

# sysmocom

sysmocom - s.f.m.c. GmbH



# OSMOCOM

## OsmocomBB User Manual

by Harald Welte and Holger Freyther

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The AsciiDoc source code of this manual can be found at <http://git.osmocom.org/osmo-gsm-manuals/>

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Foreword</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Acknowledgements . . . . .	1
<b>2</b>	<b>Preface</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	FOSS lives by contribution! . . . . .	2
2.2	Osmocom and sysmocom . . . . .	2
2.3	Corrections . . . . .	3
2.4	Legal disclaimers . . . . .	3
2.4.1	Spectrum License . . . . .	3
2.4.2	Software License . . . . .	3
2.4.3	Trademarks . . . . .	3
2.4.4	Liability . . . . .	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1	Required Skills . . . . .	4
3.2	Getting assistance . . . . .	4
<b>4</b>	<b>Scripting using Lua</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1	Logging . . . . .	5
4.1.1	Examples . . . . .	5
4.2	Timer class . . . . .	5
4.2.1	Examples . . . . .	5
4.3	MS class . . . . .	6
4.3.1	Examples . . . . .	6
<b>5</b>	<b>The Osmocom VTY Interface</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1	Accessing the telnet VTY . . . . .	7
5.2	VTY Nodes . . . . .	7
5.3	Interactive help . . . . .	8
5.3.1	The question-mark (?) command . . . . .	8
5.3.2	TAB completion . . . . .	9
5.3.3	The list command . . . . .	10
<b>6</b>	<b>libosmocore Logging System</b>	<b>11</b>
6.1	Log categories . . . . .	11
6.2	Log levels . . . . .	12
6.3	Log printing options . . . . .	12
6.4	Log filters . . . . .	13

6.5	Log targets	13
6.5.1	Logging to the VTY	13
6.5.2	Logging to the ring buffer	13
6.5.3	Logging via gsmmap	14
6.5.4	Logging to a file	14
6.5.5	Logging to syslog	15
6.5.6	Logging to stderr	15
<b>7</b>	<b>Glossary</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Osmocom TCP/UDP Port Numbers</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Bibliography / References</b>	<b>23</b>
	B.0.0.1 References	23
<b>C</b>	<b>GNU Free Documentation License</b>	<b>26</b>
C.1	PREAMBLE	26
C.2	APPLICABILITY AND DEFINITIONS	26
C.3	VERBATIM COPYING	27
C.4	COPYING IN QUANTITY	28
C.5	MODIFICATIONS	28
C.6	COMBINING DOCUMENTS	29
C.7	COLLECTIONS OF DOCUMENTS	29
C.8	AGGREGATION WITH INDEPENDENT WORKS	30
C.9	TRANSLATION	30
C.10	TERMINATION	30
C.11	FUTURE REVISIONS OF THIS LICENSE	30
C.12	RELICENSING	31
C.13	ADDENDUM: How to use this License for your documents	31

# 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 and 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 sysmocom 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
- sysmocom, 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.

## 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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### 2.4.2 Software License

The software developed by the Osmocom project and described in this manual is Free / Open Source Software (FOSS) and subject to so-called *copyleft* licensing.

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.

This means that you are free to use the software for whatever purpose, make copies and distribute them - just as long as you ensure to always provide/release the *complete and corresponding* source code.

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.

### 2.4.3 Trademarks

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### 2.4.4 Liability

The software is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but **WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY**; without even the implied warranty of **MERCHANTABILITY** or **FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE**. See the License text included with the software for more details.

## 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 sysmoBTS, 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, 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](mailto: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 Scripting using Lua

The mobile application can be extended using the [lua5.3 language](#). To use the scripting facility a script needs to be configured through the VTY interface and will be associated to a Mobile Station (MS). The script will then be able to interact with the specific MS.

An event based programming model is to be used. This means that once the script has been loaded it should register to the wanted events, configure timers and return. When an event occurs the registered event handler will be executed.

The following describes the exported runtime services to be used in the script.



## 4.1 Logging

The logging functions allow to generate log messages for different levels. The log implementation is using the standard Osmocom logging framework which allows to have multiple log targets, e.g. syslog, file or through the VTY.

Code	Return	Explanation
<code>print(...)</code>	void	Print a message with log level <i>debug</i>
<code>log_debug(...)</code>	void	Print a message with log level <i>debug</i>
<code>log_notice(...)</code>	void	Print a message with log level <i>notice</i>
<code>log_error(...)</code>	void	Print a message with log level <i>error</i>
<code>log_fatal(...)</code>	void	Print a message with log level <i>fatal</i>

### 4.1.1 Examples

Code:

```
print("Log level 'debug'")
log_debug("Log level 'debug'")
log_notice("Log level 'notice'")
log_error("Log level 'error'")
log_fatal("Log level 'fatal'")
```

Output:

```
<0011> @script.lua:1 Log level 'debug'
<0011> @script.lua:2 Log level 'debug'
<0011> @script.lua:3 Log level 'notice'
<0011> @script.lua:4 Log level 'error'
<0011> @script.lua:5 Log level 'fatal'
```

## 4.2 Timer class

The timer allows to invoke a function once after the requested timeout. The timer creation function will return immediately and the callback will be called after the timeout and when no other lua code is executing. The `osmo.timeout` function should be used to create a new time, a running timer can be canceled using the `cancel` method.

Code	Return	Explanation
<code>osmo.timeout(timeout, cb)</code>	A new timer	Create a new non-recurring timer. Timeout should be in rounded seconds and cb should be a function.
<code>timer.cancel()</code>	Void	Cancel the timer, the callback will not be called.

### 4.2.1 Examples

Code:

```
local timer = osmo.timeout(timeout_in_seconds, call_back)
timer:cancel()
```

Code:

```
local timer = osmo.timeout(3, function()
    print("Timeout passed")
end)
print("Configured")
```

Output:

```
<0011> @script.lua:4 Configured
```

```
<0011> @script.lua:2 Timeout passed
```

### 4.3 MS class

The MS singleton provides access to the Mobile Station configuration the script is associated with. This includes runtime information like the IMSI, IMEI or functions like start/stop.

Code	Return	Explanation
<code>osmo.ms().imsi()</code>	string	The IMSI. It might be invalid in case it has not been read from SIM card yet
<code>osmo.ms().imei()</code>	string	The configured IMEI

#### 4.3.1 Examples

Code:

```
local ms = osmo.ms()
print(ms.imei(), ms.imsi())
```

Output:

```
<0011> @script.lua:2 126000000000000
```

## 5 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 1: VTY Parameter Patterns

Pattern	Example	Explanation
A.B.C.D	127.0.0.1	An IPv4 address
TEXT	example01	A single string without any spaces, tabs
.TEXT	Some information	A line of text
(OptionA OptionB OptionC)	OptionA	A choice between a list of available options
<0-10>	5	A number from a range

## 5.1 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.

## 5.2 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.

## 5.3 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 OsmoNITB VTY. They will work in similar fashion on the other VTY interfaces, while the node structure will differ in each program.

### 5.3.1 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 OsmoNITB prompt

```
OpenBSC> ? ❶
  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 log message to this terminal
  sms       SMS related commands
  subscriber Operations on a Subscriber
```

- ❶ 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

```
OpenBSC> show ? ❶
  version      Displays program version
  online-help  Online help
  history      Display the session command history
  network      Display information about a GSM NETWORK
```

bts	Display information about a BTS
trx	Display information about a TRX
timeslot	Display information about a TS
lchan	Display information about a logical channel
paging	Display information about paging requests of a BTS
paging-group	Display the paging group
logging	Show current logging configuration
alarms	Show current logging configuration
stats	Show statistical values
el_driver	Display information about available E1 drivers
el_line	Display information about a E1 line
el_timeslot	Display information about a E1 timeslot
subscriber	Operations on a Subscriber
statistics	Display network statistics
sms-queue	Display SMSqueue statistics
smpp	SMPP Interface

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

You may pick the network object and type `?` again:

#### Example: Typing `?` after `show network`

```
OpenBSC> show network
<cr>
```

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".

### 5.3.2 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

```
OpenBSC> s 1
show      sms      subscriber
```

- 1 Type `<tab>` here.

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

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

```
OpenBSC> show 1
version   online-help history   network   bts       trx
timeslot  lchan     paging   paging-group logging   alarms
stats     el_driver el_line   el_timeslot subscriber statistics
sms-queue smpp
```

- 1 Type `<tab>` here.

### 5.3.3 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 OsmoNITB VIEW node prompt**

```
OpenBSC> list
show version
show online-help
list
exit
help
enable
terminal length <0-512>
terminal no length
who
show history
show network
show bts [<0-255>]
show trx [<0-255>] [<0-255>]
show timeslot [<0-255>] [<0-255>] [<0-7>]
show lchan [<0-255>] [<0-255>] [<0-7>] [lchan_nr]
show lchan summary [<0-255>] [<0-255>] [<0-7>] [lchan_nr]
show paging [<0-255>]
show paging-group <0-255> IMSI
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 set-log-mask MASK
logging level (all|rll|cc|mm|rr|rs|nm|ncc|pag|meas|sccp|msc|mgcp|ho|db|ref|gprs|ns| ←
    bssgp|llc|sdcp|nat|ctrl|smpp|filter|lglobal|llapd|linp|lmux|lmi|lmib|lsms|lctrl|lgtp| ←
    lstats) (debug|info|notice|error|fatal)
show logging vty
show alarms
show stats
show stats level (global|peer|subscriber)
show el_driver
show el_line [line_nr] [stats]
show el_timeslot [line_nr] [ts_nr]
show subscriber (extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID
show subscriber cache
sms send pending
subscriber create imsi ID
subscriber (extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID sms sender (extension|imsi|tmsi|id) SENDER_ID send ←
    .LINE
subscriber (extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID silent-sms sender (extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ←
    SENDER_ID send .LINE
subscriber (extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID silent-call start (any|tch/f|tch/any|sdch)
subscriber (extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID silent-call stop
subscriber (extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID ussd-notify (0|1|2) .TEXT
subscriber (extension|imsi|tmsi|id) ID update
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 OsmoNITB *VIEW* node with the list of the OsmoNITB *TRX* config node:

---

**Example: Typing list at start of OsmoNITB TRX config node prompt**

```
OpenBSC(config-net-bts-trx)# list
 help
 list
 write terminal
 write file
 write memory
 write
 show running-config
 exit
 end
 arfcn <0-1023>
 description .TEXT
 no description
 nominal power <0-100>
 max_power_red <0-100>
 rsl e1 line E1_LINE timeslot <1-31> sub-slot (0|1|2|3|full)
 rsl e1 tei <0-63>
 rf_locked (0|1)
 timeslot <0-7>
```

## 6 libosmocom 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.

### 6.1 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 ?`

## 6.2 Log levels

For each of the log categories (see Section 6.1), 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.

## 6.3 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.



## 6.4 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`

## 6.5 Log targets

Each of the log targets represent certain destination for log messages. It can be configured independently by selecting levels (see Section 6.2) for categories (see Section 6.1) as well as filtering (see Section 6.4) and other options like `logging timestamp` for example.

### 6.5.1 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 6.1 for more details on categories and Section 6.2 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 6.4.

---

#### 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`

### 6.5.2 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.

### 6.5.3 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.

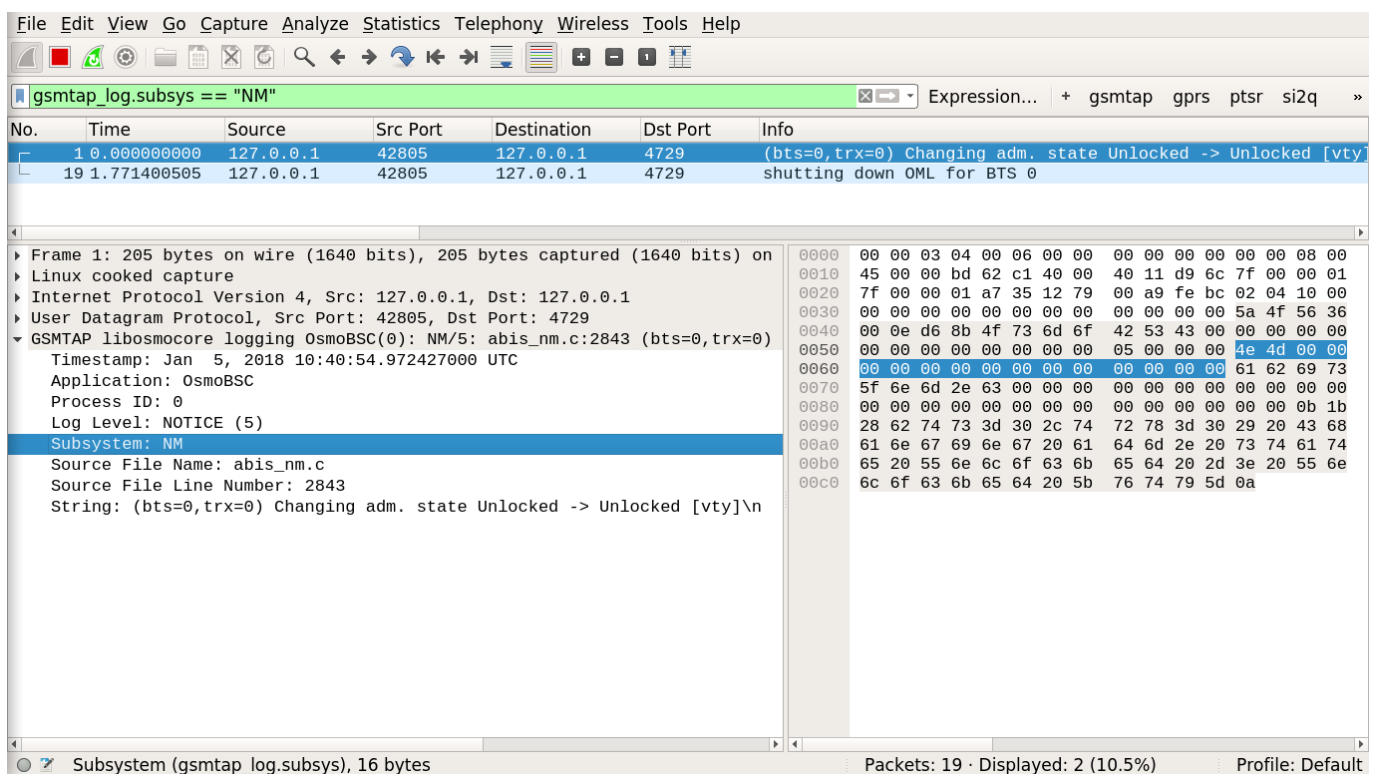


Figure 1: Wireshark with logs delivered over GSMTAP

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 all fatal
```

### 6.5.4 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.

---

### 6.5.5 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.

---

### 6.5.6 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)#
```

## 7 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

**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

**dnvixload**

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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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 identifier for the mobile phone

**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

**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

**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

**MNO**

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

**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

**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 Unlocking 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

**SIGTRAN**

Signaling 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

**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

**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

**VCTCXO**

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

**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 2: TCP/UDP port numbers

L4 Protocol	Port Number	Purpose	Software
UDP	2427	MGCP GW	osmo-bsc_mgcp, osmo-mgw
TCP	2775	SMPP (SMS interface for external programs)	osmo-nitb
TCP	3002	A-bis/IP OML	osmo-bts, osmo-bsc, osmo-nitb
TCP	3003	A-bis/IP RSL	osmo-bts, osmo-bsc, osmo-nitb
TCP	4236	Control Interface	osmo-trx
TCP	4237	telnet (VTY)	osmo-trx
TCP	4238	Control Interface	osmo-bts
TCP	4239	telnet (VTY)	osmo-stp
TCP	4240	telnet (VTY)	osmo-pcu
TCP	4241	telnet (VTY)	osmo-bts
TCP	4242	telnet (VTY)	osmo-nitb, osmo-bsc, cellmgr-ng
TCP	4243	telnet (VTY)	osmo-bsc_mgcp, osmo-mgw
TCP	4244	telnet (VTY)	osmo-bsc_nat
TCP	4245	telnet (VTY)	osmo-sgsn
TCP	4246	telnet (VTY)	osmo-gbproxy
TCP	4247	telnet (VTY)	OsmocomBB
TCP	4249	Control Interface	osmo-nitb, osmo-bsc
TCP	4250	Control Interface	osmo-bsc_nat
TCP	4251	Control Interface	osmo-sgsn
TCP	4252	telnet (VTY)	sysmobts-mgr
TCP	4253	telnet (VTY)	osmo-gtphub
TCP	4254	telnet (VTY)	osmo-msc
TCP	4255	Control Interface	osmo-msc
TCP	4256	telnet (VTY)	osmo-sip-connector
TCP	4257	Control Interface	osmo-ggsn, ggsn (OpenGGSN)
TCP	4258	telnet (VTY)	osmo-hlr
TCP	4259	Control Interface	osmo-hlr
TCP	4260	telnet (VTY)	osmo-ggsn
TCP	4261	telnet (VTY)	osmo-hnbgw
TCP	4262	Control Interface	osmo-hnbgw
TCP	4263	Control Interface	osmo-gbproxy
UDP	4729	GSMTAP	Almost every osmocom project
TCP	5000	A/IP	osmo-bsc, osmo-bsc_nat
UDP	2427	GSMTAP	osmo-pcu, osmo-bts
UDP	23000	GPRS-NS over IP default port	osmo-pcu, osmo-sgsn, osmo-gbproxy

## B Bibliography / References

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with the Invariant Sections being LIST THEIR TITLES, with the
Front-Cover Texts being LIST, and with the Back-Cover Texts being LIST.
```

If you have [Invariant Sections](#) without [Cover Texts](#), or some other combination of the three, merge those two alternatives to suit the situation.

If your document contains nontrivial examples of program code, we recommend releasing these examples in parallel under your choice of free software license, such as the GNU General Public License, to permit their use in free software.