**3GPP TSG-CT WG4 Meeting #111-eC4-224418**

**E-Meeting, 18th – 26th August 2022**

Title: LS on Authentication Result Removal

Response to: -

Release: Rel-17

Source: CT4

To: SA3

Cc: -

**Contact Person:**

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Attachments: -

**1. Overall Description:**

The feature of "Authentication Result Removal" (affecting both the AUSF and UDM APIs) was introduced by CT4 in their stage-3 specifications because of an LS received from SA3 in C4-200391 / S3-194674.

As explained in that LS, the feature was studied by SA3 in a Technical Report (non-normative). CT4 has observed that, as of today, this feature has never been included in normative specifications by SA3 (e.g. in 3GPP TS 33.501).

It is unclear to CT4 why was the reason for that. One reason could be that SA3 never agreed to have the feature normatively in their specs, but the LS was sent anyways; another reason could be that SA3 did agree to have the feature normatively, but they forgot to add the relevant description to their specs.

In addition, some companies have identified and reported issues at stage-3 level, while attempting to implement the feature. The problems rely on the fact that the AUSF is expected to clean-up the authentication context after the UE has finalized the authentication process but, in order to implement the removal of the authentication result, and be able to interact with UDM, the AUSF needs to store a certain amount of context data indefinitely, which was something never foreseen for the AUSF. This means that, at this point, the feature is not implementable (with current stage-3 assumptions for AUSF context data handling).

Therefore, before moving forwards and attempting to fix this functionality at stage-3 level, CT4 would like to confirm with SA3 whether the feature was actually meant to be defined normatively in SA3 Technical Specifications.

**2. Actions:**

**To SA3 group.**

**ACTION:** CT4 kindly asks SA3 to take the above information into account and to provide a response on whether the functionality was agreed by SA3 normatively and, in such case, to kindly consider documenting it in their relevant stage-2 specifications, so CT4 can proceed to evaluate potential fixes to the current stage-3 specifications.  
  
Alternatively, if the feature was not meant to be kept as a normative functionality, to kindly indicate that, so CT4 can discuss whether the feature should be removed from stage-3.

**3. Date of Next CT4 Meetings:**

3GPP TSG CT4#112e 10/2022 E-Meeting