

# sysmocom

sysmocom - s.f.m.c. GmbH



## OsmoHLR User Manual

by Neels Hofmeyr

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

**HISTORY**

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Foreword</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Acknowledgements	1
1.2	Endorsements	2
<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
2.4.5	Documentation License	4
<b>3</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1	Required Skills	4
3.2	Getting assistance	4
<b>4</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>4</b>
4.1	About OsmoHLR	5
<b>5</b>	<b>Running OsmoHLR</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1	SYNOPSIS	5
5.2	OPTIONS	6
5.3	Bootstrap the Database	6
5.4	Multiple instances	6
<b>6</b>	<b>Managing Subscribers</b>	<b>7</b>
6.1	Example: Add/Update/Delete Subscriber via VTY	7
6.2	Subscriber Parameters	7
<b>7</b>	<b>The Osmocom VTY Interface</b>	<b>8</b>
7.1	Accessing the telnet VTY	9
7.2	VTY Nodes	10
7.3	Interactive help	10
7.3.1	The question-mark (?) command	10
7.3.2	TAB completion	11
7.3.3	The list command	12

<b>8 libsmocore Logging System</b>	<b>13</b>
8.1 Log categories	14
8.2 Log levels	14
8.3 Log filters	14
8.4 Log targets	15
8.4.1 Logging to the VTU	15
8.4.2 Logging to the ring buffer	15
8.4.3 Logging via gsmtap	15
8.4.4 Logging to a file	16
8.4.5 Logging to syslog	17
8.4.6 Logging to stderr	17
<b>9 Control interface</b>	<b>17</b>
9.1 subscriber.by-*.info, info-aud, info-all	18
9.2 subscriber.by-*.ps-enabled, cs-enabled	20
<b>10 Osmocom Control Interface</b>	<b>21</b>
10.1 Control Interface Protocol	21
10.1.1 GET operation	22
10.1.2 SET operation	23
10.1.3 TRAP operation	23
10.2 Common variables	23
10.3 Control Interface python examples	24
10.3.1 Getting rate counters	24
10.3.2 Setting a value	25
10.3.3 Getting a value	25
10.3.4 Listening for traps	25
<b>11 Generic Subscriber Update Protocol</b>	<b>25</b>
11.1 General	25
11.2 Connection	26
11.3 Using IPA	26
11.4 Procedures	26
11.4.1 Authentication management	26
11.4.2 Reporting of Authentication Failure	26
11.4.3 Location Updating	27
11.4.4 Location Cancellation	27
11.4.5 Purge MS	27
11.4.6 Delete Subscriber Data	28
11.5 Message Format	28

11.5.1	General	28
11.5.2	Send Authentication Info Request	28
11.5.3	Send Authentication Info Error	29
11.5.4	Send Authentication Info Response	29
11.5.5	Authentication Failure Report	29
11.5.6	Update Location Request	29
11.5.7	Update Location Error	29
11.5.8	Update Location Result	29
11.5.9	Location Cancellation Request	30
11.5.10	Location Cancellation Result	30
11.5.11	Purge MS Request	30
11.5.12	Purge MS Error	30
11.5.13	Purge MS Result	30
11.5.14	Insert Subscriber Data Request	31
11.5.15	Insert Subscriber Data Error	31
11.5.16	Insert Subscriber Data Result	31
11.5.17	Delete Subscriber Data Request	31
11.5.18	Delete Subscriber Data Error	31
11.5.19	Delete Subscriber Data Result	32
11.6	Information Elements	32
11.6.1	Message Type	32
11.6.2	IP Address	32
11.6.3	PDP Info	32
11.6.4	PDP Type	33
11.6.5	PDP Context ID	33
11.6.6	Auth tuple	34
11.6.7	RAND	34
11.6.8	SRES	34
11.6.9	Kc	34
11.6.10	IK	34
11.6.11	CK	34
11.6.12	AUTN	34
11.6.13	AUTS	34
11.6.14	RES	34
11.6.15	CN Domain	35
11.6.16	Cancellation Type	35
11.6.17	IE Identifier (informational)	35
11.6.18	Empty field	36
11.6.19	IMSI	36

11.6.20 ISDN-AddressString / MSISDN / Called Party BCD Number . . . . .	37
11.6.21 Access Point Name . . . . .	37
11.6.22 Quality of Service Subscribed Service . . . . .	38
11.6.23 PDP-Charging Characteristics . . . . .	38
11.6.24 HLR Number encoded as 3GPP TS 09.02 ISDN-AddressString . . . . .	38
11.6.25 Cause . . . . .	39
<b>12 Glossary</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>A Osmocom TCP/UDP Port Numbers</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>B Bibliography / References</b>	<b>47</b>
B.0.25.0.1 References . . . . .	47
<b>C GNU Free Documentation License</b>	<b>49</b>
C.1 PREAMBLE . . . . .	50
C.2 APPLICABILITY AND DEFINITIONS . . . . .	50
C.3 VERBATIM COPYING . . . . .	51
C.4 COPYING IN QUANTITY . . . . .	51
C.5 MODIFICATIONS . . . . .	51
C.6 COMBINING DOCUMENTS . . . . .	52
C.7 COLLECTIONS OF DOCUMENTS . . . . .	53
C.8 AGGREGATION WITH INDEPENDENT WORKS . . . . .	53
C.9 TRANSLATION . . . . .	53
C.10 TERMINATION . . . . .	53
C.11 FUTURE REVISIONS OF THIS LICENSE . . . . .	54
C.12 RELICENSING . . . . .	54
C.13 ADDENDUM: How to use this License for your documents . . . . .	54

# 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:

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- 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 ;)
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- 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
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- 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.

## 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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### 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.

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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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### 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 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 Overview

This manual should help you getting started with OsmoHLR. It will cover aspects of configuring and running the OsmoHLR.

## 4.1 About OsmoHLR

OsmoHLR is Osmocom's minimal implementation of a Home Location Register (HLR) for 2G and 3G GSM and UMTS mobile core networks. Its interfaces are:

- GSUP, serving towards OsmoMSC and OsmoSGSN;
- A local SQLite database;
- The Osmocom typical telnet VTY and CTRL interfaces.

Originally, the OpenBSC project's OsmoNITB all-in-one implementation had an integrated HLR, managing subscribers and SMS in the same local database. Along with the separate OsmoMSC and its new VLR component, OsmoHLR was implemented from scratch to alleviate various shortcomings of the internal HLR:

- The separate HLR allows using centralized subscriber management for both circuit-switched and packet-switched domains (i.e. one OsmoHLR for both OsmoMSC and OsmoSGSN).
- VLR and HLR brought full UMTS AKA (Authentication and Key Agreement) support, i.e. Milenage authentication in both the full 3G variant as well as the backwards compatible 2G variant.
- In contrast to the OsmoNITB, the specific way the new OsmoMSC's VLR accesses OsmoHLR brings fully asynchronous subscriber database access.

Find the OsmoHLR issue tracker and wiki online at

- <https://osmocom.org/projects/osmo-hlr>
- <https://osmocom.org/projects/osmo-hlr/wiki>

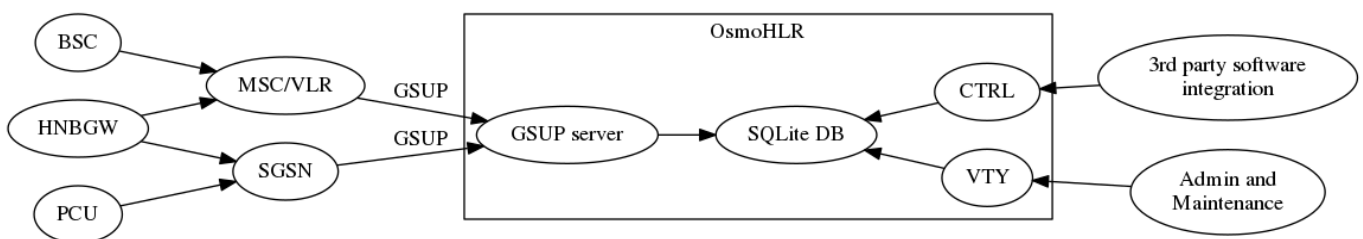


Figure 1: Typical GSM network architecture used with OsmoHLR

## 5 Running OsmoHLR

The OsmoHLR executable (`osmo-hlr`) offers the following command-line arguments:

### 5.1 SYNOPSIS

```
osmo-hlr [-hl-V] [-d DBGMASK] [-D] [-c CONFIGFILE] [-s] [-T] [-e LOGLEVEL] [-l DATABASE]
```

## 5.2 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 8 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 `openbsc.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 8 for more information.

**-T, --timestamp**

Enable time-stamping of log messages to stderr. This has mostly been deprecated by VTY based logging configuration, see Section 8 for more 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 8 for more information.

**-l, --database *DATABASE***

Specify the file name of the SQLite3 database to use as HLR/AUC storage

## 5.3 Bootstrap the Database

If no database exists yet, OsmoHLR will automatically create and bootstrap a database file with empty tables. If no `-l` command-line option is provided, this database file will be created in the current working directory.

Alternatively, you may use the `osmo-hlr-db-tool`, which is installed along with `osmo-hlr`, to bootstrap an empty database, or to migrate subscriber data from an old *OsmoNITB* database. See `osmo-hlr-db-tool --help`.

## 5.4 Multiple instances

Running multiple instances of `osmo-hlr` on the same computer is possible if all interfaces (VTY, CTRL) are separated using the appropriate configuration options. The IP based interfaces are binding to local host by default. In order to separate the processes, the user has to bind those services to specific but different IP addresses and/or ports.

The VTY and the Control interface can be bound to IP addresses from the loopback address range, for example:

```
line vty
  bind 127.0.0.2
ctrl
  bind 127.0.0.2
```

The GSUP interface can be bound to a specific IP address by the following configuration options:

```
hlr
  gsup
  bind ip 10.23.42.1
```

**Note**

At the time of writing, OsmoHLR lacks a config option to change the GSUP port, which is by default TCP port 4222.

## 6 Managing Subscribers

Subscribers are kept in a local SQLite database file and can be managed via VTY and CTRL interfaces.

See this section for some examples, and also refer to the OsmoHLR VTY reference manual [\[vty-ref-osmohlr\]](#) as well as the Control interface described in Section 9.

### 6.1 Example: Add/Update/Delete Subscriber via VTY

The following telnet VTY session adds a subscriber complete with 2G and 3G authentication tokens, and finally removes the subscriber again; it assumes that osmo-hlr is running and listening for telnet VTY connections on localhost:

```
$ telnet localhost 4258
OsmoHLR> enable
OsmoHLR# subscriber imsi 123456789023000 create
% Created subscriber 123456789023000
   ID: 1
   IMSI: 123456789023000
   MSISDN: none

OsmoHLR# subscriber imsi 123456789023000 update msisdn 423
% Updated subscriber IMSI='123456789023000' to MSISDN='423'

OsmoHLR# subscriber msisdn 423 update aud3g milenage k deaf0ff1ced0d0dabbedd1ced1cef00d opc ←
   cededeffacedacefacedbadfadedbeef
OsmoHLR# subscriber msisdn 423 show
   ID: 1
   IMSI: 123456789023000
   MSISDN: 423
   3G auth: MILENAGE
             K=deaf0ff1ced0d0dabbedd1ced1cef00d
             OPC=cededeffacedacefacedbadfadedbeef
             IND-bitlen=5

OsmoHLR# subscriber msisdn 423 update aud2g comp128v3 ki beefedcafefaceacedadeddecadefee
OsmoHLR# subscriber msisdn 423 show
   ID: 1
   IMSI: 123456789023000
   MSISDN: 423
   2G auth: COMP128v3
             KI=beefedcafefaceacedadeddecadefee
   3G auth: MILENAGE
             K=deaf0ff1ced0d0dabbedd1ced1cef00d
             OPC=cededeffacedacefacedbadfadedbeef
             IND-bitlen=5

OsmoHLR# subscriber imsi 123456789023000 delete
% Deleted subscriber for IMSI '123456789023000'
```

### 6.2 Subscriber Parameters

The following parameters are managed for each subscriber of the HLR, modelled roughly after 3GPP TS 23.008, version 13.3.0; note that not all of these parameters are necessarily in active use:

Table 1: OsmoHLR's subscriber parameters

Name	Example	Description
imsi	901700000014701	identity of the SIM/USIM, 3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.1.1.1
msisdn	2342123	number to dial to reach this subscriber (multiple MSISDNs can be stored per subscriber), 3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.1.2
imeisv	4234234234234275	identity of the mobile device and software version, 3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.2.3
aud2g.algo	comp128v3	Authentication algorithm ID for 2G, corresponds to enum osmo_auth_algo
aud2g.ki		Subscriber's secret key (128bit)
aud3g.algo	milenege	Authentication algorithm ID for 3G and UMTS AKA, corresponds to enum osmo_auth_algo
aud3g.k	(32 hexadecimal digits)	Subscriber's secret key (128bit)
aud3g.op	(32 hexadecimal digits)	Operator's secret key (128bit)
aud3g.opc	(32 hexadecimal digits)	Secret key derived from OP and K (128bit), alternative to using OP which does not disclose OP to subscribers
aud3g.sqn	123	Sequence number of last used key (64bit unsigned)
aud3g.ind_bitlen	5	Nr of index bits at lower SQN end
apn		
vlr_number		3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.4.5
hlr_number		3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.4.6
sgsn_number		3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.4.8.1
sgsn_address		3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.13.10
ggsn_number		3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.4.8.2
gmlc_number		3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.4.9.2
smsc_number		3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.4.23
periodic_lu_tmr		3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.4.24
periodic_rau_tau_tmr		3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.13.115
nam_cs	1	Enable/disable voice access (3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.1.1.2: network access mode)
nam_ps	0	Enable/disable data access (3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.1.1.2: network access mode)
lmsi		3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.1.8
ms_purged_cs	0	3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.7.5
ms_purged_ps	1	3GPP TS 23.008 chapter 2.7.6

## 7 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 2: 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

## 7.1 Accessing the telnet VTY

The VTY of a given Osmocom program is implemented as a telnet server, listening to a specific TCP port. For `osmo-nitb`, this port is 4242.

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.

---

## 7.2 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.

## 7.3 Interactive help

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

---

### 7.3.1 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
```

- ❶ 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".

### 7.3.2 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> s❶
show      sms      subscriber
```

- ❶ 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 ❶
version  online-help history      network  bts      trx
timeslot lchan    paging  paging-group logging  alarms
stats    e1_driver e1_line  e1_timeslot subscriber statistics
sms-queue smpp
```

- ❶ Type <tab> here.

### 7.3.3 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|rsl|nm|mncc|pag|meas|sccp|msc|mgcp|ho|db|ref|gprs|ns| ←
             bssgp|llc|sndcp|nat|ctrl|smpp|filter|lglobal|llapd|linp|lmux|lmi|lmib|lsm|lctrl|lgtpl ←
             lstats) (debug|info|notice|error|fatal)
show logging vty
show alarms
show stats
show stats level (global|peer|subscriber)
show e1_driver
show e1_line [line_nr] [stats]
```

```

show e1_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|sdccch)
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>

```

## 8 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.

## 8.1 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 ?`

## 8.2 Log levels

For each of the log categories (see Section 8.1), 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`.

## 8.3 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`

## 8.4 Log targets

Each of the log targets represent certain destination for log messages. It can be configured independently by selecting levels (see Section 8.2) for categories (see Section 8.1) as well as filtering (see Section 8.3) and other options like `logging timestamp` for example.

### 8.4.1 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 8.1 for more details on categories and Section 8.2 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 8.3.

---

#### 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`

### 8.4.2 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.

### 8.4.3 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.

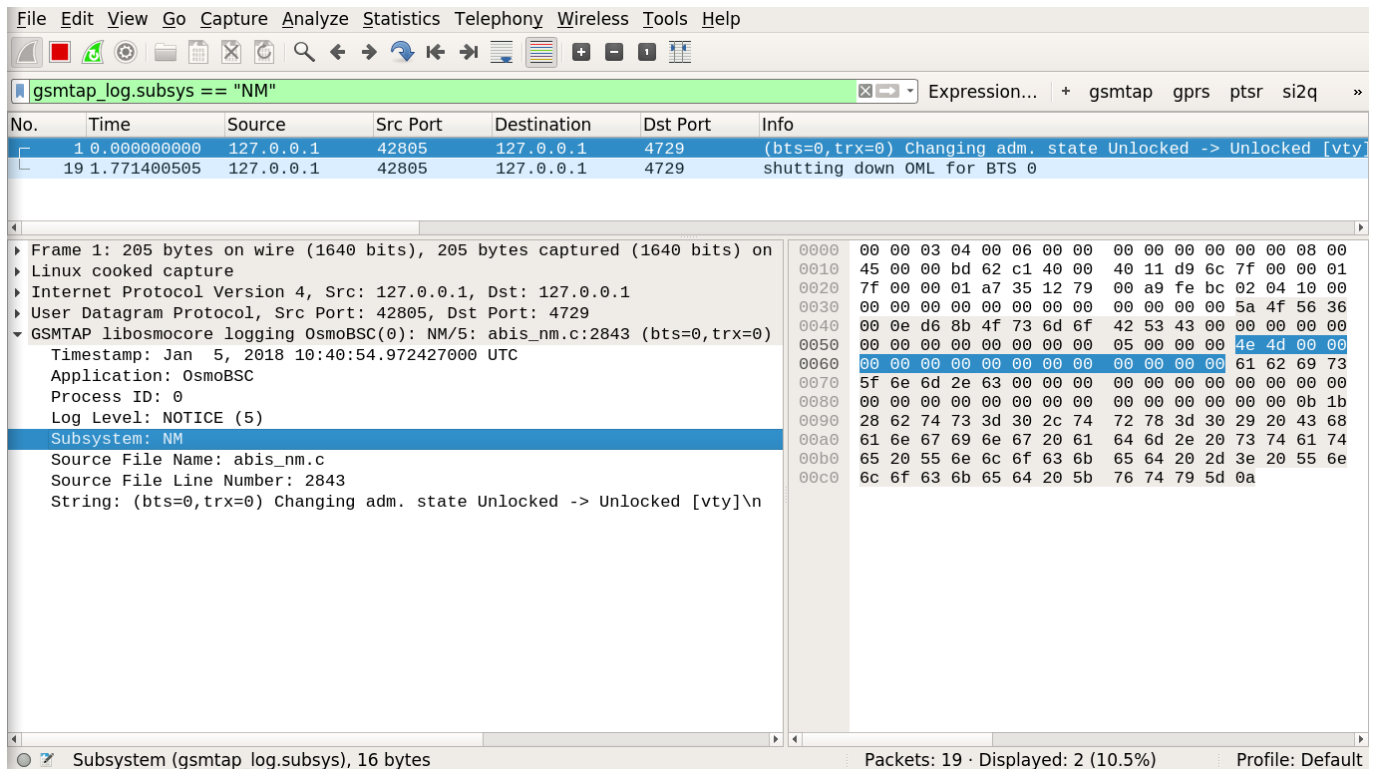


Figure 2: Wireshark with logs delivered over GSMTAP

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
```

#### 8.4.4 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.

---

### 8.4.5 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.

---

### 8.4.6 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)#
```

## 9 Control interface

The actual protocol is described in Section 10, the variables common to all programs using it are described in Section 10.2. This section describes the CTRL interface variables specific to OsmoHLR.

All subscriber variables are available by different selectors, which are freely interchangeable:

Table 3: Subscriber selectors available on OsmoHLR's Control interface

Selector	Comment
subscriber.by-imsi-123456.*	Subscriber selector by IMSI, replace "123456" with the actual IMSI
subscriber.by-msisdn-123456.*	Subscriber selector by MSISDN
subscriber.by-id-123456.*	Subscriber selector by database ID

Each of the above selectors feature all of these control variables:

Table 4: Subscriber variables available on OsmoHLR's Control interface

Name	Access	Trap	Value	Comment
subscriber.by-*.info	R	No		List (short) subscriber information
subscriber.by-*.info-aud	R	No		List subscriber authentication tokens
subscriber.by-*.info-all	R	No		List both <i>info</i> and <i>info-aud</i> in one
subscriber.by-*.cs-enabled	RW	No	1 or 0	Enable/disable circuit-switched access
subscriber.by-*.ps-enabled	RW	No	1 or 0	Enable/disable packet-switched access

## 9.1 subscriber.by-\*.info, info-aud, info-all

Query the HLR database and return current subscriber record, in multiple lines of the format

```
name<tab>value
```

To keep the reply as short as possible, some values are omitted if they are empty. These are the returned values and their presence modalities; for their meaning, see Section 6.2:

Table 5: Returned values by OsmoHLR's *info*, *info-all* and *info-aud* commands

Returned by	Name	Format	Presence
<i>info-all</i> and <i>info</i>	id	-9223372036854775808 .. 9223372036854775807 (usually not negative)	always
<i>info</i>	imsi	6 to 15 decimal digits	always
<i>info</i>	msisdn	1 to 15 decimal digits	when non-empty
<i>info</i>	nam_cs	1 if CS is enabled, or 0	always
<i>info</i>	nam_ps	1 if PS is enabled, or 0	always
<i>info</i>	vlr_number	up to 15 decimal digits	when non-empty
<i>info</i>	sgsn_number	up to 15 decimal digits	when non-empty
<i>info</i>	sgsn_address		when non-empty
<i>info</i>	ms_purged_cs	1 if CS is purged, or 0	always
<i>info</i>	ms_purged_ps	1 if PS is purged, or 0	always
<i>info</i>	periodic_lu_timer	0..4294967295	always
<i>info</i>	periodic_rau_timer	0..4294967295	always
<i>info</i>	lmsi	8 hex digits	always
<i>info-aud</i>	aud2g.algo	one of <i>comp128v1</i> , <i>comp128v2</i> , <i>comp128v3</i> or <i>xor</i>	when valid 2G auth data is set
<i>info-aud</i>	aud2g.ki	32 hexadecimal digits	when valid 2G auth data is set



Table 5: (continued)

Returned by <i>info-all</i> and <i>info-aud</i>	Name	Format	Presence
<i>info-aud</i>	aud3g.algo	so far always <i>milenage</i>	when valid 3G auth data is set
<i>info-aud</i>	aud3g.k	32 hexadecimal digits	when valid 3G auth data is set
<i>info-aud</i>	aud3g.op	32 hexadecimal digits	when valid 3G auth data is set, <b>not</b> when OPC is set
<i>info-aud</i>	aud3g.opc	32 hexadecimal digits	when valid 3G auth data is set, <b>not</b> when OP is set
<i>info-aud</i>	aud3g.ind_bitlen	0..28	when valid 3G auth data is set
<i>info-aud</i>	aud3g.sqn	0 .. 18446744073709551615	when valid 3G auth data is set

This is an example Control Interface transcript that illustrates the various *info* commands:

```

GET 1 subscriber.by-imsi-901990000000003.info
GET_REPLY 1 subscriber.by-imsi-901990000000003.info
id      3
imsi    9019900000000003
msisdn  103
nam_cs  1
nam_ps  1
ms_purged_cs    0
ms_purged_ps    0
periodic_lu_timer      0
periodic_rau_tau_timer 0
lmsi    00000000

GET 2 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.info-aud
GET_REPLY 2 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.info-aud
aud2g.algo      COMP128v1
aud2g.ki        000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f
aud3g.algo      MILENAGE
aud3g.k 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f
aud3g.opc      101112131415161718191a1b1c1d1e1f
aud3g.ind_bitlen      5
aud3g.sqn      0

GET 3 subscriber.by-id-3.info-all
GET_REPLY 3 subscriber.by-id-3.info-all
id      3
imsi    9019900000000003
msisdn  103
nam_cs  1
nam_ps  1
ms_purged_cs    0
ms_purged_ps    0
periodic_lu_timer      0
periodic_rau_tau_timer 0
lmsi    00000000
aud2g.algo      COMP128v1
aud2g.ki        000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f
aud3g.algo      MILENAGE
aud3g.k 000102030405060708090a0b0c0d0e0f
aud3g.opc      101112131415161718191a1b1c1d1e1f
aud3g.ind_bitlen      5
aud3g.sqn      0

```

## 9.2 subscriber.by-\*.ps-enabled, cs-enabled

Disable or enable packet-/circuit-switched access for the given IMSI;

- *ps-enabled* switches access to GPRS or UMTS data services,
- *cs-enabled* switches access to voice services.

When disabled, the next time this subscriber attempts to do a Location Updating GSUP operation for the given domain (i.e. from the SGSN for *ps-enabled*, from the MSC/VLR for *cs-enabled*), it will be rejected by OsmoHLR. Currently connected GSUP clients will be notified via GSUP when a subscriber is being disabled, so that the subscriber can be dropped in case it is currently attached.

The current *ps-enabled/cs-enabled* status can be queried by *GET* commands, and also by looking at *nam\_ps* and *nam\_cs* in a *subscriber.by-\*.info* response.

A value of "1" indicates that the given domain is enabled, which is the default; a value of "0" disables access.

This is an example transcript that illustrates *ps-enabled* and *cs-enabled* commands:

```
GET 1 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.info
GET_REPLY 1 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.info
id      3
imsi    901990000000003
msisdn  103
nam_cs  1
nam_ps  1
ms_purged_cs  0
ms_purged_ps  0
periodic_lu_timer  0
periodic_rau_tau_timer  0
lmsi     00000000

GET 2 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.ps-enabled
GET_REPLY 2 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.ps-enabled 1

SET 3 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.ps-enabled 0
SET_REPLY 3 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.ps-enabled OK

GET 4 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.ps-enabled
GET_REPLY 4 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.ps-enabled 0

GET 5 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.info
GET_REPLY 5 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.info
id      3
imsi    901990000000003
msisdn  103
nam_cs  1
nam_ps  0
ms_purged_cs  0
ms_purged_ps  0
periodic_lu_timer  0
periodic_rau_tau_timer  0
lmsi     00000000

SET 6 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.cs-enabled 0
SET_REPLY 6 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.cs-enabled OK

GET 7 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.cs-enabled
GET_REPLY 7 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.cs-enabled 0

GET 8 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.info
GET_REPLY 8 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.info
```

```

id      3
imsi    901990000000003
msisdn  103
nam_cs  0
nam_ps  0
ms_purged_cs  0
ms_purged_ps  0
periodic_lu_timer      0
periodic_rau_tau_timer 0
lmsi    00000000

SET 9 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.cs-enabled 1
SET_REPLY 9 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.cs-enabled OK
SET 10 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.ps-enabled 1
SET_REPLY 10 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.ps-enabled OK

GET 11 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.info
GET_REPLY 11 subscriber.by-msisdn-103.info
id      3
imsi    901990000000003
msisdn  103
nam_cs  1
nam_ps  1
ms_purged_cs  0
ms_purged_ps  0
periodic_lu_timer      0
periodic_rau_tau_timer 0
lmsi    00000000

```

## 10 Osmocom Control Interface

The VTY interface as described in Section 7 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.

### 10.1 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).

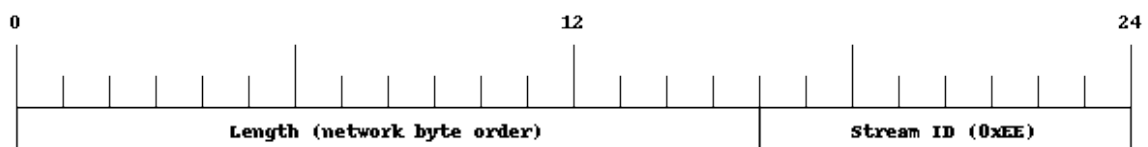


Figure 3: IPA header for control protocol

Inside the IPA header is a single byte of extension header with protocol ID 0x00 which indicates the control interface.

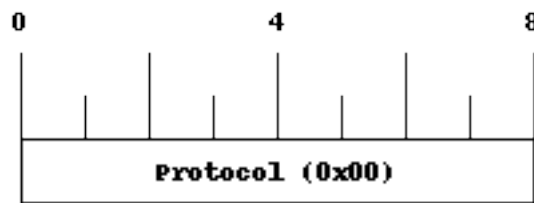


Figure 4: IPA extension header for control protocol

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. 0 is not allowed. 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.

### 10.1.1 GET operation

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

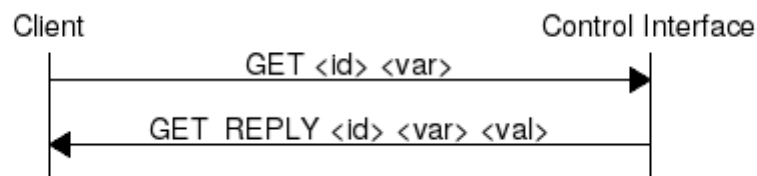


Figure 5: Control Interface GET operation (successful outcome)

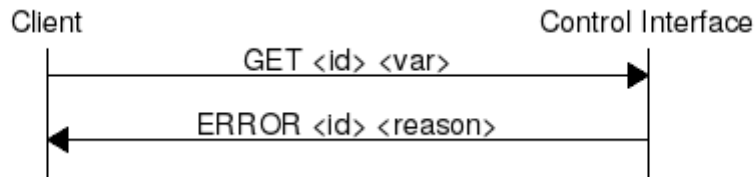


Figure 6: Control Interface GET operation (unsuccessful outcome)

### 10.1.2 SET operation

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

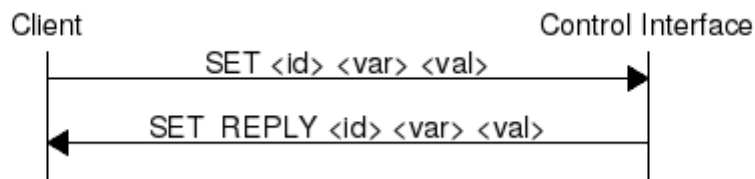


Figure 7: Control Interface SET operation (successful outcome)

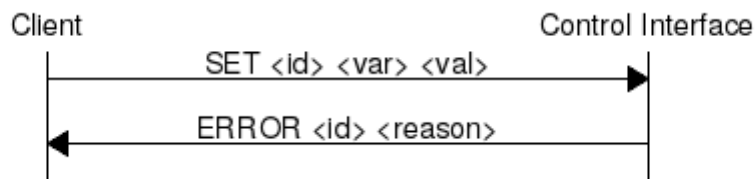


Figure 8: Control Interface SET operation (unsuccessful outcome)

### 10.1.3 TRAP operation

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

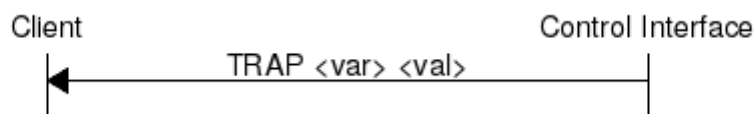


Figure 9: Control Interface TRAP operation

## 10.2 Common variables

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

Table 6: Variables available over control interface

Name	Access	Value	Comment
counter.*	RO		Get counter value.

Table 6: (continued)

Name	Access	Value	Comment
rate_ctr.*	RO		Get list of rate counter groups.
rate_ctr.IN.GN.GI.name	RO		Get value for interval IN of rate counter name which belong to group named GN with index GI.

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 superceded by "rate\_ctr.abs" so its use is discouraged. There might still be some applications not yet converted to rate\_ctr.

### 10.3 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.

#### 10.3.1 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"
"elinp.0","hdlc:abort","0","0","0","0","0"
"elinp.0","hdlc:bad_fcs","0","0","0","0","0"
"elinp.0","hdlc:overrun","0","0","0","0","0"
"elinp.0","alarm","0","0","0","0","0"
"elinp.0","removed","0","0","0","0","0"
"bsc.0","chreq:total","0","0","0","0","0"
"bsc.0","chreq:no_channel","0","0","0","0","0"
```

```
...
"msc.0", "call:active", "0", "0", "0", "0", "0"
"msc.0", "call:complete", "0", "0", "0", "0", "0"
"msc.0", "call:incomplete", "0", "0", "0", "0", "0"
Completed: 44 counters from 3 groups received.
```

### 10.3.2 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
```

### 10.3.3 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
```

### 10.3.4 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
```

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

## 11 Generic Subscriber Update Protocol

### 11.1 General

This chapter describes the remote protocol that is used by OsmoSGSN and OsmoMSC to update and manage the local subscriber list in OsmoHLR. Functionally, it resembles the interface between the SGSN/VLR on the one hand side, and HLR/AUC on the other side.

For more information, see the specification of the Gr interface (3GPP TS 03.60).

Traditionally, the GSM MAP (Mobile Application Part) protocol is used for this purpose, running on top of a full telecom signalling protocol stack of MTP2/MTP3/SCCP/TCAP, or any of the SIGTRAN alternatives.

In order to avoid many of the complexities of MAP, which are difficult to implement in the plain C language environment of the Osmocom cellular network elements like the SGSN, we introduce the GSUP protocol.

The GSUP protocol and the messages are designed after the corresponding MAP messages (see 3GPP TS 09.02) with the following main differences:

- The encoding uses TLV structures instead of ASN.1 BER
- Segmentation is not used, i.e. we rely on the fact that the underlying transport protocol can transport signalling messages of any size.

## 11.2 Connection

The protocol expects that a reliable, ordered, packet boundaries preserving connection is used (e.g. IPA over TCP). The remote peer is either a service that understands the protocol natively or a wrapper service that maps the messages to/from real MAP messages that can be used to directly communicate with an HLR.

## 11.3 Using IPA

By default, the following identifiers should be used:

- IPA Stream ID: 0xEE (OSMO)
- IPA OSMO protocol extension: 0x05

For more information about the IPA multiplex, please see the *OsmoBTS Abis/IP Specification*.

## 11.4 Procedures

### 11.4.1 Authentication management

The SGSN or VLR sends a SEND\_AUTHENTICATION\_INFO\_REQ message containing the MS's IMSI to the peer. On errors, especially if authentication info is not available for that IMSI, the peer returns a SEND\_AUTHENTICATION\_INFO\_ERR message. Otherwise the peer returns a SEND\_AUTHENTICATION\_INFO\_RES message. If this message contains at least one authentication tuple, the SGSN or VLR replaces all tuples that are assigned to the subscriber. If the message doesn't contain any tuple the SGSN or VLR may reject the Attach Request. (see 3GPP TS 09.02, 25.5.6)

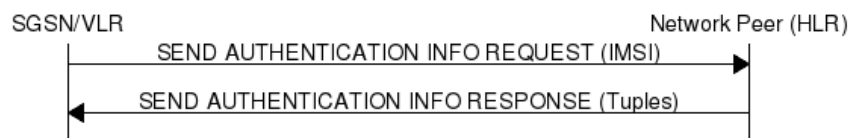


Figure 10: Send Authentication Info (Normal Case)

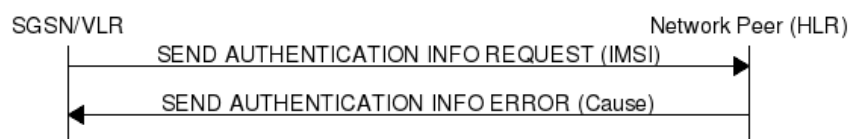


Figure 11: Send Authentication Info (Erroneous Case)

### 11.4.2 Reporting of Authentication Failure

Using this procedure, the SGSN or VLR reports authentication failures to the HLR.



Figure 12: Authentication Failure Report (Normal Case)



### 11.4.3 Location Updating

The SGSN or VLR sends a UPDATE\_LOCATION\_REQ to the peer. If the request is denied by the network, the peer returns an UPDATE\_LOCATION\_ERR message to the SGSN or VLR. Otherwise the peer returns an UPDATE\_LOCATION\_RES message containing all information fields that shall be inserted into the subscriber record. If the *PDP info complete* information element is set in the message, the SGSN or VLR clears existing PDP information fields in the subscriber record first. (see 3GPP TS 09.02, 19.1.1.8)

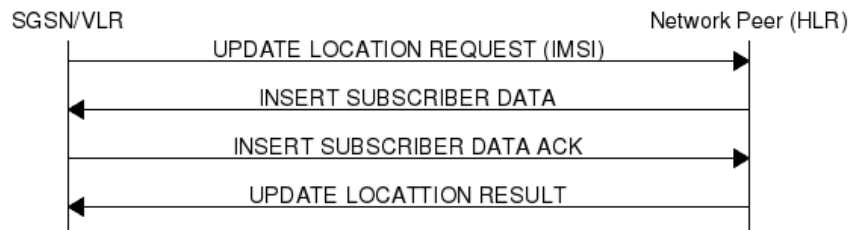


Figure 13: Update Location (Normal Case)

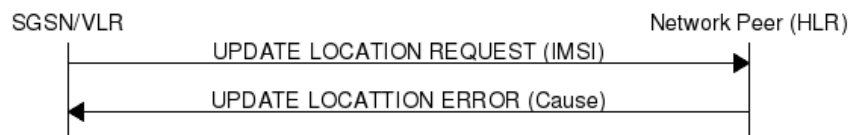


Figure 14: Update Location (Error Case)

### 11.4.4 Location Cancellation

Using the Location Cancellation procedure, the Network Peer (HLR) can request the SGSN or VLR to remove a subscriber record.

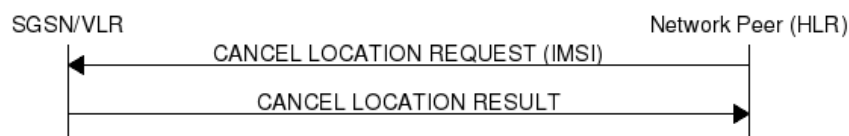


Figure 15: Cancel Location (Normal Case)

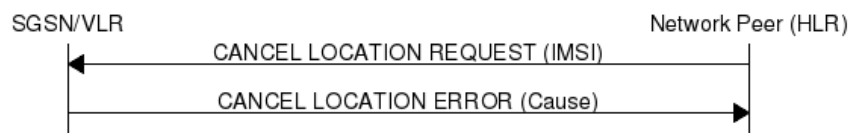


Figure 16: Cancel Location (Error Case)

### 11.4.5 Purge MS

Using the Purge MS procedure, the SGSN or VLR can request purging of MS related state from a previous SGSN or VLR during an inter-SGSN / inter-MSC location update.

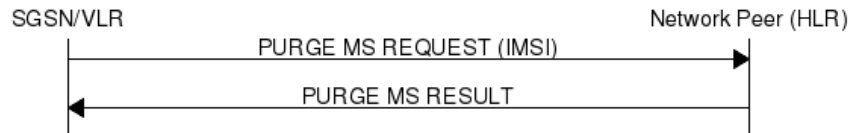


Figure 17: Purge MS (Normal Case)

#### 11.4.6 Delete Subscriber Data

Using the Delete Subscriber Data procedure, the Peer (HLR) can remove some of the subscriber data from the SGSN or VLR. This is used in case the subscription details (e.g. PDP Contexts / APNs) change while the subscriber is registered to that SGSN VLR.

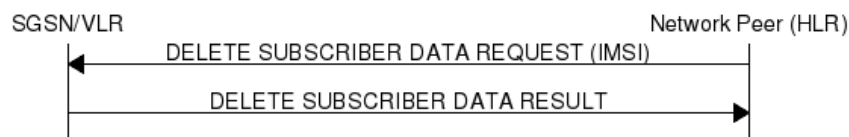


Figure 18: Delete Subscriber Data (Normal Case)

### 11.5 Message Format

#### 11.5.1 General

Every message is based on the following message format

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10

If a numeric range is indicated in the *presence* column, multiple information elements with the same tag may be used in sequence. The information elements shall be sent in the given order. Nevertheless after the generic part the receiver shall be able to received them in any order. Unknown IE shall be ignored.

#### 11.5.2 Send Authentication Info Request

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 11.6.15	O	TLV	3
26	AUTS	Section 11.6.13	C	TLV	18
20	RAND	Section 11.6.7	C	TLV	18

The conditional *AUTS* and *RAND* IEs are both present in case the SIM (via UE) requests an UMTS AKA re-synchronization procedure. Either both optional IEs are present, or none of them.

### 11.5.3 Send Authentication Info Error

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
02	Cause	Section 11.6.25	M	TLV	3

### 11.5.4 Send Authentication Info Response

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
03	Auth Tuple	Section 11.6.6	0-5	TLV	36

### 11.5.5 Authentication Failure Report

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 11.6.15	O	TLV	3

### 11.5.6 Update Location Request

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 11.6.15	O	TLV	3

### 11.5.7 Update Location Error

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
02	Cause	Section 11.6.25	M	TLV	3

### 11.5.8 Update Location Result

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
08	MSISDN	Section 11.6.20	O	TLV	0-9

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
09	HLR Number	Section <a href="#">11.6.24</a>	O	TLV	0-9
04	PDP info complete	Section <a href="#">11.6.18</a>	O	TLV	2
05	PDP info	Section <a href="#">11.6.3</a>	1-10	TLV	

If the PDP info complete IE is present, the old PDP info list shall be cleared.

### 11.5.9 Location Cancellation Request

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section <a href="#">11.6.1</a>	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section <a href="#">11.6.19</a>	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section <a href="#">11.6.15</a>	O	TLV	3
06	Cancellation type	Section <a href="#">11.6.16</a>	O	TLV	3

### 11.5.10 Location Cancellation Result

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section <a href="#">11.6.1</a>	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section <a href="#">11.6.19</a>	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section <a href="#">11.6.15</a>	O	TLV	3

### 11.5.11 Purge MS Request

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section <a href="#">11.6.1</a>	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section <a href="#">11.6.19</a>	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section <a href="#">11.6.15</a>	O	TLV	3
09	HLR Number	Section <a href="#">11.6.24</a>	M	TLV	0-9

### 11.5.12 Purge MS Error

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section <a href="#">11.6.1</a>	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section <a href="#">11.6.19</a>	M	TLV	2-10
02	Cause	Section <a href="#">11.6.25</a>	M	TLV	3

### 11.5.13 Purge MS Result

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section <a href="#">11.6.1</a>	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section <a href="#">11.6.19</a>	M	TLV	2-10
07	Freeze P-TMSI	Section <a href="#">11.6.18</a>	M	TLV	2

**11.5.14 Insert Subscriber Data Request**

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 11.6.15	O	TLV	3
08	MSISDN	Section 11.6.20	O	TLV	0-9
09	HLR Number	Section 11.6.24	O	TLV	0-9
04	PDP info complete	Section 11.6.18	M	TLV	2
05	PDP info	Section 11.6.3	0-10	TLV	
14	PDP-Charging Characteristics	Section 11.6.23	O	TLV	4

If the PDP info complete IE is present, the old PDP info list shall be cleared.

**11.5.15 Insert Subscriber Data Error**

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
02	Cause	Section 11.6.25	M	TLV	3

**11.5.16 Insert Subscriber Data Result**

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10

**11.5.17 Delete Subscriber Data Request**

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 11.6.15	O	TLV	3
10	PDP context id	Section 11.6.3 (no conditional IE)	0-10	TLV	

**11.5.18 Delete Subscriber Data Error**

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 11.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 11.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
02	Cause	Section 11.6.25	M	TLV	3

### 11.5.19 Delete Subscriber Data Result

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section <a href="#">11.6.1</a>	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section <a href="#">11.6.19</a>	M	TLV	2-10

## 11.6 Information Elements

### 11.6.1 Message Type

Type	Description
0x04	Update Location Request
0x05	Update Location Error
0x06	Update Location Result
0x08	Send Auth Info Request
0x09	Send Auth Info Error
0x0a	Send Auth Info Result
0x0b	Authentication Failure Report
0x0c	Purge MS Request
0x0d	Purge MS Error
0x0e	Purge MS Result
0x10	Insert Subscriber Data Request
0x11	Insert Subscriber Data Error
0x12	Insert Subscriber Data Result
0x14	Delete Subscriber Data Request
0x15	Delete Subscriber Data Error
0x16	Delete Subscriber Data Result
0x1c	Location Cancellation Request
0x1d	Location Cancellation Error
0x1e	Location Cancellation Result

### 11.6.2 IP Address

The value part is encoded like in the Packet data protocol address IE defined in 3GPP TS 04.08, Chapter 10.5.6.4. PDP type organization must be set to *IETF allocated address*.

### 11.6.3 PDP Info

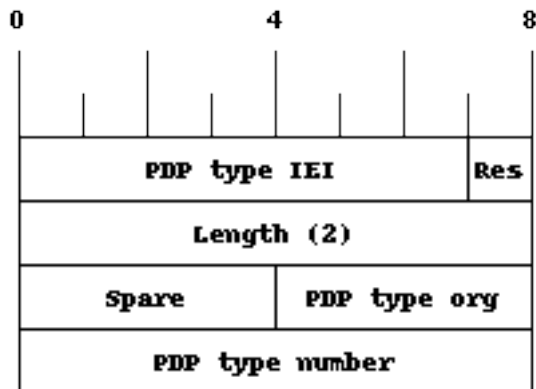
This is a container for information elements describing a single PDP.

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	PDP Info IEI	Section <a href="#">11.6.17</a>	M	V	1
	Length of PDP Info IE		M	V	1
10	PDP Context ID	Section <a href="#">11.6.5</a>	C	TLV	3
11	PDP Type	Section <a href="#">11.6.4</a>	C	TLV	4
12	Access Point Name	Section <a href="#">11.6.21</a>	C	TLV	3-102
13	Quality of Service	Section <a href="#">11.6.22</a>	O	TLV	1-20
14	PDP-Charging Characteristics	Section <a href="#">11.6.23</a>	O	TLV	4

The conditional IE are mandatory unless mentioned otherwise.

#### 11.6.4 PDP Type

The PDP type value consists of 2 octets that are encoded like octet 4-5 of the End User Address defined in 3GPP TS 09.60, 7.9.18.



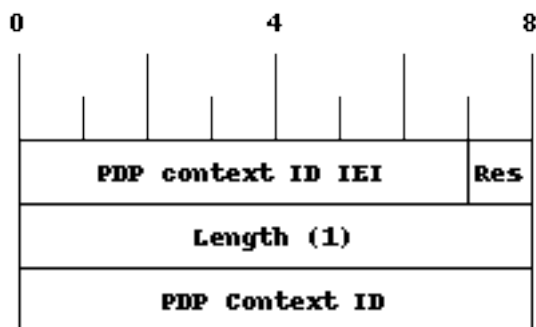
The spare bits are left undefined. While 09.60 defines them as *1111*, there are MAP traces where these bits are set to *0000*. So the receiver shall ignore these bits.

Examples:

- IPv4: PDP type org: 1 (IETF), PDP type number: 0x21
- IPv6: PDP type org: 1 (IETF), PDP type number: 0x57

#### 11.6.5 PDP Context ID

The PDP type context ID IE consists of a single integer byte wrapped in a TLV.



### 11.6.6 Auth tuple

This is a container for information elements describing a single authentication tuple.

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Auth Tuple IEI	Section <a href="#">11.6.17</a>	M	V	1
	Length of Auth Tuple IE		M	V	1
20	RAND	Section <a href="#">11.6.7</a>	M	TLV	18
21	SRES	Section <a href="#">11.6.8</a>	M	TLV	6
22	Kc	Section <a href="#">11.6.9</a>	M	TLV	10
23	IK	Section <a href="#">11.6.10</a>	C	TLV	18
24	CK	Section <a href="#">11.6.11</a>	C	TLV	18
25	AUTN	Section <a href="#">11.6.12</a>	C	TLV	18
27	RES	Section <a href="#">11.6.14</a>	C	TLV	2-18

The conditional IEs *IK*, *CK*, *AUTN* and *RES* are only present in case the subscriber supports UMTS AKA.

### 11.6.7 RAND

The 16-byte Random Challenge of the GSM Authentication Algorithm.

### 11.6.8 SRES

The 4-byte Authentication Result of the GSM Authentication Algorithm.

### 11.6.9 Kc

The 8-byte Encryption Key of the GSM Authentication and Key Agreement Algorithm.

### 11.6.10 IK

The 16-byte Integrity Protection Key generated by the UMTS Authentication and Key Agreement Algorithm.

### 11.6.11 CK

The 16-byte Ciphering Key generated by the UMTS Authentication and Key Agreement Algorithm.

### 11.6.12 AUTN

The 16-byte Authentication Nonce sent from network to USIM in the UMTS Authentication and Key Agreement Algorithm.

### 11.6.13 AUTS

The 14-byte Authentication Synchronization Nonce generated by the USIM in case the UMTS Authentication and Key Agreement Algorithm needs to re-synchronize the sequence counters between AUC and USIM.

### 11.6.14 RES

The (variable length, but typically 16 byte) Authentication Result generated by the USIM in the UMTS Authentication and Key Agreement Algorithm.



### 11.6.15 CN Domain

This single-byte information element indicates the Core Network Domain, i.e. if the message is related to Circuit Switched or Packet Switched services.

For backwards compatibility reasons, if no CN Domain IE is present within a request, the PS Domain is assumed.

Table 7: CN Domain Number

Type	Description
0x01	PS Domain
0x02	CS Domain

### 11.6.16 Cancellation Type

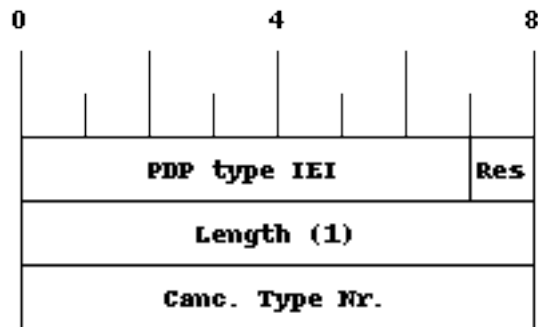


Table 8: Cancellation Type Number

Number	Description
0x00	Update Procedure
0x01	Subscription Withdrawn

### 11.6.17 IE Identifier (informational)

These are the standard values for the IEI. See the message definitions for the IEI that shall be used for the encoding.

Table 9: GSUP IE Identifiers

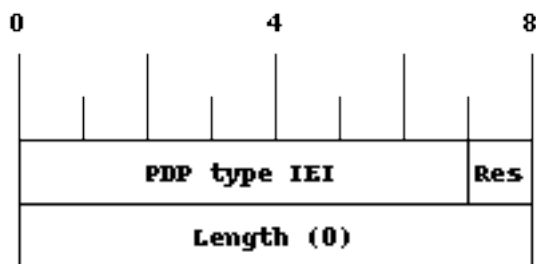
IEI	Info Element	Type / Encoding
0x01	IMSI	Mobile Identity, 3GPP TS 04.08 Ch. 10.5.1.4
0x02	Cause	Section 11.6.25
0x03	Auth Tuple	Section 11.6.6
0x04	PDP Info Compl	Section 11.6.18

Table 9: (continued)

<b>IEI</b>	<b>Info Element</b>	<b>Type / Encoding</b>
0x05	PDP Info	Section 11.6.3
0x06	Cancel Type	Section 11.6.16
0x07	Freeze P-TMSI	Section 11.6.18
0x08	MSISDN	ISDN-AddressString/octet, Section 11.6.20
0x09	HLR Number	Section 11.6.24
0x10	PDP Context ID	Section 11.6.5
0x11	PDP Type	Section 11.6.4
0x12	Access Point Name	Section 11.6.21
0x13	QoS	Section 11.6.22
0x14	PDP-Charging Characteristics	Section 11.6.23
0x20	RAND	Section 11.6.7
0x21	SRES	Section 11.6.8
0x22	Kc	Section 11.6.9
0x23	IK	Section 11.6.10
0x24	CK	Section 11.6.11
0x25	AUTN	Section 11.6.12
0x26	AUTS	Section 11.6.13
0x27	RES	Section 11.6.14
0x28	CN Domain	Section 11.6.15

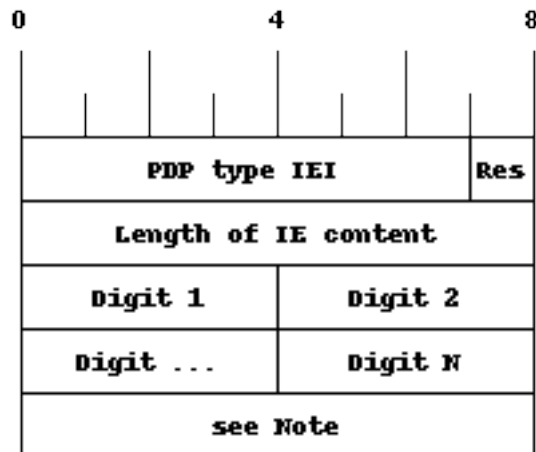
### 11.6.18 Empty field

This is used for flags, if and only if this IE is present, the flag is set. The semantics depend on the IEI and the context.



### 11.6.19 IMSI

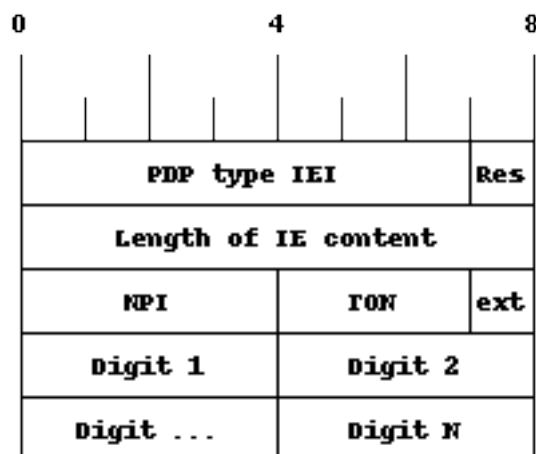
The IMSI is encoded like in octet 4-N of the Called Party BCD Number defined in 3GPP TS 04.08, 10.5.4.7.

**Note**

Either 1 1 1 1 | Number digit N (N odd) or Number digit N | Number digit N-1 (N even), where N is the number of digits.

**11.6.20 ISDN-AddressString / MSISDN / Called Party BCD Number**

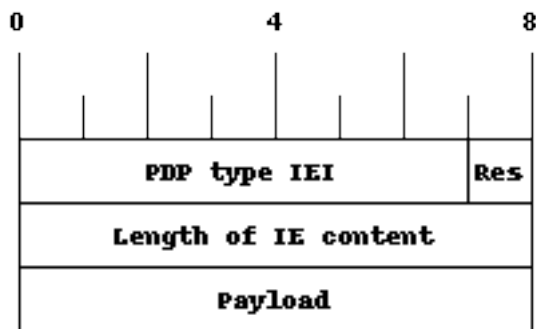
The MSISDN is encoded as an ISDN-AddressString in 3GPP TS 09.02 and Called Party BCD Number in 3GPP TS 04.08. It will be stored by the SGSN or VLR and then passed as is to the GGSN during the activation of the primary PDP Context.

**11.6.21 Access Point Name**

This encodes the Access Point Name of a PDP Context. The encoding is defined in 3GPP TS 23.003.

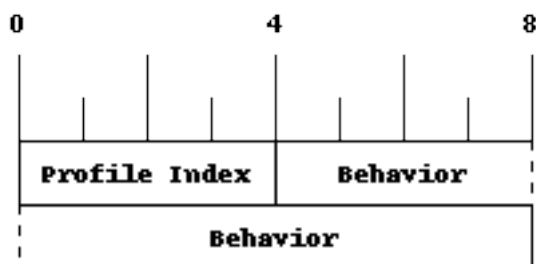
### 11.6.22 Quality of Service Subscribed Service

This encodes the subscribed QoS of a subscriber. It will be used by the SGSN during the PDP Context activation. If the length of the QoS data is 3 (three) octets it is assumed that these are octets 3-5 of the TS 3GPP TS 24.008 Quality of Service Octets. If it is more than three then then it is assumed that the first octet is the Allocation/Retention Priority and the reset are encoded as octets 3-N of 24.008.



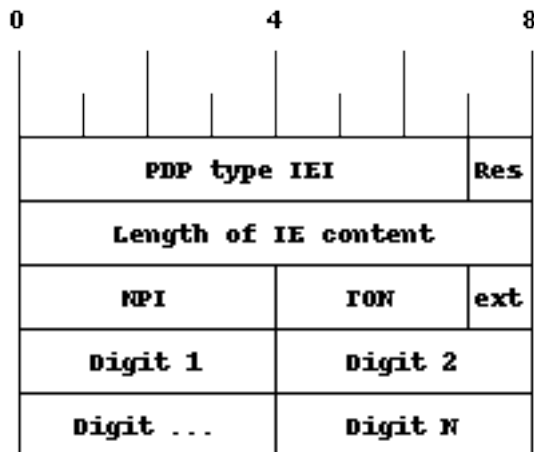
### 11.6.23 PDP-Charging Characteristics

This encodes the ChargingCharacteristics of 3GPP TS 32.215. A HLR may send this as part of the InsertSubscriberData or within a single PDP context definition. If the HLR supplies this information it must be used by the SGSN or VLR when activating a PDP context.



### 11.6.24 HLR Number encoded as 3GPP TS 09.02 ISDN-AddressString

The HLR Number is encoded as an ISDN-AddressString in 3GPP TS 09.02. It will be stored by the SGSN or VLR can be used by the CDR module to keep a record.



### 11.6.25 Cause

This IE shall be encoded according to the *GMM Cause* as described in Chapter 10.5.5.14 of 3GPP TS 04.08.

## 12 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

**dvnixload**

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

**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

**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

**MF**

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 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

**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 10: 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

Table 10: (continued)

L4 Protocol	Port Number	Purpose	Software
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

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