

Source: BT
Title: The use of CAMEL for the Release 5 IM Sub-system
Document for: Clarification and Decision
Agenda Item: 5

Introduction

The use of CAMEL for the control of services to IMS users has attracted significant discussion within the 3GPP. This document is intended to clarify BT's requirements for this capability and lead to establishing a coherent approach for the ongoing work in TSGs SA and CN.

General

CAMEL is an established solution for providing and controlling consistent services to users when they are in either their home or in a visited network. Its design is based upon the Intelligent Network Application Protocol and it provides a standardised interface for use between a service control platform and an MSC call control function.

A similar control relationship exists within the IP Multi-media Subsystem (IMS) – between the service control platform and the CSCF – and there is a requirement for this to be standardised within the 3GPP.

A key medium term requirement for the rapid introduction of the IMS is to ensure that it can support all of the user's real-time (conversational) service requirements, including voice only services. Consequently the service control solution needs to enable the smooth evolution towards the longer-term all-IP vision by allowing the re-use of existing service platforms. This is primarily to enable existing investment (technical and financial) to be fully exploited as well as enabling IMS users to roam to CS only networks.

In the longer term the requirement is for a service control interface to the CSCF that will support the range of IP Multi-media services.

In order to meet the above requirements there appear to be two distinct solutions:

1 The use of CAMEL with minimal enhancements for use in the IM sub-system (between CSCF and Service Platform) to support voice based services (such as pre-pay) and also between the Service Platform and a roamed-to CS network. Here the primary objectives are (1) to be able to reuse existing service platforms and (2) to support roaming to CS networks. This represents an expedient solution with minimal risk in terms of standardisation activity in 3GPP. It will be restricted, however, to the support of voice services and will not necessarily satisfy future multi-media requirements. It is primarily positioned to meet a medium term requirement;

2 The specification of a new "full" solution that will support the full range of multi-media services (more than voice). This could draw upon the solutions used within CAMEL, however it would represent a different solution - specifically defined for the IM subsystem (IMS) and be based upon state of the art technology.

Proposal

In view of the different requirements that the two solutions are satisfying, it is proposed that both be progressed within 3GPP. Specifically:

1 the specification of CAMEL with MINIMAL changes/enhancements, primarily for the support of voice services using existing service platforms;

2 the specification of a new interface for the IMS. Here there is a need to initiate new work items as necessary in SA and CN to progress the development of a new purpose designed solution for all IMS services, to be specified as part of Release 5. This should called something different (specifically NOT CAMEL) and should be progressed as a separate work stream, albeit drawing upon the experts currently involved with CAMEL and the solutions developed as part of it. The progression of this work is seen to be an urgent requirement.