**3GPP TSG-SA3 Meeting #115 *S3-24xxxx***

**Athens, Greece, 26 February - 1 March 2024** **(revision of xx-yyxxxx)**

**Source: Ericsson, ???**

**Title: Revised SID on enablers for Zero Trust Security**

**Document for: Agreement**

**Agenda Item: 6**

3GPP™ Work Item Description

Information on Work Items can be found at <http://www.3gpp.org/Work-Items>   
See also the [3GPP Working Procedures](http://www.3gpp.org/specifications-groups/working-procedures), article 39 and the TSG Working Methods in [3GPP TR 21.900](http://www.3gpp.org/ftp/Specs/html-info/21900.htm)

Title: Study on enablers for Zero Trust Security

Acronym: FS\_eZTS

Unique identifier: 1020034

Potential target Release: Rel-19

# 1 Impacts

{For Normative work, identify the anticipated impacts. For a Study, identify the scope of the study}

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Affects: | UICC apps | ME | AN | CN | Others (specify) |
| Yes |  |  | x | x |  |
| No | x | x |  |  |  |
| Don't know |  |  |  |  | x |

# 2 Classification of the Work Item and linked work items

## 2.1 Primary classification

### This work item is a …

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| X | Study |
|  | Normative – Stage 1 |
|  | Normative – Stage 2 |
|  | Normative – Stage 3 |
|  | Normative – Other\* |

**\* Other = e.g. testing**

## 2.2 Parent Work Item

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Parent Study Items | | | |
| Acronym | Working Group | Unique ID | Title (as in 3GPP Work Plan) |
| FS\_ZTS | SA3 | 960038 | Study on applicability of the Zero Trust Security principles in mobile networks |

### 2.3 Other related Work Items and dependencies

{List here other Work Items which relate to the proposed one, such as a Work Item in an earlier Release if further enhancing the feature from the previous Release)}

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Other related Work /Study Items (if any) | | |
| Unique ID | Title | Nature of relationship |
|  |  | {optional free text} |

**Dependency on non-3GPP (draft) specification:** N/A

# 3 Justification

The 5G system was designed with core security features to support authentication, communication security and authorization which form the basis of Zero Trust security [1]. Nevertheless, the ZT core principle also insists to ‘assume breach and verify explicitly’ to improve the security posture and if an attack happens to prevent lateral threat movement. An effective Zero Trust deployment is dependent on an effective set of security controls to assess, detect and report attacks on the 5G system. In the ZT concept, these can be viewed as the inputs for zero trust security policy(ies). Under the assumption of a breached 5G network when there is no sufficient mechanism(s) to detect the attacks and related abnormalities, further lateral movement will be unhindered. Furthermore, it may be possible for the malicious actor to gain unauthorized access and exfiltrate/manipulate network/service(s) data.

The 5G system supports mechanisms as described in TS 23.288 clause 6.7.5 [2] to identify abnormal UE behaviour, i.e., mechanisms described in [2] identifies risks (e.g., DDoS suspicion), and report abnormal behaviour statistics and predictions. With the reported abnormal behaviour information, access control for UE(s) is improved with NF(s) actions (e.g., PCF requests SMF to release the PDU session; SMF releases the PDU session and apply SM back-off timer). On the other hand, there exists no 5G system security mechanisms to identify NF(s) abnormal behaviours and risks in the 5GC.

Due to the heterogeneity and varied NF(s) deployment options, there is a chance that a NF(s) may experience configuration issues, modification in access privilege levels, encounter insider threats, or face cyberattacks. Thus, static trust of a NF and its behaviour should not be assumed to be intact and normal throughout its lifetime. If a NF behaves abnormally, there should be a means to identify and improve the security controls as applicable in real-time. Real-time identification and security control changes have not yet been standardized in 3GPP (presuming each Network operator deployed their own choice of SIEM system).

There were Rel.18 initiatives [1] undertaken to study the Zero Trust security principles. [1] provides a detailed security evaluation for Zero Trust Tenets 1,2,3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. There is an ongoing global effort to adapt Zero Trust security principles [5][6][7][8][9][10][11][12] to overcome the emerging attack surface and lateral threat movement within the network. Meanwhile SA5 has also endorsed ‘Enablers for Security Monitoring’ as the Rel.19 study topic and cited SA3 as the collaboration group for this topic [3]. Therefore, it is proposed to continue to study this topic in the lights of agreed evaluation related to Tenet 4,5,6, and 7 [1] [4].

SA3 studied the applicability of the NIST Zero Trust Architecture tenets [5] on the 5G core network in TR 33.894 [1] in Rel-18. A relevant part of the 3GPP system, namely RAN, was not studied in [1]. It was identified in the ATIS report [11] that 3GPP would need to study the applicability of ZTA on RAN. Also, O-RAN Alliance is starting a study on how to achieve ZTA for ORAN [xx]. Therefore, the SA3 work needs to be continued by a Rel-19 study of the applicability of the Zero Trust tenets on 5G RAN given the 3GPP scope, so that SA3's study of the Zero Trust Architecture can be completed in a timely manner.

References:

[1] 3GPP TR 33.894, ‘Study on applicability of the Zero Trust Security principles in mobile networks’, Release 18.

[2] 3GPP TS 23.288, ‘Architecture enhancements for 5G System (5GS) to support network data analytics services’, Release 18.

[3] S5-234823, ‘Enablers for Security Monitoring’, SA5 Collection of Rel-19 potential topics for SA workshop presentation, Endorsed.

[4] S3-23aaa, ‘Discussion Paper on Rel-19 Study on Network based Zero Trust Security’.

[5] NIST Special Publication 800-207, ‘Zero Trust Architecture’, [Zero Trust Architecture (nist.gov)](https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-207.pdf).

[6] National Security Agency, ‘Embracing a Zero Trust Security Model’, [CSI\_EMBRACING\_ZT\_SECURITY\_MODEL\_UOO115131-21.PDF (defense.gov)](https://media.defense.gov/2021/Feb/25/2002588479/-1/-1/0/CSI_EMBRACING_ZT_SECURITY_MODEL_UOO115131-21.PDF).

[7] ITU SG 17, ‘Guidelines for zero trust based access control platform in telecommunication network’, <https://www.itu.int/ITU-T/workprog/wp_item.aspx?isn=18032>.

[8] ITU SG 13, ‘Assessing trust evaluation models for telecommunication networks’, <https://www.itu.int/itu-t/workprog/wp_item.aspx?isn=18421>.

[9] Department of Defense (DOD), ‘Zero Trust Reference Architecture’, [Department of Defense Zero Trust Reference Architecture](https://dodcio.defense.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Library/(U)ZT_RA_v2.0(U)_Sep22.pdf).

[10] National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), ‘Zero Trust architecture design’, <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/zero-trust-architecture/introduction-to-zero-trust>.

[11] ATIS, ‘Enhanced Zero Trust and 5G’, <https://www.atis.org/tops-council/enhanced-zero-trust-and-5g/>

[12] MITRE, ‘Achieving Mission Assurance for Enterprises today and tomorrow – Zero Trust, The cloud, and other Tools’, <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/trecms/pdf/AD1172262.pdf>.

# 4 Objective

The Objective of the study includes:

Work Task (WT)

WT1 – Data exposure for security evaluation and monitoring

* Identify potential threats and attacks on the 5G SBA layer intended to identify which data may be relevant to be exposed, and whether additional data exposure is necessary to detect the threats and attacks.

NOTE 1: The external security evaluation and monitoring is up to operator’s implementation and outside the 3GPP domain. The aspects to enable OAM based data collection is up to SA5 WG. The necessary adaptations specific to exposure services for providing data to the external security function needs SA2 collaboration.

NOTE 2: The related SA3 study in Rel-18 captured in TR 33.894 needs to be taken into account.

WT2 – Security mechanism for dynamic policy enforcement

* Study whether potential threats on the 5G SBA layer can be addressed by dynamic policy enforcement on the 5G SBA layer.

WT3 – Analysis of the ZTA tenets with respect to RAN

* Identify the relevant 3GPP security mechanisms in the RAN for each tenet, and evaluate whether the existing 3GPP security mechanisms in the RAN address the tenet given the 3GPP scope or whether potentially additional standardized mechanisms are necessary.

## TU estimates and dependencies

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TU Estimate  (Study) | TU Estimate  (Normative) | RAN Dependency  (Yes/No/Maybe) | SA2 / SA5 Dependency  (Yes/No/Maybe) |
| *WT1: 1.5* | *WT1: .5* | *No* | *May be* |
| *WT2: 1* | *WT2: .5* |
| *WT3: 1.5* |  |
| *Total: 4 TUs*  *(5 meetings)* | *Total: 1 TUs*  *(3 meetings)* |
| *NOTE: 1 TU is considered as 1.5 hours* | | | |

Total TU estimates for the study phase: 4 TUs (5 meeting cycles)

Total TU estimates for the normative phase: 1 TUs (3 meeting cycles)

Buffer TU: .5 TU

**Total TU estimates: 5.5 TUs**

# 5 Expected Output and Time scale

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| New specifications {One line per specification. Create/delete lines as needed} | | | | | |
| Type | TS/TR number | Title | For info  at TSG# | For approval at TSG# | Rapporteur |
| Internal TR | 33.794 | Study on enablers for Zero Trust Security | TSG#105  (Sep 2024) | TSG#106  (Dec 2024) | Sheeba Backia Mary Baskaran, Lenovo, Motorola Mobility, <smary@lenovo.com> |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Impacted existing TS/TR {One line per specification. Create/delete lines as needed} | | | |
| TS/TR No. | Description of change | Target completion plenary# | Remarks |
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

# 6 Work item Rapporteur(s)

Sheeba Backia Mary Baskaran <smary@lenovo.com>

# 7 Work item leadership

SA3

# 8 Aspects that involve other WGs

SA5 for the management services, SA2 for exposure services (as applicable)

# 9 Supporting Individual Members

|  |
| --- |
| Supporting IM name |
| Lenovo? |
| Motorola Mobility? |
| MITRE? |
| Interdigital? |
| Motorola Solutions? |
| Charter Communications? |
| Johns Hopkins University APL? |
| Intel? |
| US National Security Agency? |
| Telefonica? |
| NCSC? |
| OTD\_US? |
| Deutsche Telekom? |
| Keysight Technologies? |
| Center for Internet Security? |
| SDI Squared? |
| Cablelabs ? |
| IIT Delhi? |
| Philips International B.V.? |
| Nokia? |
| Nokia Shanghai Bell? |
| Samsung? |
| NEC? |
| Rakuten Mobile? |
| Peraton Labs? |
| CISA ECD? |
| NTIA? |
| Department of Telecom? |
| British Telecom? |
| NDRE? |
| T-Mobile? |
| AT&T? |
| Comcast? |
| Ericsson |
| OPPO? |
| Dish Network? |
| DSIT? |