
Title: Reply LS on Evaluation of the alternatives for SMS fraud countermeasures
Response to: S3-040824 (IREG Doc 47_056)
Release: -
Work Item: NDS/MAP

Source: SA3
To: GSMA IREG
Cc: CN4, GSMA SG

Contact Person:
Name: Stefan Schröder
Tel. Number: +49 228 936 33312
E-mail Address: stefan.schroeder@t-mobile.de

Attachments: None

1. Overall Description

SA3 thanks IREG for their LS with clear statements about the desired way forward regarding SMS countermeasures and MAPsec. SA3 provides the following answers:

1. Does SA3 understand the IREG response.

Yes, the IREG LS is in line with SA3's view regarding security aspects. Regarding operator's views, SA3 will take the responses as valuable input for further work.

2. Is SA3 able to proceed with the design and specification of TCAP handshake mechanism.

At SA3#35, SA3 continued work on the TCAP handshake, and is looking forward to working together with CN4 in order to quickly finalize this feature.

3. Is SA3 able to complete the gateway design and specification of the MAPsec mechanism.

SA3's current view is that the gateway design can be completed. It will definitely help that the Ze interface does not need to be standardised with a gateway design. Furthermore, the Key Administration Centre (KAC) can be integrated with the gateway. SA3 expects that the current mechanisms in TS33.200 (MAPsec) do not need to be changed significantly, because a gateway can be inserted transparently to the MAP layer into the path. Impacts on stage 3 specifications have to be studied by CN4, however.

SA3 currently thinks that only the MAPsec function of the gateway needs to be standardised. Additional firewall functions for screening MAP messages and SS7 address fields may be implemented on a vendor-specific base, as this is the case for IP firewalls today.

4. Dates when items 2 and 3 will be complete and approved by 3GPP.

Depending on previous experiences, SA3 expects that it will take about six months to complete the TCAP handshake mechanism in all affected specifications. However, this needs to be verified with CN4. The timescales for the MAPsec gateway development are more difficult to predict, but it is expected that it could be done within Release 7 timescales. More precise information on timescales will be provided once the technical work on the gateway approach has started in SA3. Again, the timescales need to be verified with CN4 since their specifications may also be impacted.

2. Actions

none

3. Date of Next TSG-SA3 Meetings

SA3#36 23 - 26 November 2004

Shenzhen, China

SA3#37 21 - 25 February 2005

Sophia Antipolis, France