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After the heavy programme of work in the TSG CN working groups to prepare the Release 5 specifications for approval, we should consider whether the current working group structure of TSG CN will be appropriate for the work to be carried out during the rest of 2002 and 2003. This contribution does not make any specific proposals for restructuring the TSG CN working groups; it proposes some ground rules which we should use in considering any specific proposals, in the hope of triggering a constructive discussion on how the work of the TSG CN WGs could be restructured.

The current responsibilities of the working groups in TSG CN (taken from the 3GPP web site and adapted where necessary to reflect current reality!) are shown below:

- CN1: TSG CN WG1 defines the User Equipment - Core network L3 radio protocols (Call Control, Session Management, Mobility Management, SMS). CN1 addresses specifically SIP Call Control and SDP protocols for the IM subsystem.
- CN2: TSG CN WG2 is responsible for the stage 2 and stage 3 specifications of the CAMEL feature (Customized Applications for Mobile network Enhanced Logic); this feature provides the mechanisms to support services consistently independently of the serving network. It shall facilitate service control of operator specific services external from the serving PLMN and help the operator to provide the subscribers with the operator specific services even when roaming outside the HPLMN.
- CN3: TSG CN WG3 specifies the bearer capabilities for circuit and packet switched data services, and the necessary interworking functions towards both, the user equipment in the UMTS PLMN and the terminal equipment in the external network. In addition CN3 is responsible of end to end QoS for the UMTS core network in Release 5 and beyond.
- CN4: TSG CN WG4 standardizes stage 2 aspects within the Core Network focusing on Subscriber Data Management, Supplementary Services, Basic Call Processing, Mobility Management within the Core Network, and Bearer Independent Architecture. CN4 also manages the mobile-specific protocol specifications within the mobile core network.
- CN5: TSG CN WG5 is responsible for the stage 3 of the interfaces specific to the UMTS Open Service Access (OSA). CN5 develops Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for the OSA; the UMTS network provides these interfaces to facilitate service implementations.

None of these WGs is idle, but CN1 has been particularly heavily loaded, and CN4 has come a respectable second. We should be looking in the coming 18 months to try to rebalance the workload between groups; the ground rules for any re-organisation should be:

- There should not be a large difference between the workloads of different groups (whether measured by the number of documents to be handled, or the number of days of meeting in the year – and when there are parallel sessions in a working group, as happened in the last two CN4 meetings, that means that we may have 7 or 8 days of meetings in a 5-day period!);
- We should bear in mind the fact that companies have to provide delegates with the relevant skills to attend each meeting, so we should try to avoid the same skill set being required for delegates to different WG meetings;
- Each group should have a workload which mixes the maintenance of existing specifications and the development of new specifications. For CN1 and CN4, which have the responsibility for core specifications such as 24.008 and 29.002, the boundary between maintenance and new work is rather fuzzy; new features will almost certainly require enhancements to these core specifications, but this is different from corrections to those same specifications to deal with errors in earlier releases;
- Even though our aim is to put the Release 5 specifications for which CN is responsible under change control at CN #16, we need to recognise that substantial work will be needed over the next 6 months to

stabilise those specifications. Indeed there are some specifications for which we will not meet the target of approval at CN #16: to name only two, the protocol specification for the Ze interface from CN4 and the CAP protocol specification for CAMEL control of IMS from CN2. The timing of any restructuring should take account of the need to complete the work on the Release 5 specifications.

A further point to bear in mind is that other groups outside of TSG CN are currently handling work which could be seen as more appropriate to one of the CN working groups. Two examples of this are the GPRS stage 2 specification, 23.060, and the stage 2 specifications for Location Services, 23.071 & 23.271. These specifications are handled in SA2, but they are very detailed, and it could reasonably be argued that they are outside the scope of SA2's terms of reference, which cover the architecture of the UMTS system.

Clearly, one of the major inputs to any restructuring of the TSG CN WGs will be a consideration of the work programme for Release 6 and onwards. Discussion of this contribution should therefore be taken after CN #16 has reviewed the work plan.