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Introduction

The work of the 3GPP Technical Specification Groups (TSGs) is currently focused upon the delivery of the specifications relating to the initial release of the 3rd Generation system, known as Release '99, and due for completion in December 1999. This contribution highlights the need for the work of TSG SA to be completed by its next (June) meeting in order to establish a set of stable requirements for the development work in the other TSGs.

General

The work of the 3GPP TSGs is structured to address both the identification of requirements as well as the development of technical solutions. TSG SA represents the primary focus for establishing overall system requirements (e.g. Services, Architecture, Security) whilst the other 3 TSGs are primarily focused upon the development and timely delivery of specifications to meet those requirements. This implies that the work of TSG SA needs to reach maturity and be stable significantly in advance of the other TSGs; stable solutions can only be developed to meet a stable set of requirements.

Release '99 Requirements

Currently the work of TSG SA is focused upon the requirements for release '99 and is seen to be approaching stability. The work of the other TSGs is progressing rapidly towards the specification of the detailed aspects of the system. In view of the relatively short timescales (~7 months) before the completion of Release '99 there appears to be very limited opportunity for new or changed requirements from TSG SA to be reflected in the work of the other (delivery focused) TSGs.

It is proposed, therefore, that the work of TSG SA and the overall work plans of the 3GPP assume that the requirements for Release '99 are frozen at the June meeting of TSG SA.

This will enable TSGs CN, RAN and T to focus upon the delivery of Release '99 in line with a stable set of system requirements.

Release '99 Deliverables

The requirements for Release '99, that are currently established within TSG SA, represent design objectives for the development of the overall 3rd generation system. These requirements are used within the other TSGs as the basis for developing their specifications. In most cases these requirements are expected to be fulfilled, however in some cases there may be insufficient time to fully develop all of the necessary specifications. In order to plan its work relating to future releases of 3GPP specifications, it is essential that TSG SA establish a realistic assessment of the capabilities that are expected to be delivered in Release '99.

It is proposed, therefore, that TSG SA, initiates necessary actions at this meeting (April 1999), to determine the capabilities that are expected to be delivered within Release '99. The results should then be reviewed at the June meeting in order to establish which requirements that are not expected to delivered as part of Release '99.

Conclusion

This document has highlighted the need to ensure that the requirements for Release '99 are Frozen at the June TSG SA meeting, as well as the need to determine those capabilities that are expected to be delivered in Release '99 specifications.