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OsmoMSC User Manual

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

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Contents

1 Foreword

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It has been a most exciting ride during the last eight-odd years. I would not have wanted to miss it under any circumstances.

— Harald Welte, Osmocom.org and OpenBSC founder, December 2017.

1.1 Acknowledgements

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

- Dieter Spaar for being the most amazing reverse engineer I've met in my career
- Holger Freyther for his many code contributions and for shouldering a lot of the maintenance work, setting up Jenkins - and being crazy enough to co-start sysmocom as a company with me ;)
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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!

2.4.2 Software License

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

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

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

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

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

2.4.3 Trademarks

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2.4.5 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 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 OsmoMSC. It will cover aspects of configuring and running the OsmoMSC.

4.1 About OsmoMSC

OsmoMSC is the Osmocom implementation of a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) for 2G and 3G GSM and UMTS mobile networks. Its interfaces are:

- GSUP towards OsmoHLR (or a MAP proxy);
- A over IP towards a BSC (e.g. OsmoBSC);
- IuCS towards an RNC or HNB-GW (e.g. OsmoHNBGW) for 3G voice;
- MNCC (Mobile Network Call Control derived from GSM TS 04.07);
- SMPP 3.4 (Short Message Peer-to-Peer);
- The Osmocom typical telnet VTY and CTRL interfaces.

OsmoMSC originated from the OpenBSC project, which started as a minimalistic all-in-one implementation of the GSM Network. In 2017, OpenBSC had reached maturity and diversity (including M3UA SIGTRAN and 3G support in the form of IuCS and IuPS interfaces) that naturally lead to a separation of the all-in-one approach to fully independent separate programs as in typical GSM networks. Before it was split off, OsmoMSC originated from libmsc of the old openbsc.git. Since a true *A* interface and IuCS for 3G support is available, OsmoMSC exists only as a separate standalone entity.

Key differences of the new OsmoMSC compared to the old OsmoNITB are:

- The complete VLR implementation that communicates with the separate HLR (OsmoHLR) for subscriber management. In contrast to the OsmoNITB, HLR queries are fully asynchronous, and 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.
- Addition of a true *A* interface for 2G voice services. Previously, OsmoBSC had an SCCPlite based *A* interface towards 3rd party MSC implementations. OsmoMSC features a true SCCP/M3UA *A* interface, which allows running OsmoBSC against this Osmocom based MSC implementation. The new SCCP/M3UA SIGTRAN for the *A* interface is implemented in libosmo-sccp, which is used by OsmoMSC and OsmoBSC (and others), to establish a link via an STP (e.g. OsmoSTP).
- Addition of an *IuCS* interface to allow operating 3G voice services, also via SCCP/M3UA SIGTRAN, for example connecting via OsmoHNBGW to a 3G small cell device.

Find the OsmoMSC issue tracker and wiki online at

- https://osmocom.org/projects/osmomsc
- https://osmocom.org/projects/osmomsc/wiki

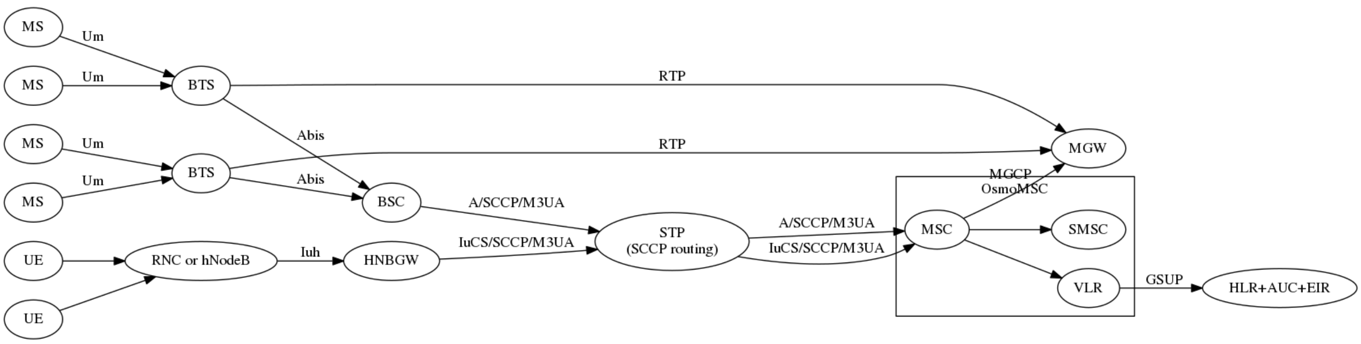


Figure 1: Typical GSM network architecture used with OsmoMSC

4.2 Software Components

This is a brief description of OsmoMSC's internal software components.

4.2.1 SMSC

A minimal store-and-forward server for SMS, supporting both MO and MT SMS service, as well as multi-part messages.

The built-in SMSC also supports an external SMSC interface. For more information, see Section 11.

4.2.2 MSC

The MSC component implements the mobility management (MM) functions of the TS 04.08 and delegates to SMSC for SMS message handling and the VLR for subscriber management.

Furthermore, it can handle TS 04.08 Call Control (CC), either by use of an internal MNCC handler, or by use of an external MNCC agent. For more information see Section 12.

4.2.3 VLR

A fully featured Visitor Location Register handles the subscriber management and authentication, and interfaces via GSUP to the external HLR.

5 Running OsmoMSC

The OsmoMSC executable (`osmo-msc`) offers the following command-line arguments:

5.1 SYNOPSIS

osmo-msc [-h|-V] [-d *DBGMASK*] [-D] [-c *CONFIGFILE*] [-s] [-T] [-e *LOGLEVEL*] [-l *DATABASE*] [-M *SOCKETPATH*] [-C]

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 9 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 9 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 9 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 9 for more information.

-l, --database *DATABASE*
Specify the file name of the SQLite3 database to use as SMS storage

-M, --mncc-sock-path
Enable the MNCC socket for an external MNCC handler. See Section 12 for further information.

-m, --mncc-sock
Same as option -M (deprecated).

-C, --no-dbcounter
Disable the regular periodic synchronization of statistics counters to the database.

5.3 Multiple instances

Running multiple instances of `osmo-msc` 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
```

If external SMPP is enabled, you may bind it to a different interface using:

```
smpp
 local-tcp-ip 10.23.42.1 2775
```

More on SMPP configuration in [?].

The external MNCC handler is configured by the `--mncc-sock` commandline argument. Choose a different such socket path for each OsmoMSC instance running on the same file system. See more in Section 12.2.

For the following links, OsmoMSC acts as a client and does not listen/bind to a specific interface, and will hence not encounter conflicts for multiple instances running on the same interface:

- The SCCP/M3UA links are established by OsmoMSC contacting an STP.
- The GSUP link is established by OsmoMSC contacting an HLR.

5.4 Configure primary links

5.4.1 Configure SCCP/M3UA to accept *A* and *IuCS* links

OsmoMSC will contact an STP instance to establish an SCCP/M3UA link. BSC and HNBGW will then reach the MSC via this link. By default, an STP instance is assumed to listen on the default M3UA port (2905) on the local host.

Establishing an SCCP/M3UA link towards an STP instance not on the local host can be configured as follows:

```
cs7 instance 0
 asp my-OsmoMSC 2905 0 m3ua
  ! IP address of the remote STP:
  remote-ip 10.23.24.1
```

Note that *A* and *IuCS* may use different SCCP instances, if so desired:

```
cs7 instance 0
 asp my-OsmoMSC-A 2905 0 m3ua
  remote-ip 10.23.42.1
cs7 instance 1
 asp my-OsmoMSC-Iu 2905 0 m3ua
  remote-ip 10.23.42.2
msc
 cs7-instance-a 0
 cs7-instance-iu 1
```

A full configuration needs an `asp` on an `as` — an Application Server Process running on an Application Server — as well as a local point code and routing configuration. The SCCP VTY automatically creates those parts that are missing, by assuming sane defaults. A complete configuration would look like this:

```
cs7 instance 0
 point-code 0.23.1
 asp my-OsmoMSC-A-Iu 2905 0 m3ua
  remote-ip 127.0.0.1
 as my-as-for-OsmoMSC-A-Iu m3ua
  asp my-OsmoMSC-A-Iu
  routing-key 0 0.23.1
```

5.4.2 Configure GSUP to reach the HLR

OsmoMSC will assume a GSUP server (OsmoHLR) to run on the local host and the default GSUP port (4222). Contacting an HLR at a different IP address can be configured as follows:

```
hlr
 ! IP address of the remote HLR:
 remote-ip 10.23.42.1
 ! default port is 4222, optionally configurable by:
 remote-port 1234
```

6 Control interface

The actual protocol is described in Section 13, the variables common to all programs using it are described in Section 13.2. This section describes the CTRL interface variables specific to OsmoMSC.

Table 1: Variables available on OsmoMSC's Control interface

Name	Access	Trap	Value	Comment
subscriber-list-active-v1	RO	No		Return list of active subscribers.

6.1 subscriber-list-active-v1

Return a list of subscribers that are successfully attached (including full successful authentication and ciphering if those are enabled).

The reply comprises of one subscriber per line, of the format

```
<IMSI>,<MSISDN>\n[<IMSI>,<MSISDN>\n[...]]
```

For example:

```
901700000015252,22801
901700000015253,22802
```

7 Counters

These counters and their description based on OsmoMSC UNKNOWN (OsmoMSC).

Table 2: msc - mobile switching center

Name	**Reference**	**Description**
loc_update_type:attach	[?]	Received location update imsi attach requests.
loc_update_type:normal	[?]	Received location update normal requests.
loc_update_type:periodic	[?]	Received location update periodic requests.
loc_update_type:detach	[?]	Received location update detach indication.
loc_update_resp:failed	[?]	Rejected location updates.
loc_update_resp:completed	[?]	Successful location updates.
sms:submitted	[?]	Received a RPDU from a MS (MO).
sms:no_receiver	[?]	Counts SMS which couldn't routed because no receiver found.
sms:delivered	[?]	Global SMS Deliver attempts.
sms:rp_err_mem	[?]	CAUSE_MT_MEM_EXCEEDED errors of MS responses on a sms deliver attempt.
sms:rp_err_other	[?]	Other error of MS responses on a sms delive attempt.
sms:deliver_unknown_error	[?]	Unknown error occured during sms delivery.
call:mo_setup	[?]	Received setup requests from a MS to init a MO call.
call:mo_connect_ack	[?]	Received a connect ack from MS of a MO call. Call is now succesful connected up.
call:mt_setup	[?]	Sent setup requests to the MS (MT).
call:mt_connect	[?]	Sent a connect to the MS (MT).
call:active	[?]	Count total amount of calls that ever reached active state.
call:complete	[?]	Count total amount of calls which got terminated by disconnect req or ind after reaching active state.
call:incomplete	[?]	Count total amount of call which got terminated by any other reason after reaching active state.

Table 3: ungrouped osmo counters

Name	Reference	Description
msc.active_calls	[?]	

8 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 4: 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

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

8.3 Interactive help

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

> **Note**
> The VTY is present on most Osmocom GSM/UMTS/GPRS software, thus this chapter is present in all the relevant manuals. The detailed examples below assume you are executing them on the OsmoNITB VTY. They will work in similar fashion on the other VTY interfaces, while the node structure will differ in each program.

8.3.1 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
  e1_driver      Display information about available E1 drivers
  e1_line        Display information about a E1 line
  e1_timeslot    Display information about a E1 timeslot
  subscriber     Operations on a Subscriber
  statistics     Display network statistics
  sms-queue      Display SMSqueue statistics
  smpp           SMPP Interface
```

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

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

Example: Typing ? after show network

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

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

8.3.2 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
```

1 Type `<tab>` here.

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

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

```
OpenBSC> show 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
```

1 Type `<tab>` here.

8.3.3 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|lsms|lctrl|lgtp| ↩
     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|sdcch)
  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>
```

9 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.

9.1 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 a list of categories interactively on the vty, type: `logging level ?`

9.2 Log levels

For each of the log categories (see Section 9.1), 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`.

9.3 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`

9.4 Log targets

Each of the log targets represent certain destination for log messages. It can be configured independently by selecting levels (see Section 9.2) for categories (see Section 9.1) as well as filtering (see Section 9.3) and other options like `logging timestamp` for example.

9.4.1 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 9.1 for more details on categories and Section 9.2 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 9.3.

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`

9.4.2 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.

9.4.3 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 intersperced 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.

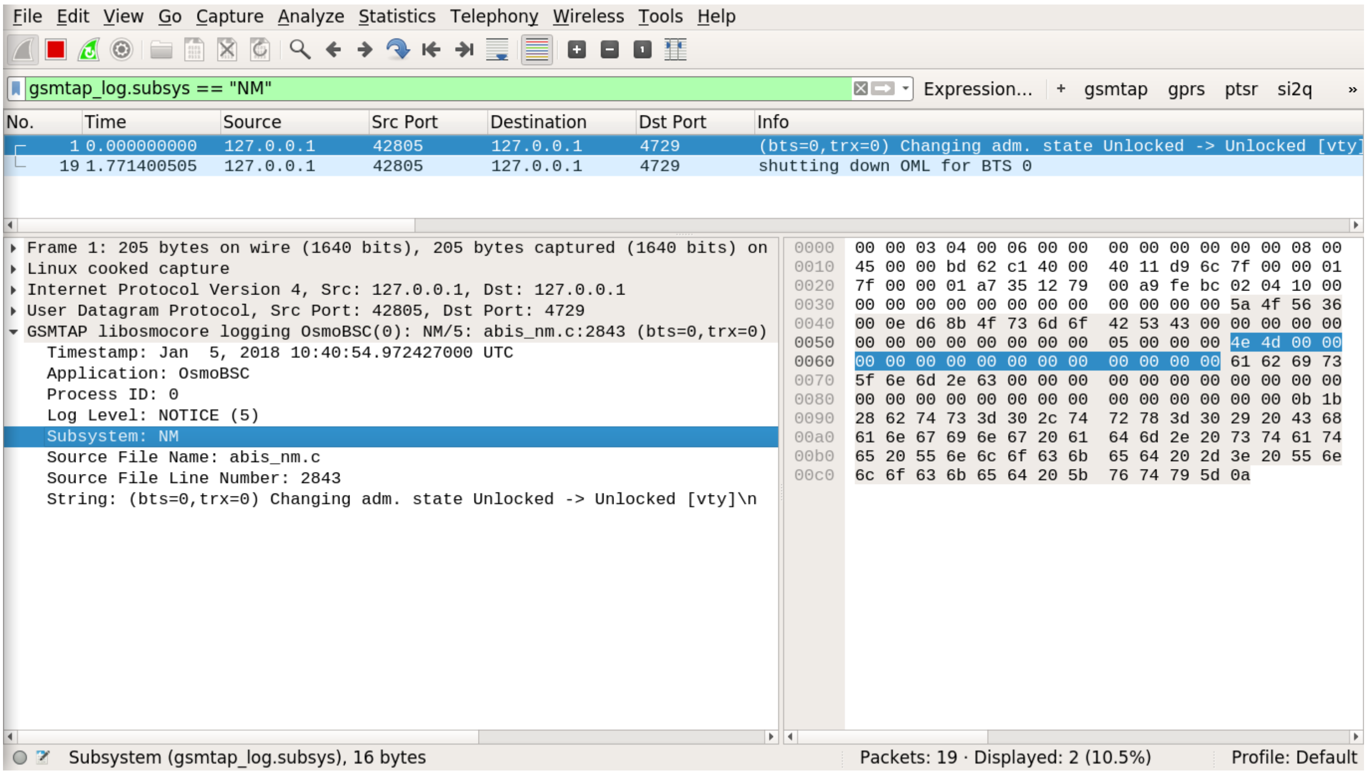


Figure 2: Wireshark with logs delivered over GSMTAP

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 descrease 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
```

9.4.4 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.

9.4.5 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.

9.4.6 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)#
```

10 Configuring the Core Network

The core network parameters are configured by the config file (as in `osmo-msc -c osmo-msc.cfg`). The config file is parsed by the VTY, which is also available via telnet in the running `osmo-msc` instance. Be aware that even though you may be able to change these parameters without restarting `osmo-msc`, some may not take immediate effect, and it is safest to use the config file to have these parameters set at startup time.

The core network parameters are found in the `config` / `network`.

A full reference to the available commands can be found in the *OsmoMSC VTY reference manual* [vty-ref-osmomsc]. This section describes only the most commonly used settings.

Here is an overview of the config items, described in more detail below:

```
network
 network country code 262
 mobile network code 89
 mm info 1
 short name OsmoMSC
 long name OsmoMSC
 authentication required
 encryption a5 3
```

Tip

Use the telnet VTY interface to query the current configuration of a running `osmo-msc` process:

```
$ telnet localhost 4254
OsmoMSC> enable
OsmoMSC# show running-config
```

Some parameters may be changed without restarting `osmo-msc`. To reach the `network` node, enter:

```
OsmoMSC> enable
OsmoMSC# configure terminal
OsmoMSC(config)# network
OsmoMSC(config-net)# short name Example-Name
OsmoMSC(config-net)# exit
OsmoMSC(config)#
```

The telnet VTY features tab-completion as well as context sensitive help shown when entering a `?` question mark.
You can always use the `list` VTY command or enter `?` on the blank prompt to get a list of all possible commands at the current node.

10.1 MCC/MNC

The key identities of every GSM PLMN is the Mobile Country Code and the Mobile Network Code. They are identical over the entire network. In most cases, the MCC/MNC will be allocated to the operator by the respective local regulatory authority. For example, to set the MCC/MNC of 262-89, have this in your osmo-msc.cfg:

```
network
 network country code 262
 mobile network code 89
```

10.2 Configuring MM INFO

The *MM INFO* procedure can be used after a successful *LOCATION UPDATE* in order to transmit the human-readable network name as well as local time zone information to the MS. By default, *MM INFO* is not active, i.e. `0`. Set to `1` to activate this feature:

```
network
 mm info 1
 short name OsmoMSC
 long name OsmoMSC
```

Note
Not all phones support the MM INFO procedure. If a phone is not factory-programmed to contain the name for your MCC/MNC, it will likely only provide a numeric display of the network name, such as *262-89*, or show the country code transformed into a letter, such as *D 89*.

The time information transmitted is determined by the local system time of the operating system on which OsmoMSC is running.

10.3 Authentication

Authorized subscribers must be entered in the HLR database, see the *OsmoHLR reference manual* [userman-osmohlr]. If authentication tokens (such as KI for 2G, or K and OP/OPC for UMTS) are present in the HLR, OsmoMSC will only attach a subscriber after successful authentication.

If no authentication keys are present in the HLR for a given subscriber, OsmoMSC will attach the subscriber *without* authentication. You can reject subscribers that lack authentication info in the HLR with this setting:

```
network
 authentication required
```

10.4 Ciphering

To enable ciphering on the radio link, authentication must take place first: the Kc resulting from authentication is the key used for ciphering. Hence, all subscribers must have authentication tokens available in the HLR for ciphering.

The MS, BTS and MSC must agree on a ciphering algorithm to use.

- The MS sends its supported ciphering algorithms via Classmark IEs during Location Updating.
- Typically the BSC needs to know which A5 ciphers are supported by connected BTSes.
- Finally, OsmoMSC may impose that specific A5 ciphers shall not be considered.

It is the responsibility of the BSC to then pick an A5 cipher that satisfies all requirements.

- In OsmoMSC, A5/0 means that ciphering is turned off.

  ```
  network
   encryption a5 0
  ```

- A5/1 and A5/3 are currently supported by Osmocom.

  ```
  network
   encryption a5 3
  ```

- Never use A5/2: it is an "export grade cipher" and has been deprecated for its low ciphering strength.

Note
At the time of writing, OsmoMSC supports setting only a single A5 cipher, while it should be able to allow a set of ciphers. This is subject to ongoing development.

11 Short Message Peer to Peer (SMPP)

The *Short Message Peer to Peer (SMPP) Protocol* [smpp-34] has been used for the communication with SMSCs. Osmocom implements version 3.4 of the protocol. Using this interface one can send MT-SMS to an attached subscriber or receive unrouted MO-SMS.

SMPP is served by the Osmocom MSC layer (both in the old OsmoNITB as well as the new OsmoMSC.

SMPP describes a situation where multiple ESMEs (External SMS Entities) interact with a SMSC (SMS Service Center) via the SMPP protocol. Each entity is identified by its System Id. The System ID is a character string which is configured by the system administrator.

OsmoMSC implements the SMSC side of SMPP and subsequently acts as a TCP server accepting incoming connections from ESME client programs.

Each ESME identifies itself to the SMSC with its system-id and an optional shared password.

11.1 Global SMPP configuration

There is a `smpp` vty node at the top level of the OsmoMSC configuration. Under this node, the global SMPP configuration is performed.

Use the `local-tcp-ip` command to define the TCP IP and port at which the OsmoMSC internal SMSC should listen for incoming SMPP connections. The default behaviour is to listen on all IPs (0.0.0.0), and the default port assigned to SMPP is 2775.

Use the `system-id` command to define the System ID of the SMSC.

Use the `policy` parameter to define whether only explicitly configured ESMEs are permitted to access the SMSC (`closed`), or whether any ESME should be accepted (`accept-all`).

Use the `smpp-first` command to define if SMPP routes have higher precedence than MSISDNs contained in the HLR (`smpp-first`), or if only MSISDNs found not in the HLR should be considered for routing to SMPP (`no smpp-first`).

11.2 ESME configuration

Under the `smpp` vty node, you can add any number of `esme` nodes, one for each ESME that you wish to configure.

Use the `esme NAME` command (where NAME corresponds to the system-id of the ESME to be configured) under the SMPP vty node to enter the configuration node for this given ESME.

Use the `password` command to specify the password (if any) for the ESME.

Use the `default-route` command to indicate that any MO-SMS without a more specific route should be routed to this ESME.

Use the `deliver-src-imsi` command to indicate that the SMPP DELIVER messages for MO SMS and the SMPP ALERT should state the IMSI (rather than the MSISDN) as source address.

Use the `osmocom-extensions` command to request that Osmocom specific extension TLVs shall be included in the SMPP PDUs. Those extensions include the ARFCN of the cell, the L1 transmit power of the MS, the timing advance, the uplink and dwnlink RxLev and RxQual, as well as the IMEI of the terminal at the time of generating the SMPP DELIVER PDU.

Use the `dcs-transparent` command to transparently pass the DCS value from the SMS Layer3 protocols to SMPP, instead of converting them to the SMPP-specific values.

Use the `route prefix` command to specify a route towards this ESME. Using routes, you specify which destination MSISDNs should be routed towards your ESME.

11.3 Example configuration snippet

The following example configuration snippet shows a single ESME *galactica* with a prefix-route of all national numbers stating with 2342:

```
smpp
 local-tcp-port 2775
 policy closed
 no smpp-first
 esme galactica
  password SoSayWeAll
  deliver-src-imsi
  osmocom-extensions
   route prefix national isdn 2342
```

11.4 Osmocom SMPP protocol extensions

Osmocom has implemented some extensions to the SMPP v3.4 protocol.

These extensions can be enabled using the `osmocom-extensions` VTY command at `esme` level.

The TLV definitions can be found in the `<osmocom/gsm/protocol/smpp34_osmocom.h>` header file provided by libosmocore.

11.4.1 RF channel measuremets

When the Osmocom SMPP extensions are enabled, we add the following TLVs to each SMPP DELIVER PDU:

TLV	IEI	Length (Octets)	Purpose
TLVID_osmo_arfcn	0x2300	2	GSM ARFCN of the radio interface
TLVID_osmo_ta	0x2301	1	Timing Advance on the radio interface
TLVID_osmo_ms_l1_txpwr	0x2307	1	Transmit Power of the MS in uplink direction
TLVID_osmo_rxlev_ul	0x2302	2	Uplink receive level as measured by BTS in dBm (int16_t)
TLVID_osmo_rxqual_ul	0x2303	1	Uplink RxQual value as measured by BTS
TLVID_osmo_rxlev_dl	0x2304	2	Downlink receive level as measured by MS in dBm (int16_t)
TLVID_osmo_rxqual_dl	0x2305	1	Downlink RxQual value as measured by MS

All of the above values reflect the **last measurement report** as recieved vi A-bis RSL from the BTS. It is thus a snapshot value (of the average within one 480ms SACCH period), and not an average over all the SACCH periods during which the channel was open or the SMS was received. Not all measurement reports contain all the values. So you might not get an TLVID_osmo_rxlev_dl IE, as that particular uplink frame might habe benn lost for the given snapshot we report.

11.4.2 Equipment IMEI

If we know the IMEI of the subscribers phone, we add the following TLV to each SMPP DELIVER PDU:

TLV	IEI	Length	Purpose
TLVID_osmo_imei	0x2306	variable	IMEI of the subscibers phone (ME)

12 MNCC for External Call Control

The 3GPP GSM specifications define an interface point (service access point) inside the MSC between the call-control part and the rest of the system. This service access point is called the MNCC-SAP. It is described in *3GPP TS 24.007* [3gpp-ts-24-007] Chapter 7.1.

However, like for all internal interfaces, 3GPP does not give any specific encoding for the primitives passed at this SAP.

The MNCC protocol has been created by the Osmocom community and allows to control the call handling and audio processing by an external application. The interface is currently exposed using Unix Domain Sockets. The protocol is defined in the `mncc.h` header file.

It is exposed by the Osmocom MSC layer (both in the old OsmoNITB as well as the new OsmoMSC.

OsmoMSC can run in two different modes:

1. with internal MNCC handler
2. with external MNCC handler

12.1 Internal MNCC handler

When the internal MNCC handler is enabled, OsmoMSC will switch voice calls between GSM subscribers internally and automatically based on the the subscribers *extension* number. No external software is required.

Note
Internal MNCC is the default behavior.

12.1.1 Internal MNCC Configuration

The internal MNCC handler offers some configuration parameters under the `mncc-int` VTY configuration node.

12.1.1.1 `default-codec tch-f (fr|efr|amr)`

Using this command, you can configure the default voice codec to be used by voice calls on TCH/F channels.

12.1.1.2 `default-codec tch-h (hr|amr)`

Using this command, you can configure the default voice codec to be used by voice calls on TCH/H channels.

12.2 External MNCC handler

When the external MNCC handler is enabled, OsmoMSC will not perform any internal call switching, but delegate all call-control handling towards the external MNCC program connected via the MNCC socket.

If you intend to operate OsmoMSC with external MNCC handler, you have to start it with the `-m` or `--mncc-sock` command line option.

At the time of this writing, the only external application implementing the MNCC interface compatible with the Osmocom MNCC socket is `lcr`, the Linux Call Router. More widespread integration of external call routing is available via the OsmoSIP-Connector.

12.3 DTMF considerations

In mobile networks, the signaling of DTMF tones is implemented differently, depending on the signaling direction. A mobile originated DTMF tone is signaled using START/STOP DTMF messages which are hauled through various protocols upwards into the core network.

Contrary to that, a mobile terminated DTMF tone is not transfered as an out of band message. Instead, in-band signaling is used, which means a tone is injected early inside a PBX or MGW.

When using OsmoMSC with its built in MNCC functionality a mobile originated DTMF message will not be translated into an in-band tone. Therefore, sending DTMF will not work when internal MNCC is used.

For external MNCC, the network integrator must make sure that the back-end components are configured properly in order to handle the two different signaling schemes depending on the signaling direction.

Note
osmo-sip-connector will translate MNCC DTMF signaling into sip-info messages. DTMF signaling in the opposite direction is not possible. osmo-sip-connector will reject sip-info messages that attempt to signal a DTMF tone.

12.4 MNCC protocol description

The protocol follows the primitives specified in 3GPP TS 04.07 Chapter 7.1. The encoding of the primitives is provided in the `mncc.h` header file in OsmoMSC's source tree, which uses some common definitions from `osmocom/gsm/mncc.h` (part of libosmocore.git).

However, Osmocom's MNCC specifies a number of additional primitives beyond those listed in the 3GPP specification.

The different calls in the network are distinguished by their callref (call reference), which is a unique unsigned 32bit integer.

12.4.1 MNCC_HOLD_IND

Direction: OsmoMSC → Handler

A *CC HOLD* message was received from the MS.

12.4.2 MNCC_HOLD_CNF

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Acknowledge a previously-received *CC HOLD* message, causes the transmission of a *CC HOLD ACK* message to the MS.

12.4.3 MNCC_HOLD_REJ

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Reject a previously-received *CC HOLD* message, causes the transmission of a *CC HOLD REJ* message to the MS.

12.4.4 MNCC_RETRIEVE_IND

Direction: OsmoMSC → Handler

A *CC RETRIEVE* message was received from the MS.

12.4.5 MNCC_RETRIEVE_CNF

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Acknowledge a previously-received *CC RETRIEVE* message, causes the transmission of a *CC RETRIEVE ACK* message to the MS.

12.4.6 MNCC_RETRIEVE_REJ

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Reject a previously-received *CC RETRIEVE* message, causes the transmission of a *CC RETRIEVE REJ* message to the MS.

12.4.7 MNCC_USERINFO_REQ

Direction: OsmoMSC → Handler

Causes a *CC USER INFO* message to be sent to the MS.

12.4.8 MNCC_USERINFO_IND

Direction: OsmoMSC → Handler

Indicates that a *CC USER-USER* message has been received from the MS.

12.4.9 MNCC_BRIDGE

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Requests that the TCH (voice) channels of two calls shall be inter-connected. This is the old-fashioned way of using MNCC, historically required for circuit-switched BTSs whose TRAU frames are received via an E1 interface card, and works only when the TCH channel types match.

Note
Internal MNCC uses MNCC_BRIDGE to connect calls directly between connected BTSs or RNCs, in effect disallowing calls between mismatching TCH types and forcing all BTSs to be configured with exactly one TCH type and codec. This is a limitation that will probably remain for the old OsmoNITB. For the new OsmoMSC, the MNCC_BRIDGE command will instruct the separate OsmoMGW to bridge calls, which will be able to handle transcoding between different TCH as well as 3G (IuUP) payloads (but note: not yet implemented at the time of writing this). Hence an external MNCC may decide to bridge calls directly between BTSs or RNCs that both are internal to the OsmoMSC, for optimization reasons.

12.4.10 MNCC_FRAME_RECV

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Enable the forwarding of TCH voice frames via the MNCC interface in OsmoMSC→Handler direction for the specified call.

12.4.11 MNCC_FRAME_DROP

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Disable the forwarding of TCH voice frames via the MNCC interface in OsmoMSC→Handler direction for the specified call.

12.4.12 MNCC_LCHAN_MODIFY

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Modify the current dedicated radio channel from signalling to voice, or if it is a signalling-only channel (SDCCH), assign a TCH to the MS.

12.4.13 MNCC_RTP_CREATE

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Create a RTP socket for this call at the BTS/TRAU that serves this BTS.

12.4.14 MNCC_RTP_CONNECT

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Connect the RTP socket of this call to the given remote IP address and port.

12.4.15 MNCC_RTP_FREE

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Release a RTP connection for one given call.

12.4.16 GSM_TCHF_FRAME

Direction: both

Transfer the payload of a GSM Full-Rate (FR) voice frame between the OsmoMSC and an external MNCC handler.

12.4.17 GSM_TCHF_FRAME_EFR

Direction: both

Transfer the payload of a GSM Enhanced Full-Rate (EFR) voice frame between the OsmoMSC and an external MNCC handler.

12.4.18 GSM_TCHH_FRAME

Direction: both

Transfer the payload of a GSM Half-Rate (HR) voice frame between the OsmoMSC and an external MNCC handler.

12.4.19 GSM_TCH_FRAE_AMR

Direction: both

Transfer the payload of a GSM Adaptive-Multi-Rate (AMR) voice frame between the OsmoMSC and an external MNCC handler.

12.4.20 GSM_BAD_FRAME

Direction: OsmoMSC → Handler

Indicate that no valid voice frame, but a *bad frame* was received over the radio link from the MS.

12.4.21 MNCC_START_DTMF_IND

Direction: OsmoMSC → Handler

Indicate the beginning of a DTMF tone playback.

12.4.22 MNCC_START_DTMF_RSP

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Acknowledge that the DTMF tone playback has been started.

12.4.23 MNCC_START_DTMF_REJ

Direction: both

Indicate that starting a DTMF tone playback was not possible.

12.4.24 MNCC_STOP_DTMF_IND

Direction: OsmoMSC → Handler

Indicate the ending of a DTMF tone playback.

12.4.25 MNCC_STOP_DTMF_RSP

Direction: Handler → OsmoMSC

Acknowledge that the DTMF tone playback has been stopped.

13 Osmocom Control Interface

The VTY interface as described in Section 8 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.

13.1 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).

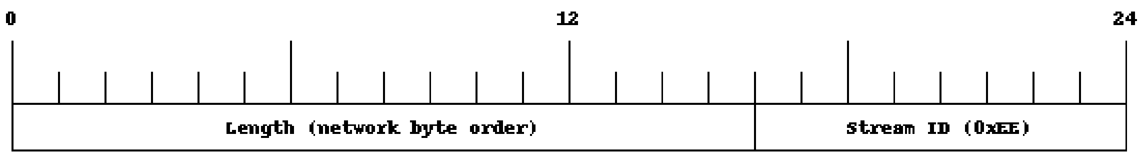


Figure 3: IPA header for control protocol

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

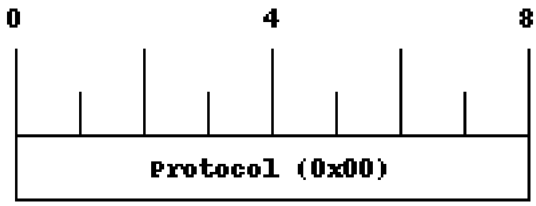


Figure 4: IPA extension header for control protocol

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.

13.1.1 GET operation

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

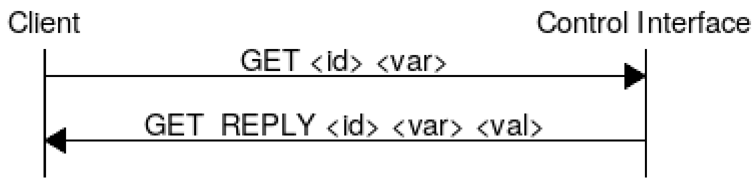


Figure 5: Control Interface GET operation (successful outcome)

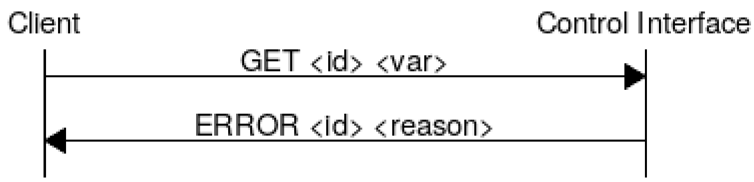


Figure 6: Control Interface GET operation (unsuccessful outcome)

13.1.2 SET operation

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

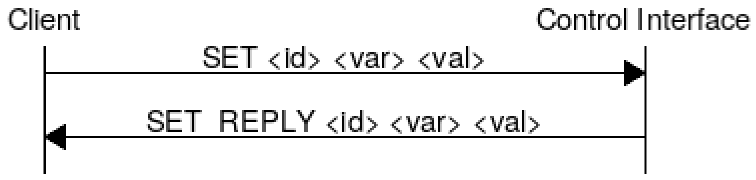


Figure 7: Control Interface SET operation (successful outcome)

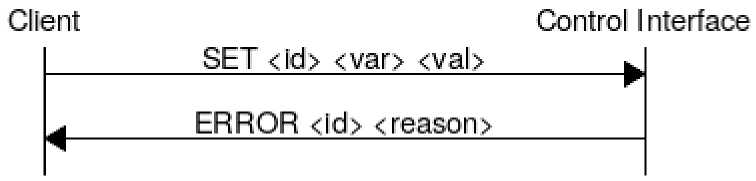


Figure 8: Control Interface SET operation (unsuccessful outcome)

13.1.3 TRAP operation

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

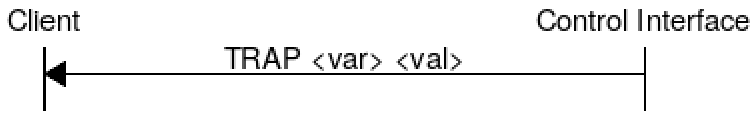


Figure 9: Control Interface TRAP operation

13.2 Common variables

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

Table 5: Variables available over control interface

Name	Access	Value	Comment
counter.*	RO		Get counter value.
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 superceeded by "`rate_ctr.abs`" so its use is discouraged. There might still be some applications not yet converted to rate_ctr.

13.3 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.

13.3.1 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"
"e1inp.0","hdlc:abort","0","0","0","0","0"
"e1inp.0","hdlc:bad_fcs","0","0","0","0","0"
"e1inp.0","hdlc:overrun","0","0","0","0","0"
"e1inp.0","alarm","0","0","0","0","0"
"e1inp.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.
```

13.3.2 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
```


13.3.3 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
```

13.3.4 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
```

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

14 Generic Subscriber Update Protocol

14.1 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.

14.2 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.

14.3 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*.

14.4 Procedures

14.4.1 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)

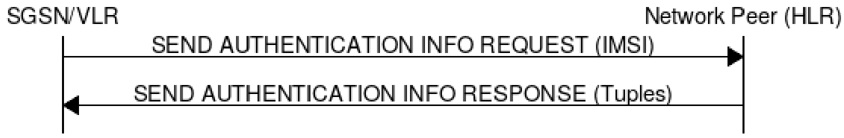


Figure 10: Send Authentication Info (Normal Case)

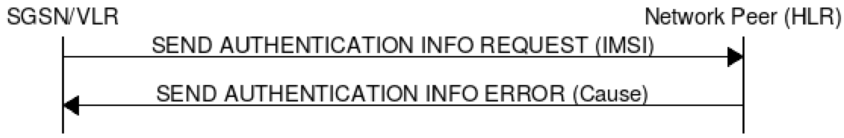


Figure 11: Send Authentication Info (Erroneous Case)

14.4.2 Reporting of Authentication Failure

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

Figure 12: Authentication Failure Report (Normal Case)

14.4.3 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)

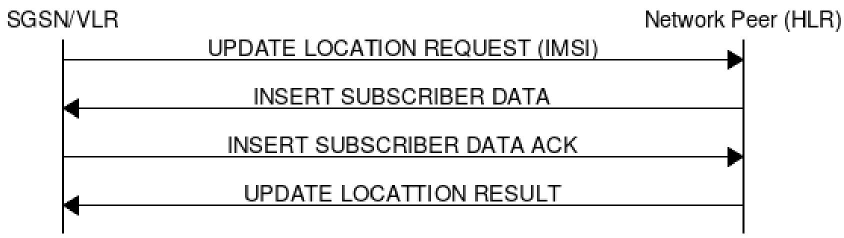


Figure 13: Update Location (Normal Case)

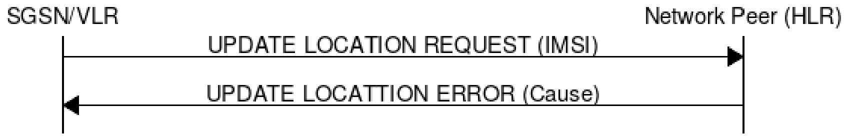


Figure 14: Update Location (Error Case)

14.4.4 Location Cancellation

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

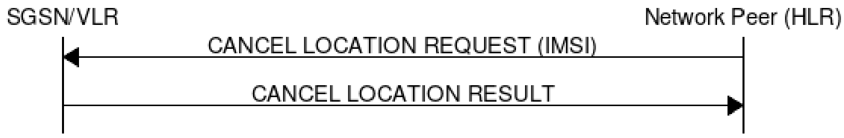


Figure 15: Cancel Location (Normal Case)

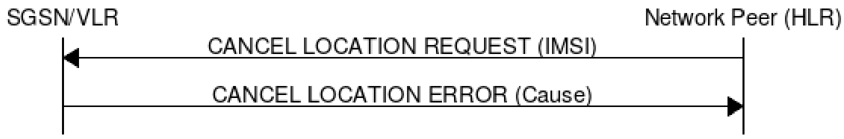


Figure 16: Cancel Location (Error Case)

14.4.5 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.

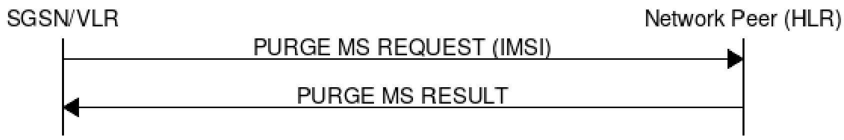


Figure 17: Purge MS (Normal Case)

14.4.6 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.

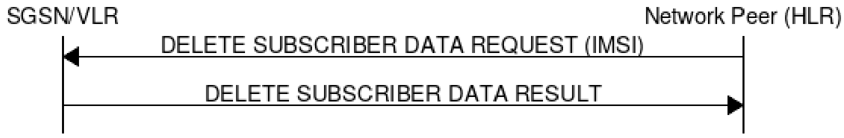


Figure 18: Delete Subscriber Data (Normal Case)

14.5 Message Format

14.5.1 General

Every message is based on the following message format

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	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.

14.5.2 Send Authentication Info Request

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 14.6.15	O	TLV	3
26	AUTS	Section 14.6.13	C	TLV	18
20	RAND	Section 14.6.7	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. Eiter both optional IEs are present, or none of them.

14.5.3 Send Authentication Info Error

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
02	Cause	Section 14.6.25	M	TLV	3

14.5.4 Send Authentication Info Response

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
03	Auth Tuple	Section 14.6.6	0-5	TLV	36

14.5.5 Authentication Failure Report

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 14.6.15	O	TLV	3

14.5.6 Update Location Request

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 14.6.15	O	TLV	3

14.5.7 Update Location Error

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
02	Cause	Section 14.6.25	M	TLV	3

14.5.8 Update Location Result

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
08	MSISDN	Section 14.6.20	O	TLV	0-9
09	HLR Number	Section 14.6.24	O	TLV	0-9
04	PDP info complete	Section 14.6.18	O	TLV	2
05	PDP info	Section 14.6.3	1-10	TLV	

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

14.5.9 Location Cancellation Request

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 14.6.15	O	TLV	3
06	Cancellation type	Section 14.6.16	O	TLV	3

14.5.10 Location Cancellation Result

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 14.6.15	O	TLV	3

14.5.11 Purge MS Request

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 14.6.15	O	TLV	3
09	HLR Number	Section 14.6.24	M	TLV	0-9

14.5.12 Purge MS Error

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
02	Cause	Section 14.6.25	M	TLV	3

14.5.13 Purge MS Result

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
07	Freeze P-TMSI	Section 14.6.18	M	TLV	2

14.5.14 Insert Subscriber Data Request

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 14.6.15	O	TLV	3
08	MSISDN	Section 14.6.20	O	TLV	0-9
09	HLR Number	Section 14.6.24	O	TLV	0-9
04	PDP info complete	Section 14.6.18	M	TLV	2
05	PDP info	Section 14.6.3	0-10	TLV	
14	PDP-Charging Characteristics	Section 14.6.23	O	TLV	4

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

14.5.15 Insert Subscriber Data Error

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
02	Cause	Section 14.6.25	M	TLV	3

14.5.16 Insert Subscriber Data Result

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10

14.5.17 Delete Subscriber Data Request

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
28	CN Domain	Section 14.6.15	O	TLV	3
10	PDP context id	Section 14.6.3 (no conditional IE)	0-10	TLV	

14.5.18 Delete Subscriber Data Error

Direction: SGSN / VLR ⇒ HLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
02	Cause	Section 14.6.25	M	TLV	3

14.5.19 Delete Subscriber Data Result

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10

14.5.20 Process Supplementary Service Request

Direction: bidirectional

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
30	Session ID	Section 14.7.1	M	TLV	6
31	Session State	Section 14.7.2	M	TLV	3

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
35	Supplementary Service Info	Section 14.6.26	O	TLV	2-…

This message is used in both directions in case of USSD, because it is not known is it request or response without parsing the GSM 04.80 payload.

14.5.21 Process Supplementary Service Error

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
30	Session ID	Section 14.7.1	M	TLV	6
31	Session State	Section 14.7.2	M	TLV	3
02	Cause	Section 14.6.25	M	TLV	3

14.5.22 Process Supplementary Service Response

Direction: HLR ⇒ SGSN / VLR

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Message Type	Section 14.6.1	M	V	1
01	IMSI	Section 14.6.19	M	TLV	2-10
30	Session ID	Section 14.7.1	M	TLV	6
31	Session State	Section 14.7.2	M	TLV	3
35	Supplementary Service Info	Section 14.6.26	O	TLV	2-…

The purpose of this message is not clear yet. Probably, it can be used to notify the MSC that a structured supplementary service is successfully activated or deactivated, etc.

14.6 Information Elements

14.6.1 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

Type	Description
0x16	Delete Subscriber Data Result
0x1c	Location Cancellation Request
0x1d	Location Cancellation Error
0x1e	Location Cancellation Result
0x20	Supplementary Service Request
0x21	Supplementary Service Error
0x22	Supplementary Service Result

14.6.2 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*.

14.6.3 PDP Info

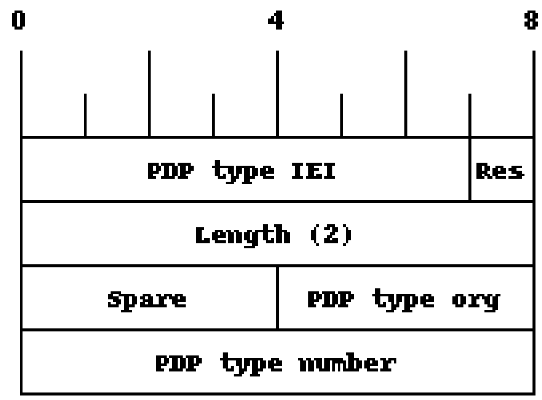
This is a container for information elements describing a single PDP.

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	PDP Info IEI	Section 14.6.17	M	V	1
	Length of PDP Info IE		M	V	1
10	PDP Context ID	Section 14.6.5	C	TLV	3
11	PDP Type	Section 14.6.4	C	TLV	4
12	Access Point Name	Section 14.6.21	C	TLV	3-102
13	Quality of Service	Section 14.6.22	O	TLV	1-20
14	PDP-Charging Characteristics	Section 14.6.23	O	TLV	4

The conditional IE are mandantory unless mentioned otherwise.

14.6.4 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.



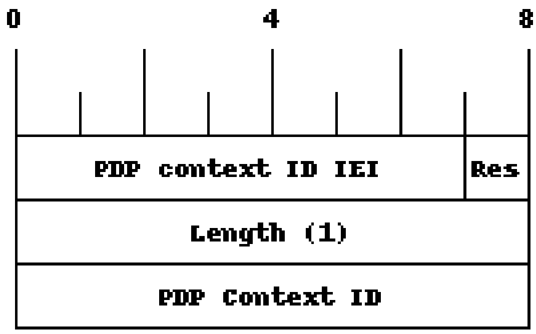
The spare bits are left undefined. While 09.60 defines them as *1 1 1 1*, there are MAP traces where these bits are set to *0 0 0 0*. So the receiver shall ignore these bits.

Examples:

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

14.6.5 PDP Context ID

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



14.6.6 Auth tuple

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

IEI	IE	Type	Presence	Format	Length
	Auth Tuple IEI	Section 14.6.17	M	V	1
	Length of Auth Tuple IE		M	V	1
20	RAND	Section 14.6.7	M	TLV	18
21	SRES	Section 14.6.8	M	TLV	6
22	Kc	Section 14.6.9	M	TLV	10
23	IK	Section 14.6.10	C	TLV	18
24	CK	Section 14.6.11	C	TLV	18
25	AUTN	Section 14.6.12	C	TLV	18
27	RES	Section 14.6.14	C	TLV	2-18

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

14.6.7 RAND

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

14.6.8 SRES

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

14.6.9 Kc

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

14.6.10 IK

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

14.6.11 CK

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

14.6.12 AUTN

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

14.6.13 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.

14.6.14 RES

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

14.6.15 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 6: CN Domain Number

Type	Description
0x01	PS Domain
0x02	CS Domain

14.6.16 Cancellation Type

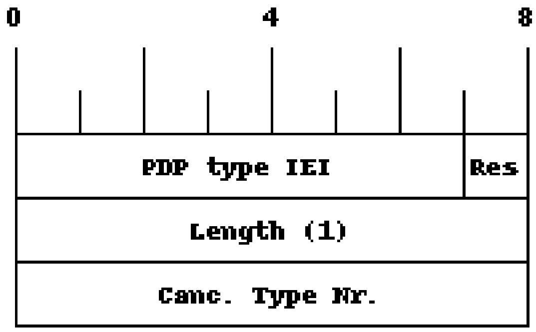


Table 7: Cancellation Type Number

Number	Description
0x00	Update Procedure
0x01	Subscription Withdrawn

14.6.17 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 8: GSUP IE Identifiers

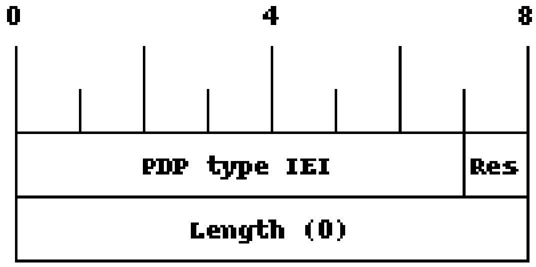
IEI	Info Element	Type / Encoding
0x01	IMSI	Mobile Identity, 3GPP TS 04.08 Ch. 10.5.1.4
0x02	Cause	Section 14.6.25
0x03	Auth Tuple	Section 14.6.6
0x04	PDP Info Compl	Section 14.6.18
0x05	PDP Info	Section 14.6.3
0x06	Cancel Type	Section 14.6.16
0x07	Freeze P-TMSI	Section 14.6.18
0x08	MSISDN	ISDN-AddressString/octet, Section 14.6.20
0x09	HLR Number	Section 14.6.24
0x10	PDP Context ID	Section 14.6.5
0x11	PDP Type	Section 14.6.4
0x12	Access Point Name	Section 14.6.21
0x13	QoS	Section 14.6.22
0x14	PDP-Charging Characteristics	Section 14.6.23
0x20	RAND	Section 14.6.7
0x21	SRES	Section 14.6.8
0x22	Kc	Section 14.6.9
0x23	IK	Section 14.6.10
0x24	CK	Section 14.6.11
0x25	AUTN	Section 14.6.12

Table 8: (continued)

IEI	Info Element	Type / Encoding
0x26	AUTS	Section 14.6.13
0x27	RES	Section 14.6.14
0x28	CN Domain	Section 14.6.15
0x30	Session ID	Section 14.7.1
0x31	Session State	Section 14.7.2
0x35	Supplementary Service Info	Section 14.6.26

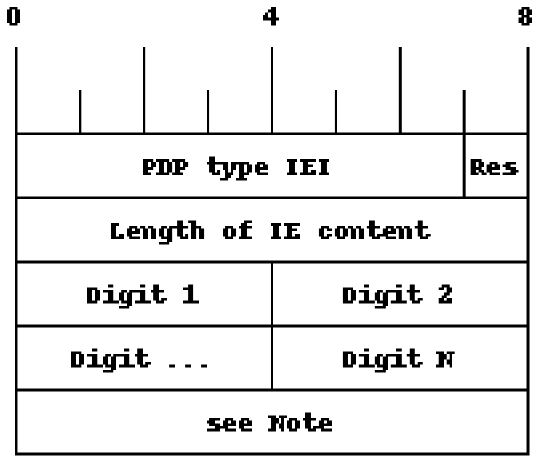
14.6.18 Empty field

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.



14.6.19 IMSI

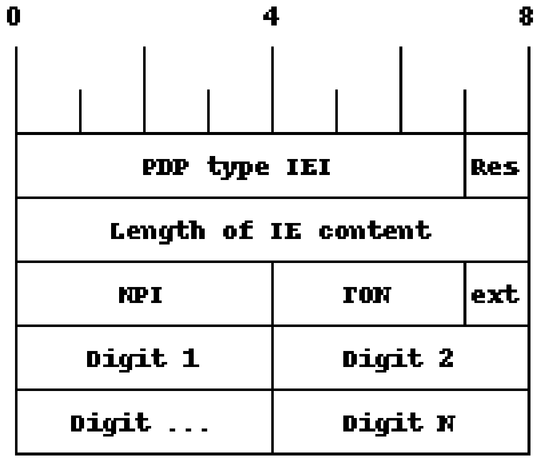
The IMSI is encoded like in octet 4-N of the Called Party BCD Number defined in 3GPP TS 04.08, 10.5.4.7.



> **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.

14.6.20 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.

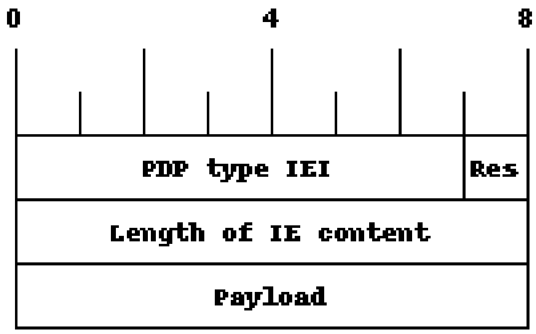


14.6.21 Access Point Name

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

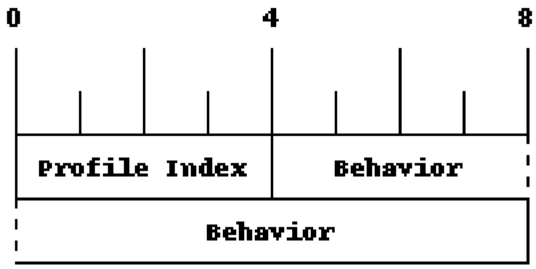
14.6.22 Quality of Service Subscribed Service

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.



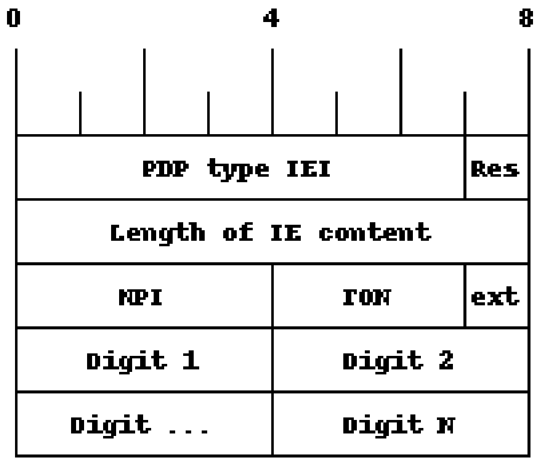
14.6.23 PDP-Charging Characteristics

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.



14.6.24 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.



14.6.25 Cause

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

14.6.26 Supplementary Service Info

This IE shall be used together with both Section 14.7.2 and Section 14.7.1 IEs. It is used to carry the payload of Supplementary Services encoded according to GSM TS 04.80.

14.7 Session (transaction) management

Unlike TCAP/MAP, GSUP is just a transport layer without the dialogue/context. All communication is usually happening over a single connection. In order to fill this gap, there is a few optional IEs, which allow both communication sides to establish and terminate TCAP-like transactions over GSUP.

14.7.1 Session ID

This auxiliary IE shall be used together with Section 14.7.2. The purpose of this IE is to identify a particular transaction using the 4-byte unique identifier.

14.7.2 Session State

This auxiliary IE shall be used together with Section 14.7.1. The purpose of this IE is to indicate a state of a particular transacrion, i.e. initiate, continue or terminate it.

Table 9: Session state

State	TCAP alternative	Description
0x00	Undefined	Used when session management is not required
0x01	BEGIN	Used to initiate a new session
0x02	CONTINUE	Used to continue an existing session
0x03	END	Used to terminate an existing session

15 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

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

MGW
Media Gateway

MM
Mobility Management; part of the GSM Layer 3 Protocol

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

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

MS
Mobile Station; a mobile phone / GSM Modem

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

MSISDN
Mobile Subscriber ISDN Number; telephone number of the subscriber

MTP
Message Transfer Part; SS7 signaling protocol (*ITU-T Q.701* [itu-t-q701])

MVNO
Mobile Virtual Network Operator; Operator without physical radio network

NCC
Network Color Code; assigned by national regulator

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

NSEI
NS Entity Identifier

NVCI
NS Virtual Circuit Identifier

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

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

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

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

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

OpenGGSN
Open Source implementation of a GPRS Packet Control Unit

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

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

OsmoBSC
Open Source implementation of a GSM Base Station Controller

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

OsmoSGSN
Open Source implementation of a Serving GPRS Support Node

OsmoPCU
Open Source implementation of a GPRS Packet Control Unit

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

PC
Point Code; an address in MTP

PCH
Paging Channel on downlink Um interface; used by network to page an MS

PCU
Packet Control Unit; used to manage Layer 2 of the GPRS radio interface

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

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

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

PUK
PIN 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
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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