IDLE frames, so noise levels can be delivered, and avoid clock gaps on the BTS side. Other bits are ignored, and should be set to low (0) in this case.

Modulation and TS set number

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0</th>
<th>bit numbers (value range)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>. 0 0 X X . . .</td>
<td>GMSK, 4 TS sets (0..3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. 0 1 0 X . . .</td>
<td>8-PSK, 2 TS sets (0..1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. 0 1 1 X . . .</td>
<td>AQPSK, 2 TS sets (0..1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. 1 0 0 X . . .</td>
<td>16QAM, 2 TS sets (0..1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. 1 0 1 X . . .</td>
<td>32QAM, 2 TS sets (0..1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. 1 1 X X . . .</td>
<td>RESERVED (0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training Sequence Code

The Training Sequence Code used to decode an Access or a Synchronization burst. This field hence doesn’t apply for Normal bursts.
23.3.2 Downlink Data Burst

Figure 7: TRXD Downlink data burst message structure

VER: 4 bits
TRXD header version, v0 and v1 are specified so far.

TN: 3 bits
Timeslot number.

RES: 1 bit
Reserved, shall be 0. It can be used in the future to extend the TDMA TN range to (0..15), in case anybody would need to transfer UMTS bursts.

FN: 32 bits (4 bytes)
GSM frame number, big endian.

PWR: 8 bits (1 byte)
Contains the relative (to the full-scale amplitude) transmit power level in dB. The absolute value is set on the control interface.

Payload: 148 bytes for GSM, 444 bytes for EDGE
Contains the downlink burst. Each hard-bit (1 or 0) of the burst is represented using one byte (0x01 or 0x00 respectively).

24 Osmocom Control Interface

The VTY interface as described in Section 12 is aimed at human interaction with the respective Osmocom program.
Other programs should not use the VTY interface to interact with the Osmocom software, as parsing the textual representation is cumbersome, inefficient, and will break every time the formatting is changed by the Osmocom developers.
Instead, the Control Interface was introduced as a programmatic interface that can be used to interact with the respective program.

24.1 Control Interface Protocol

The control interface protocol is a mixture of binary framing with text based payload.
The protocol for the control interface is wrapped inside the IPA multiplex header with the stream identifier set to IPAC_PROTO_OSMO (0xEE).
Inside the IPA header is a single byte of extension header with protocol ID 0x00 which indicates the control interface.

After the concatenation of the two above headers, the plain-text payload message starts. The format of that plain text is illustrated for each operation in the respective message sequence chart in the chapters below.

The fields specified below follow the following meaning:

- `<id>`
  A numeric identifier, uniquely identifying this particular operation. Value 0 is not allowed unless it’s a TRAP message. It will be echoed back in any response to a particular request.

- `<var>`
  The name of the variable / field affected by the GET / SET / TRAP operation. Which variables/fields are available is dependent on the specific application under control.

- `<val>`
  The value of the variable / field

- `<reason>`
  A text formatted, human-readable reason why the operation resulted in an error.

### 24.1.1 GET operation

The GET operation is performed by an external application to get a certain value from inside the Osmocom application.
24.1.2 SET operation

The SET operation is performed by an external application to set a value inside the Osmocom application.

24.1.3 TRAP operation

The program can at any time issue a trap. The term is used in the spirit of SNMP.
24.2 Common variables

There are several variables which are common to all the programs using control interface. They are described in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Access</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>counter.*</td>
<td>RO</td>
<td>Get counter value.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rate_ctr.*</td>
<td>RO</td>
<td>Get list of rate counter groups.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rate_ctr.IN.GN.GI.name</td>
<td>RO</td>
<td>Get value for interval IN of rate counter name which belong to group named GN with index GI.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Those read-only variables allow to get value of arbitrary counter using its name.

For example "rate_ctr.per_hour.bsc.0.handover:timeout" is the number of handover timeouts per hour.

Of course for that to work the program in question have to register corresponding counter names and groups using libosmocore functions.

In the example above, "bsc" is the rate counter group name and "0" is its index. It is possible to obtain all the rate counters in a given group by requesting "rate_ctr.per_sec.bsc.*" variable.

The list of available groups can be obtained by requesting "rate_ctr.*" variable.

The rate counter group name have to be prefixed with interval specification which can be any of "per_sec", "per_min", "per_hour", "per_day" or "abs" for absolute value.

The old-style counters available via "counter.*" variables are superseded by "rate_ctr.abs" so its use is discouraged. There might still be some applications not yet converted to rate_ctr.

24.3 Control Interface python examples

In the osmo-python-tests repository, there is an example python script called scripts/osmo_ctrl.py which implements the Osmocom control interface protocol.

You can use this tool either stand-alone to perform control interface operations against an Osmocom program, or you can use it as a reference for developing your own python software talking to the control interface.

Another implementation is in scripts/osmo_rate_ctr2csv.py which will retrieve performance counters for a given Osmocom program and output it in csv format. This can be used to periodically (using systemd timer for example) retrieve data to build KPI and evaluate how it changes over time.

Internally it uses "rate_ctr.*" variable described in [?] to get the list of counter groups and than request all the counters in each group. Applications interested in individual metrics can request it directly using rate_ctr2csv.py as an example.

24.3.1 Getting rate counters

Example: Use rate_ctr2csv.py to get rate counters from OsmoBSC

```
$ ./scripts/osmo_rate_ctr2csv.py --header
Connecting to localhost:4249...
Getting rate counter groups info...
"group","counter","absolute","second","minute","hour","day"
```
24.3.2 Setting a value

Example: Use osmo_ctrl.py to set the short network name of OsmoBSC

```
$ ./osmo_ctrl.py -d localhost -s short-name 32C3
Got message: SET_REPLY 1 short-name 32C3
```

24.3.3 Getting a value

Example: Use osmo_ctrl.py to get the mnc of OsmoBSC

```
$ ./osmo_ctrl.py -d localhost -g mnc
Got message: GET_REPLY 1 mnc 262
```

24.3.4 Listening for traps

You can use osmo_ctrl.py to listen for traps the following way:

Example: Using osmo_ctrl.py to listen for traps:

```
$ ./osmo_ctrl.py -d localhost -m
```

the command will not return and wait for any TRAP messages to arrive

25 Glossary

2FF
2nd Generation Form Factor; the so-called plug-in SIM form factor

3FF
3rd Generation Form Factor; the so-called microSIM form factor

3GPP
3rd Generation Partnership Project

4FF
4th Generation Form Factor; the so-called nanoSIM form factor

A Interface
Interface between BTS and BSC, traditionally over E1 (3GPP TS 48.008 [3gpp-ts-48-008])
A3/A8
Algorithm 3 and 8; Authentication and key generation algorithm in GSM and GPRS, typically COMP128v1/v2/v3 or MILENAGE are typically used

A5
Algorithm 5; Air-interface encryption of GSM; currently only A5/0 (no encryption), A5/1 and A5/3 are in use

Abis Interface
Interface between BTS and BSC, traditionally over E1 (3GPP TS 48.058 [3gpp-ts-48-058] and 3GPP TS 52.021 [3gpp-ts-52-021])

ACC
Access Control Class; every BTS broadcasts a bit-mask of permitted ACC, and only subscribers with a SIM of matching ACC are permitted to use that BTS

AGCH
Access Grant Channel on Um interface; used to assign a dedicated channel in response to RACH request

AGPL
GNU Affero General Public License, a copyleft-style Free Software License

ARFCN
Absolute Radio Frequency Channel Number; specifies a tuple of uplink and downlink frequencies

AUC
Authentication Center; central database of authentication key material for each subscriber

BCCH
Broadcast Control Channel on Um interface; used to broadcast information about Cell and its neighbors

BCC
Base Station Color Code; short identifier of BTS, lower part of BSIC

BTS
Base Transceiver Station

BSC
Base Station Controller

BSIC
Base Station Identity Code; 16bit identifier of BTS within location area

BSSGP
Base Station Subsystem Gateway Protocol (3GPP TS 48.018 [3gpp-ts-48-018])

BVCI
BSSGP Virtual Circuit Identifier

CBCH
Cell Broadcast Channel; used to transmit Cell Broadcast SMS (SMS-CB)

CC
Call Control; Part of the GSM Layer 3 Protocol

CCCH
Common Control Channel on Um interface; consists of RACH (uplink), BCCH, PCH, AGCH (all downlink)

Cell
A cell in a cellular network, served by a BTS

CEPT
Conférence européenne des administrations des postes et des télécommunications; European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations.
CGI
Cell Global Identifier comprised of MCC, MNC, LAC and BSIC

CSFB
Circuit-Switched Fall Back; Mechanism for switching from LTE/EUTRAN to UTRAN/GERAN when circuit-switched services such as voice telephony are required.

dB
deci-Bel; relative logarithmic unit

dBm
deci-Bel (milliwatt); unit of measurement for signal strength of radio signals

DHCP
Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (IETF RFC 2131 [ietf-rfc2131])

downlink
Direction of messages / signals from the network core towards the mobile phone

DSP
Digital Signal Processor
dvnxload
Tool to program UBL and the Bootloader on a sysmoBTS

EDGE
Enhanced Data rates for GPRS Evolution; Higher-speed improvement of GPRS; introduces 8PSK

EGPRS
Enhanced GPRS; the part of EDGE relating to GPRS services

EIR
Equipment Identity Register; core network element that stores and manages IMEI numbers

ESME
External SMS Entity; an external application interfacing with a SMSC over SMPP

ETSI
European Telecommunications Standardization Institute

FPGA
Field Programmable Gate Array; programmable digital logic hardware

Gb
Interface between PCU and SGSN in GPRS/EDGE network; uses NS, BSSGP, LLC

GERAN
GPRS/EDGE Radio Access Network

GFDL
GNU Free Documentation License; a copyleft-style Documentation License

GGSN
GPRS Gateway Support Node; gateway between GPRS and external (IP) network

GMSK
Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying; modulation used for GSM and GPRS

GPL
GNU General Public License, a copyleft-style Free Software License

Gp
Gp interface between SGSN and GGSN; uses GTP protocol
GPRS
General Packet Radio Service; the packet switched 2G technology

GPS
Global Positioning System; provides a highly accurate clock reference besides the global position

GSM
Global System for Mobile Communications. ETSI/3GPP Standard of a 2G digital cellular network

GSMTAP
GSM tap; pseudo standard for encapsulating GSM protocol layers over UDP/IP for analysis

GSUP
Generic subscriber Update Protocol. Osmocom-specific alternative to TCAP/MAP

GT
Global Title; an address in SCCP

GTP
GPRS Tunnel Protocol; used between SGSN and GGSN

HLR
Home Location Register; central subscriber database of a GSM network

HNB-GW
Home NodeB Gateway. Entity between femtocells (Home NodeB) and CN in 3G/UMTS.

HPLMN
Home PLMN; the network that has issued the subscriber SIM and has his record in HLR

IE
Information Element

IMEI
International Mobile Equipment Identity; unique 14-digit decimal number to globally identify a mobile device, optionally with a 15th checksum digit

IMEISV
IMEI software version; unique 14-digit decimal number to globally identify a mobile device (same as IMEI) plus two software version digits (total digits: 16)

IMSI
International Mobile Subscriber Identity; 15-digit unique identifier for the subscriber/SIM; starts with MCC/MNC of issuing operator

IP
Internet Protocol (**IETF RFC 791** [?])

IPA
*ip.access GSM over IP* protocol; used to multiplex a single TCP connection

Iu
Interface in 3G/UMTS between RAN and CN

IuCS
Iu interface for circuit-switched domain. Used in 3G/UMTS between RAN and MSC

IuPS
Iu interface for packet-switched domain. Used in 3G/UMTS between RAN and SGSN

LAC
Location Area Code; 16bit identifier of Location Area within network
LAPD
Link Access Protocol, D-Channel (ITU-T Q.921 [itu-t-q921])

LAPDm
Link Access Protocol Mobile (3GPP TS 44.006 [3gpp-ts-44-006])

LLC
Logical Link Control; GPRS protocol between MS and SGSN (3GPP TS 44.064 [3gpp-ts-44-064])

Location Area
Location Area; a geographic area containing multiple BTS

LU
Location Updating; can be of type IMSI-Attach or Periodic. Procedure that indicates a subscriber’s physical presence in a given radio cell.

M2PA
MTP2 Peer-to-Peer Adaptation; a SIGTRAN Variant (RFC 4165 [ietf-rfc4165])

M2UA
MTP2 User Adaptation; a SIGTRAN Variant (RFC 3331 [ietf-rfc3331])

M3UA
MTP3 User Adaptation; a SIGTRAN Variant (RFC 4666 [ietf-rfc4666])

MCC
Mobile Country Code; unique identifier of a country, e.g. 262 for Germany

MFF
Machine-to-Machine Form Factor; a SIM chip package that is soldered permanently onto M2M device circuit boards.

MGW
Media Gateway

MM
Mobility Management; part of the GSM Layer 3 Protocol

MNC
Mobile Network Code; identifies network within a country; assigned by national regulator

MNCC
Mobile Network Call Control; Unix domain socket based Interface between MSC and external call control entity like osmo-sip-connector

MNO
Mobile Network Operator; operator with physical radio network under his MCC/MNC

MO
Mobile Originated. Direction from Mobile (MS/UE) to Network

MS
Mobile Station; a mobile phone / GSM Modem

MSC
Mobile Switching Center; network element in the circuit-switched core network

MSISDN
Mobile Subscriber ISDN Number; telephone number of the subscriber

MT
Mobile Terminated. Direction from Network to Mobile (MS/UE)

MTP
Message Transfer Part; SS7 signaling protocol (ITU-T Q.701 [itu-t-q701])
MVNO
Mobile Virtual Network Operator; Operator without physical radio network

NCC
Network Color Code; assigned by national regulator

NITB
Network In The Box; combines functionality traditionally provided by BSC, MSC, VLR, HLR, SMSC functions; see OsmoNITB

NSEI
NS Entity Identifier

NVCI
NS Virtual Circuit Identifier

NWL
Network Listen; ability of some BTS to receive downlink from other BTSs

NS
Network Service; protocol on Gb interface (3GPP TS 48.016 [3gpp-ts-48-016])

OCXO
Oven Controlled Crystal Oscillator; very high precision oscillator, superior to a VCTCXO

OML
Operation & Maintenance Link (ETSI/3GPP TS 52.021 [3gpp-ts-52-021])

OpenBSC
Open Source implementation of GSM network elements, specifically OsmoBSC, OsmoNITB, OsmoSGSN

OpenGGSN
Open Source implementation of a GPRS Packet Control Unit

OpenVPN
Open-Source Virtual Private Network; software employed to establish encrypted private networks over untrusted public networks

Osmocom
Open Source MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS; collaborative community for implementing communications protocols and systems, including GSM, GPRS, TETRA, DECT, GMR and others

OsmoBSC
Open Source implementation of a GSM Base Station Controller

OsmoNITB
Open Source implementation of a GSM Network In The Box, combines functionality traditionally provided by BSC, MSC, VLR, HLR, AUC, SMSC

OsmoSGSN
Open Source implementation of a Serving GPRS Support Node

OsmoPCU
Open Source implementation of a GPRS Packet Control Unit

OTA
Over-The-Air; Capability of operators to remotely reconfigure/reprogram ISM/USIM cards

PC
Point Code; an address in MTP

PCH
Paging Channel on downlink Um interface; used by network to page an MS
PCU
Packet Control Unit; used to manage Layer 2 of the GPRS radio interface

PDCH
Packet Data Channel on Um interface; used for GPRS/EDGE signalling + user data

PIN
Personal Identification Number; a number by which the user authenticates to a SIM/USIM or other smart card

PLMN
Public Land Mobile Network; specification language for a single GSM network

PUK
PIN Unblocking Code; used to unblock a blocked PIN (after too many wrong PIN attempts)

RAC
Routing Area Code; 16bit identifier for a Routing Area within a Location Area

RACH
Random Access Channel on uplink Um interface; used by MS to request establishment of a dedicated channel

RAM
Remote Application Management; Ability to remotely manage (install, remove) Java Applications on SIM/USIM Card

RF
Radio Frequency

RFM
Remote File Management; Ability to remotely manage (write, read) files on a SIM/USIM card

Roaming
Procedure in which a subscriber of one network is using the radio network of another network, often in different countries; in some countries national roaming exists

Routing Area
Routing Area; GPRS specific sub-division of Location Area

RR
Radio Resources; Part of the GSM Layer 3 Protocol

RSL
Radio Signalling Link (3GPP TS 48.058 [3gpp-ts-48-058])

RTP
Real-Time Transport Protocol (IETF RFC 3550 [ietf-rfc3550]); Used to transport audio/video streams over UDP/IP

SACCH
Slow Associate Control Channel on Um interface; bundled to a TCH or SDCCH, used for signalling in parallel to active dedicated channel

SCCP
Signaling Connection Control Part; SS7 signaling protocol (ITU-T Q.711 [itu-t-q711])

SDCCH
Slow Dedicated Control Channel on Um interface; used for signalling and SMS transport in GSM

SDK
Software Development Kit

SGs
Interface between MSC (GSM/UMTS) and MME (LTE/EPC) to facilitate CSFB and SMS.

SGSN
Serving GPRS Support Node; Core network element for packet-switched services in GSM and UMTS.
SIGTRAN
Signal Transport over IP (IETF RFC 2719 [ietf-rfc2719])

SIM
Subscriber Identity Module; small chip card storing subscriber identity

Site
A site is a location where one or more BTSs are installed, typically three BTSs for three sectors

SMPP
Short Message Peer-to-Peer; TCP based protocol to interface external entities with an SMSC

SMSC
Short Message Service Center; store-and-forward relay for short messages

SS7
Signaling System No. 7; Classic digital telephony signaling system

SS
Supplementary Services; query and set various service parameters between subscriber and core network (e.g. USSD, 3rd-party calls, hold/retrieve, advice-of-charge, call deflection)

SSH
Secure Shell; IETF RFC 4250 [ietf-rfc4251] to 4254

SSN
Sub-System Number; identifies a given SCCP Service such as MSC, HLR

STP
Signaling Transfer Point; A Router in SS7 Networks

SUA
SCCP User Adaptation; a SIGTRAN Variant (RFC 3868 [ietf-rfc3868])

syslog
System logging service of UNIX-like operating systems

System Information
A set of downlink messages on the BCCH and SACCH of the Um interface describing properties of the cell and network

TCH
Traffic Channel; used for circuit-switched user traffic (mostly voice) in GSM

TCP
Transmission Control Protocol; (IETF RFC 793 [ietf-rfc793])

TFTP
Trivial File Transfer Protocol; (IETF RFC 1350 [ietf-rfc1350])

TRX
Transceiver; element of a BTS serving a single carrier

TS
Technical Specification

u-Boot
Boot loader used in various embedded systems

UBI
An MTD wear leveling system to deal with NAND flash in Linux

UBL
Initial bootloader loaded by the TI Davinci SoC
UDP
User Datagram Protocol ([IETF RFC 768 (ietf-rfc768)])

UICC
Universal Integrated Chip Card; A smart card according to [ETSI TR 102 216 (etsi-tr102216)]

Um interface
U mobile; Radio interface between MS and BTS

uplink
Direction of messages: Signals from the mobile phone towards the network

USIM
Universal Subscriber Identity Module; application running on a UICC to provide subscriber identity for UMTS and GSM networks

USSD
Unstructured Supplementary Service Data; textual dialog between subscriber and core network, e.g. *100 → Your extension is 1234

VCTCXO
Voltage Controlled, Temperature Compensated Crystal Oscillator; a precision oscillator, superior to a classic crystal oscillator, but inferior to an OCXO

VLR
Visitor Location Register; volatile storage of attached subscribers in the MSC

VPLMN
Visited PLMN; the network in which the subscriber is currently registered; may differ from HPLMN when on roaming

VTY
Virtual TeletYpe; a textual command-line interface for configuration and introspection, e.g. the OsmoBSC configuration file as well as its telnet link on port 4242

A Osmocom TCP/UDP Port Numbers

The Osmocom GSM system utilizes a variety of TCP/IP based protocols. The table below provides a reference as to which port numbers are used by which protocol / interface.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L4 Protocol</th>
<th>Port Number</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Software</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>2775</td>
<td>SMPP (SMS interface for external programs)</td>
<td>osmo-nitb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>3002</td>
<td>A-bis/IP OML</td>
<td>osmo-bts, osmo-bsc, osmo-nitb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>3003</td>
<td>A-bis/IP RSL</td>
<td>osmo-bts, osmo-bsc, osmo-nitb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4236</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-trx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4237</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-trx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4238</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-bts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4239</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-stp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4240</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-pcu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4241</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-bts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4242</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-nitb, osmo-bsc, cellmgr-ng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4243</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-bsc_mgcp, osmo-mgw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4244</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-bsc_nat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4245</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-sgsn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4246</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-gbproxy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 12: (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L4 Protocol</th>
<th>Port Number</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Software</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4247</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>OsmocomBB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4249</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-nilb, osmo-bsc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4250</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-bsc_nat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4251</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-sgsn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4252</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>symobs-bs-mgr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4253</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-gtphub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4254</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-msc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4255</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-msc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4256</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-sip-connector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4257</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-ggsn, ggsn (OpenGGSN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4258</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-hlr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4259</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-hlr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4260</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-ggsn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4261</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-hnbgw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4262</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-hnbgw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4263</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-gbproxy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4264</td>
<td>telnet (VTY)</td>
<td>osmo-cbc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4265</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-cbc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4266</td>
<td>D-GSM MS Lookup: mDNS serve</td>
<td>osmo-hlr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>4267</td>
<td>Control Interface</td>
<td>osmo-mgw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>4729</td>
<td>GSMTAP</td>
<td>Almost every osmocom project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCP</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>A/IP</td>
<td>osmo-bsc, osmo-bsc_nat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDP</td>
<td>23000</td>
<td>GPRS-NS over IP default port</td>
<td>osmo-pcu, osmo-sgsn, osmo-gbproxy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B Bibliography / References

B.0.0.0.1 References


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