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Source:	**TSG-T**
To:	**TSG-SA, TSG-CN, TSG-RAN**
Title:	**Terminology and vocabulary in 3GPP**

Introduction

This paper discusses some proposed general guidelines for the work with terminology within 3GPP.

Concerns have been expressed for a long time for the consistency of the existing definitions, and according to TSGS#4(99)241, TSG-SA will "appoint a group to examine the definitions given in 3G vocabulary documents and create an overall vocabulary/ terminology document containing the agreed abbreviations and definitions to be used in 3GPP specifications".

Partly as a response to this, S1 has produced a report “Terminology and Vocabulary within TSG-S1: Report and Recommendations”, dated 28.7.99.

At the moment of writing it is not clear how this S1 report was treated at the last S1 meeting; possibly the discussion was postponed. Nevertheless it appears relevant to comment on the included proposed principles and the recommendations. Some reactions are already known and commented on below.

Discussion on the general guidelines

In the S1 report three *principles* are proposed for the work:
Principle: use English words where possible
Principle: don't use common words as technical terms
Principle: re-use GSM terms

These principles are completely reasonable. Further, in the S1 report three *categories* of *definitions* are proposed (discussion omitted) by the following recommendations:
RECOMMENDATION 1, for terms local to a specification: If a special term is used in only one specification, it should be defined in that specification.
RECOMMENDATION 2, for terms local to the subject domain of service requirements: A new terminology document, 22.vvv , be produced and maintained by TSG-S1, relating specifically to the 22.000 series, called eg " Vocabulary for 22.000 series Service Requirements Specifications".
RECOMMENDATION 3, for terms used throughout 3GPP: A terminology document be produced and maintained by TSG-SA, "3GPP-VOCAB", which contains terms that have been identified as applying across the 3GPP project. The number of such terms should be as small as possible to minimise the learning burden on writers and readers.

The motivation behind this is efficiency for the document writers and readers; they should only have to look in the “document neighbourhood” for the definitions.

Although the intention is to achieve efficiency the conclusion seems not feasible in practice.

Several questions arise: What is a subject domain? How many vocabularies can we expect? Five (one for each TSG plus a common) ? Who decides and *who would be able to know* what terms that apply across 3GPP? When is this the case and when is the term “not widely [used] elsewhere” and should go into a subject domain vocabulary?

Further, when a term is defined for the first time it surely is unique to this document. Then it is vital that the information of this is spread to enable usage in other places as well as preventing a redefinition of the same term by accident somewhere else.

The discussion can go on for quite a while with considerations like this.

It appears that S1 (chair / vice chair ?) has had discussions with the MCC on the matter and that it has been concluded that the proposal in its complete extent is not feasible. Possibly a proposal will come suggesting that TSG-RAN continues their vocabulary, while the other TSGs have one together.

It does not seem motivated to have a split vocabulary for TSG-RAN, or any other group, in particular from a TSG-T point of view. The MS not only comprises all protocol layers but is also referenced in almost all other areas (except network transport).

Conclusions

TSG-T endorses the following principles, motivated by an unambiguous and efficient usage of the vocabulary document(s):

- There should only be *one* 3GPP vocabulary common to all groups.
- All documents should reference this vocabulary.
- It is allowed to copy some of the definitions in a specific document, with the note that the common vocabulary always overrides the local.
- Also definitions unique to a document should be included in the common vocabulary. An exception can be made when the definition clearly was made not to introduce a new concept, but solely to make the text more compact or easy to write.

TSG-SA, TSG-CN and TSG-RAN are asked to support this position in order to advance the work on a 3GPP vocabulary in the most rational way.