

Agenda Item: 6.2.....

Source: SMG4 MExE

Title: Mobile Station Application Execution Environment (MExE); Service description; Stage 1 (GSM 02.57 Version 7.0.0)

Document for: Information

Abstract:

This ETSI Technical Specification defines the stage one description of the Mobile Station Application Execution Environment (MExE). Stage one is an overall service description, primarily from the subscriber's and service providers' points of view, and does not deal with the details of the human interface itself.

This TS includes information applicable to network operators, service providers and terminal, switch and database manufacturers.

This TS contains the core requirements for a Mobile Station Application Execution Environment (MExE) which are sufficient to provide a complete service.

It is highly desirable however, that technical solutions for a Mobile Station Application Execution Environment (MExE) should be sufficiently flexible to allow for possible enhancements. Additional functionalities not documented in this TS may implement requirements which are considered outside the scope of this TS. This additional functionality may be on a network-wide basis, nation-wide basis or particular to a group of users. Such additional functionality shall not compromise conformance to the core requirements of the service.

This specification has been approved at SMG#25, Rapporteur is Mark Cataldo

This sp

GSM 02.57 V7.0.0 (1998-03)

Technical Specification

**Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+);
Mobile Station Application Execution Environment (MExE);
Service description;
Stage 1
(GSM 02.57 Version 7.0.0 Release 1998)**

Approved by SMG as SMG version only, not for publication



European Telecommunications Standards Institute

Reference

DTS/SMG-010257PQ (2do01003.PDF)

Keywords

Digital cellular telecommunications system,
Global System for Mobile communications
(GSM)

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Foreword

This draft ETSI Technical Specification has been produced by Special Mobile Group (SMG) of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI).

In analogy with CCITT Recommendations I.130, the first stage of the following three level structure is used to describe the telecommunications services as provided by European public telecommunications operators:

- Stage 1 is an overall service description, from the service subscriber's and user's standpoint;
- Stage 2 identifies the functional capabilities and information flows needed to support the service described in stage 1; and
- Stage 3 defines the signalling system protocols and switching functions needed to implement the service described in stage 1.

This TS details the stage 1 aspects (overall service description) for the support of a Mobile Station Application Execution Environment (MExE).

The contents of this TS are subject to continuing work within SMG and may change following formal SMG approval. Should SMG modify the contents of this TS it will then be re-released by ETSI with an identifying change of release date and an increase in version number as follows:

Version 7.x.y

where:

- 7 GSM Phase 2+ Release 1998
- y the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the specification;
- x the second digit is incremented for all other types of changes, i.e. technical enhancements, corrections, updates, etc.

1 Scope

This ETSI Technical Specification defines the stage one description of the Mobile Station Application Execution Environment (MExE). Stage one is an overall service description, primarily from the subscriber's and service providers' points of view, and does not deal with the details of the human interface itself.

This TS includes information applicable to network operators, service providers and terminal, switch and database manufacturers.

This TS contains the core requirements for a Mobile Station Application Execution Environment (MExE) which are sufficient to provide a complete service.

It is highly desirable however, that technical solutions for a Mobile Station Application Execution Environment (MExE) should be sufficiently flexible to allow for possible enhancements. Additional functionalities not documented in this TS may implement requirements which are considered outside the scope of this TS. This additional functionality may be on a network-wide basis, nation-wide basis or particular to a group of users. Such additional functionality shall not compromise conformance to the core requirements of the service.

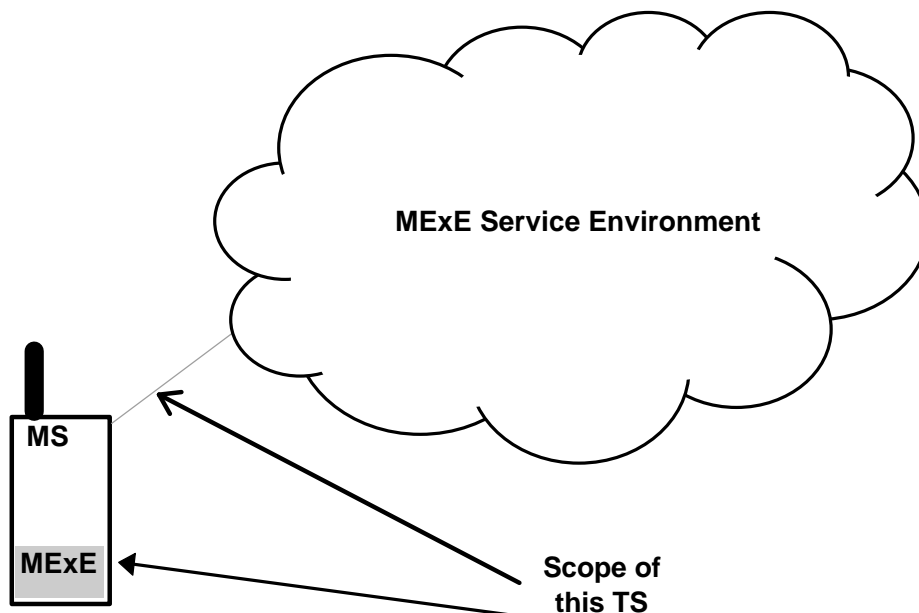


Figure 1: Scope of this TS

As indicated in Figure 1, the scope of this TS encompasses the MExE functionality in the MS, interaction with the MExE service environment. The MExE service environment is not necessarily restricted to the PLMN, and nodes providing MExE services (i.e. MExE servers) may also exist outside the PLMN. Aspects of the support provided by MExE servers within the MExE service environment (such as charging aspects, security level classification etc.) are covered by this specification, but not the MExE servers themselves.

MExE requirements are considered to be applicable to both GSM and UMTS systems.

2 References

References may be made to:

- a) specific versions of publications (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.), in which case, subsequent revisions to the referenced document do not apply; or

- b) all versions up to and including the identified version (identified by "up to and including" before the version identity); or
- c) all versions subsequent to and including the identified version (identified by "onwards" following the version identity); or
- d) publications without mention of a specific version, in which case the latest version applies.

A non-specific reference to an ETS shall also be taken to refer to later versions published as an EN with the same number.

2.1 Normative references

- [1] GSM 01.04 (ETR 350): "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); Abbreviations and acronyms".
- [2] GSM 10.57: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+); Project scheduling and open issues; Mobile Station Execution Environment (MExE)".

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this TS the following definitions apply:

applet: a small programme that is intended not to be run on its own, but rather to be embedded inside another application

application: MExE information in the form of software, applications, associated resources (e.g. libraries) and/or data

content: data and/or information associated with, or independent of, a particular application which may be presented to or collected from a user

MExE Classmark: a MExE Classmark identifies a category of MExE MS supporting MExE functionality with a minimum level of processing, memory, display and interactive capabilities. Several MExE Classmarks may be defined to differentiate between the functionalities offered by different MExE MSs. A MExE application or applet defined as being of a specific MExE Classmark indicates that it is supportable by a MExE MS of that Classmark.

MExE server: a node supporting MExE services in the MExE service environment

MExE service: a service enhanced (or made possible) by MExE technology

MExE service environment: Depending on the configuration of the PLMN, the operator shall be able to offer support to MExE services from traditional GSM nodes, IN nodes, operator-specific nodes, operator-franchised nodes and services provider nodes, together with access to nodes external (i.e. vendor-specific) to the PLMN depending on the nature of the MExE service. These nodes are considered to constitute the MExE service environment. The MExE service environment shall support direct MExE MS to MExE MS interaction of MExE services.

MExE service provider: an organisation which delivers MExE services to the subscriber. This is normally the PLMN operator, but could be an organisation with MExE responsibility (which may have been delegated by the PLMN operator).

MExE subscriber: the owner of a GSM subscription who has entered into an agreement with a MExE service provider for MExE services. Access to MExE services through other types of networks is out of scope of this specification.

subscriber: the term subscriber in the context of this TS refers to a MExE subscriber

user: the user of an MExE MS, who may or may not be the subscriber.

3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of this TS the following abbreviations apply:

API	Application Programming Interface
CS	Circuit Switched
FFS	For Further Study
IN	Intelligent Network
ME	Mobile Equipment
MExE	Mobile Station (Application) Execution Environment
MMI	Man Machine Interface
MS	Mobile Station
NO	Network Operator
PLMN	Public Land Mobile Network
SIM	Subscriber Identity Module
SP	Service Provider

Further GSM related abbreviations are given in GSM 01.04 [1].

4 Description

MExE provides a standardised execution environment in an MS, and an ability to negotiate its supported capabilities with a MExE service provider, allowing applications to be developed independently of any MS platform. The MS (consisting of the ME and SIM) can then be targetted at a range of implementations for MExE from small devices with low bandwidth, limited displays, low processor speeds, limited memory, MMI etc., to sophisticated with a complete MExE execution environment.

The introduction of MExE execution environment into MSs is a significant step forward in their evolution. The ability of MSs to support MExE applications represents an extension of MSs' capabilities. In order to allow current and future technologies to exploit and benefit from this, a standardised means of negotiating the MSs' and network's capabilities is supported. This negotiation will permit the mutual exchange of capabilities between the MS and the MExE server, and possibly include the service profile of the user and capabilities of the network. The negotiation may take place at service initiation, or on a dynamic basis.

A network can be a transport bearer for the negotiation, interaction and transferring of applications, applets and content with the MS, however it need not necessarily be the provider of the MExE services with which the MS's execution environment is interacting with. The network may also be the intermediary between two MSs which are engaged in a MExE service with each other, with the network effectively supplying the "pipe" and not playing a MExE rôle in the connection.

Network nodes, nodes external to the network, or even MSs may be the entities which interacts with the MS's execution environment.

5 Compatibility of MExE MS's and applications

5.1 MExE classmarks

Given the wide ranging hardware capabilities of MExE MSs, together with the development of MExE applications and applets, a MExE classification shall be supported to determine their respective capability and compatibility. The MExE classification shall apply both to MSs and applications and applets.

The objective is to:

- classify the capabilities of a MExE MS to support MExE applications and applets; and
- identify the class of MExE MS on which a MExE application and applet may be supported.

The concept of a MExE Classmark is introduced to manage the MExE MS and MExE application and applet classification and compatibility. The MExE Classmark is distinct and unrelated to the existing GSM MS Classmark. The use of MExE Classmarks shall be supported during the capability negotiation between the MExE service provider and the MExE MS.

5.2 MS MExE classmarks

A given MExE Classmark shall identify a category of MExE MS supporting MExE functionality with a minimum level of processing, memory, display and interactive capabilities.

Small devices may be considered to be MExE Classmark 1 devices, and contemporary sophisticated devices may be considered to be MExE Classmark 2 devices. The minimum level of capabilities for each MExE Classmark is beyond the scope of this Stage 1 service description. As MS development evolves and more sophisticated devices (or indeed simpler devices) become available, further MS MExE Classmarks shall be definable to identify MS's capable of supporting improved (or additional) MExE functionality.

A given MExE MS Classmark identifies support by a MExE MS for a defined level of MExE functionality, but does not necessarily imply support of other levels of MExE Classmark. A MExE MS may also support multiple MExE Classmarks.

5.3 Application and applet MExE classmarks

MExE applications and applets will be developed to execute in one or more classes of MExE MS's. In order for MExE applications and applets to be properly supported by a MExE MS, the application and applet shall identify the minimum functional capabilities required of a MExE MS, as defined by the MS's MExE Classmark.

MExE applications and applets shall be designated by the same classes of MExE MS's on which they may be executed. Examples of the classification of MExE applications and applets are as follows:-

- MExE Application "A" is defined as a MExE Classmark 1 application;
the application is identified as suitable for execution on MExE Classmark 1 MS's only.
- MExE Application "B" is defined as a MExE Classmark 1 and Classmark 2 application;
the application is identified as suitable for execution on MExE Classmark 1 and Classmark 2 MS's only.
- MExE Application "C" is defined as a MExE Classmark 2 and Classmark 3 application;
the application is identified as suitable for execution on MExE Classmark 2 and Classmark 3 MS's only.
- MExE Application "D" is defined as a MExE Classmark 1, Classmark 2 and Classmark 3 application;
the application is identified as suitable for execution on MExE Classmark 1, Classmark 2 and Classmark 3 MS's.

If a MExE application or applet is capable of being supported by other classes of MExE MS's (with reduced or enhanced capabilities), it is the responsibility of the MExE service provider to re-classify the MExE application or applet accordingly.

MExE applications and applets defined by a MExE service provider to a given class of MExE MS, shall be supportable by all MExE MS's of that class regardless of MExE MS manufacturer. MExE applications and applets shall operate on differing MExE MS of the same MExE MS class without modification.

It shall be possible for MExE service providers to make the same MExE applications and applets available in the network for different classes of MExE MS. It is desirable that applications and applets are backward compatible within a given technology and for a given MS Classmark; however such backward compatibility is out of scope of this specification.

6 General MExE requirements

6.1 High level MExE requirements

The high level requirements of MExE are as follows:

- the means for MExE service provider specific services to be supported by all mobiles of a particular class (i.e. the need for a common set of APIs and development tools), and accessible across a range of networks;
- provide the user with a more sophisticated user interfaces (e.g. browser-like) with a rich variety of MMI concepts to control and invoke services (i.e. softkeys, icons, voice recognition etc.);
- the user's and MExE service providers capability to control the "look and feel" of applications and applets;
- the ability of the user to personalise the user interface;
- the ability of the user to personalise services;
- provide support of a wide variety of applications and applets;
- provide the means for MExE service providers to authenticate MExE subscribers;
- provide the user access to Internet and Intranet based applications and applets (via both standard Internet and Wireless optimised protocols);
- the means to transfer applications, applets and content automatically or on demand to a MExE MS from a MExE service provider, and upgrade existing applications across the GSM network;
- the means to support direct MExE MS to MExE MS interaction of MExE services;
- the need for an inherent security architecture such that both the MExE MS and MExE server sides of a connection are authenticated (possibly by a brokerage server), and have access to a range of encryption and security functions in order to maintain the security and integrity of the GSM network. The MExE service provider shall maintain security of subscribers personal data and GSM network data, with all aspects relating to GSM security being centred on the SIM;
- the ability for the MExE service provider to charge subscribers for MExE service provider provided MExE services, at connect time, when downloading, or on usage;
- the means for MExE service provider specific applications and applets on the MExE MS to communicate with other GSM network nodes (e.g. a SCP);
- the ability to provide information to MExE service providers (e.g. location information of MS' for use with location dependent services);
- the means for MExE service providers and their applications and applets to determine MExE MS capabilities (i.e. MExE Classmark, technology, supported bearers according to network capabilities and GSM subscription etc.). (This shall be used by MExE servers to adapt application and applet transfer to MExE MS capabilities, and shall be used by applications and applets whilst running to adapt their behaviour to the MS's capabilities.);
- the opportunity for MExE service providers to apply expertise and software developed for other platforms;
- provision of APIs and tools to develop MExE services which are applicable for MExE MS';
- the means for the user to manage (i.e. identify version, delete, modify, save etc.) the applications, applets and content on the MExE MS;
- the means for the user to control acceptance (i.e. by Security Level, level of trust etc.) of applications, applets and content transferred to the MExE MS. (It shall be possible for the user to finely control a trusted application or applet's access rights on the MExE MS, such as reading/writing/deletion of files stored on the MExE MS.).

Some of the above requirements are subsequently elaborated.

6.2 Requirements description from the user's standpoint

MExE provides an improvement in the capabilities of an MS, as well as an extended range of services available to the user from, or via, the network. The user shall have

- user interface configuration management; and
- service management;

of the services offered to him by MExE.

6.2.1 User interface configuration management

User interface configuration management refers to the behaviour of the MExE MS, and the ability of the user to modify the MExE MS to behave in the manner he is accustomed to, or wishes the MExE MS to, present itself to the user. It does not refer to the services which interact with the network, but the way in which the MExE MS interacts with the user.

Users expect MExE MSs to offer an increasing range of capabilities which need not be ubiquitously present on each MExE MS, depending on the technological limitations of the MExE MS. The user shall be able to manage the user interface configuration of the MExE MS. For example, some user's may require a voice-controlled MMI, whilst others may have the need for a specialised presentation on the MExE MS display or preset function keys regardless of the application or applet which is running. Management of the user interface configuration will permit a user to move from MExE MS to MExE MS and exploit the technological capabilities of each class of MExE MS, with the use of varying services downloaded from the network, as required.

The user shall be able to identify (either directly or indirectly) the user interface configuration he wishes to add, modify or delete on his MExE MS, and shall be offered the means of doing this. This management may be performed, for example, by a configuration capability profile.

In taking this action, it shall be possible to determine whether the user interface configuration is already resident on the ME, or whether it requires to be obtained from the SIM or the network. The modifications which may be requested by the user could result in, for example, differing display characteristics being employed, redefinition of keys, modification of the "look and feel" of the user interface, touch screen facility, extensions to existing functions or the capability to automate some functions.

The control of the "look and feel" of MExE applications and applets to customise their level of functionality and appearance may be possible by the MExE service provider, network operator (where the MExE service provider is not the network operator) and the user. The aspects of the application or applet which may be customisable are determined by the MExE service provider as an integral part of the MExE application or applet.

The user interface configuration management which is specific to the ME shall be stored on the ME, and user interface configuration management which is generic to ME's may be stored in the network or on the SIM.

The definition of the user interface configuration management which may be offered to the user is outside the scope of this service description.

6.2.2 Service management

MExE shall provide the ability to customise the range of services offered to the subscriber. The subscriber's ability to configure the services available on the MExE MS shall be dynamic, as the range of services required may differ depending on the network, time and location that the user finds himself in. For example, a subscriber may require access to services offering financial support when attending a business meeting, however later in the day he may need access to travel information and booking facilities when re-arranging his travel home.

A common address across all PLMN supporting MExE shall be available, from which the user shall be able to request the range of MExE services available he is registered in, if the PLMN supports MExE. The downloading of services may be autonomously controlled by the MExE MS to update existing service access on the mobile, or to download new services. The management of these services may be defined by the subscriber directly or under the control of the

MExE MS's capabilities organised on the MExE MS (i.e. a user may be particularly interested in unified messaging services, and require the availability of such services to be made available to him).

The user shall be able to determine and manage which MExE applications, applets and content may be transferred to the MExE MS (i.e. in terms of their security level, source of the applications etc.), determine and manage which MExE applications, applets and content are currently resident and usable on the MExE MS (e.g. when roaming some services may not be available to the user), and delete MExE applications, applets and content on the MExE MS.

The definition of the applications, applets and content which may be offered to the user is outside the scope of this specification.

6.3 Requirements description from the MExE service provider's standpoint

6.3.1 Transfer of applications, applets and content

A common mechanism shall be available to perform the transfer of applications, applets and content between MExE MSs' and the MExE service provider.

The common transfer mechanism shall permit applications, applets and content (according to the appropriate MExE Security Level) to be transferred to the MExE MS.

It shall be possible for the MExE service provider to:-

- transfer applications, applets and content between the MExE MS and the MExE service provider (which may be initiated by either party);
- request the version of applications, applets and content on the MExE MS;
- identify the MExE MS' capabilities;
- support a request from the MExE MS for information on the (local) services which may be transferred from the network.

Some of these functions may be used by the MExE service provider either individually, or together to automatically update previously transferred services.

6.3.2 Network node types

The introduction of MExE shall enable an expansion of services available to the user from various network node types.

The MExE MS shall be able to communicate with the various network node types in the MExE service environment, allowing access to intelligent nodes to process service requests from the MExE MS.

6.3.3 Subscriber data

Subscription to MExE services shall be logically separate to subscription of GSM services. A subscriber may have a MExE subscription to multiple MExE service providers. It may also be possible for the subscriber to interrogate such subscription registration (with a suitable means of authorisation), depending on PLMN support.

6.3.4 Roaming subscribers

Roaming MExE subscribers shall be able, as far as possible, to access their normal MExE services in their HPLMN.

As usual when roaming, it cannot be ensured that the VPLMN can provide the subscriber access to the same MExE services (e.g. applications, applets and content) as he is accustomed to. However, in the VPLMN additional MExE services may be available, depending on network capabilities. Service continuity when roaming is dependent on the availability of the services in the VPLMN, and is outside the scope of this specification.

The operation of the transferred applications, applets and content may be location dependent, and their behaviour when in an different location is outside the scope of this specification.

The following forms of MExE subscriber roaming are identified:-

- roaming between networks (HPLMN ↔ VPLMN);
- roaming between visited networks (VPLMN ↔ VPLMN);
- regional roaming within a network (within the HPLMN or VPLMN).

There may be a need to distinguish between the above types of roaming from a MExE services management perspective, as the operation of location dependent MExE services may be affected when the MExE subscriber roams beyond the boundaries of a PLMN or region.

7 MExE bearer requirements

The MExE execution environment is isolated from the network specific bearers by the transport protocol. This clause addresses the basic requirements for bearer services which are of fundamental importance and dictate the type of service offered to the MExE transport protocol.

The characteristics of some existing different bearer services are presented in Table 1, and the emergence of additional bearers is foreseen with the evolution of UMTS.

Table 1: Characteristics of bearer services

Bearer Category	Example	Channel	Bitrate (bit/s)	Latency (ms)	Layer 3 Message max. length (octets) see note	Message delivery	Endpoint (MS-?)	Concurrency with CS-call	Example usage
Message-based (connectionless)	SMS (PTP)	SDCCH	660	240	140	store and forward	SMSC	yes	messaging services
		SACCH	150	480					
	SMSCB	CBCH	44	N/A	83	broadcast	BSC		
Message-based (connection oriented)	USSD	SDCCH FACCH	660 1100	240 120	160	direct	MSC, VLR, HLR or other PLMN node	yes	Internet WWW access
									UUS
Circuit-based (connection oriented)	HSCSD	TCH	n×9600 n×14400	N/A	N/A	N/A	other end	no	FTP
NOTE: that the indicated message lengths do not reflect the capability for concatenation or compression of messages for specific bearers									

The user is not expected to access the bearer directly, but to do so via a MExE transport API. All bearers may not be available in all implementations.

The MExE transport protocol shall have access to a range of bearer services, including support of telecom-related services and data-related services. Telecom-related services are carried out between the MExE MS and the MSC, VLR, HLR, SCP or other operator-managed GSM/UMTS nodes in the network. Data-related services are mainly carried out between the MExE MS and an interworking function or a gateway node to external networks.

Some applications require a bearer which can operate both without an ongoing call (stand-alone) and in parallel with a circuit switched call, whereas other applications do not require bearer operation in parallel with a circuit switched call. The MExE transport protocol shall have access to both types of bearers.

In order to support a wide variety of applications, the MExE transport protocol shall have access to both connection-oriented and connectionless bearers. Likewise, both message-based and circuit-based bearers shall be available.

The integrity of the bearers must be assured to ensure their capability to correctly and properly transfer applications and applets between the MExE service provider and the MExE MS.

8 MExE protocols requirements

In order for MExE to be supported over the network, a set of standardised protocols is required to support interaction between the MExE MS and the MExE service environment.

As this specification is not required to propose a specific technology, it identifies the MExE protocols requirements from the service subscriber's and user's standpoint.

The functional capabilities, information flows, signalling system protocols and switching functions needed to implement the service described in this Stage 1 specification will be identified by subsequent specifications at the Stage 2 and Stage 3 levels.

The high level MExE protocols requirements are identified in the subsequent subclauses.

8.1 Optimised Wireless Access

A primary goal of MExE is to provide access to Internet and Intranet services, the standard Internet applications, security and transport protocols shall be one possible set of MExE protocols which is supported. It is noted that these protocols may not cover all the requirements identified in this specification for all classes of ME's.

A set of application, security and transport protocols optimised for wireless access, and compliant to MExE requirements, shall be specified and form part of the MExE standards.

MExE MS's shall be able to support either or both of these sets of protocols.

8.2 Wireless network independence

The upper layers of the MExE protocols shall be independent of the type of underlying wireless network so that applications and applets do not need to take into account the specific nature of networks. In particular, lower layers shall provide a generic access API to network bearers so that application and applet developers do not have to cater for the supported underlying bearers. It shall be possible for applications and applets to request specific bearer services and be notified accordingly if they are not available.

The transport layer of the MExE protocols may however be adapted to support the specific features of the underlying bearers. The MExE protocols shall have the ability to use all the underlying bearer services which the MExE MS is capable of supporting.

8.3 Scaleable and extendible protocols

The MExE protocols shall support a scaleable and extendible environment for application and applet development in mobile communication devices. It shall provide a set of generic, non-MS or service-dependent, features. Scaleability of

the MExE protocols applies to both the MExE MS (e.g. where simple devices do not require the extensive protocols support possibly required by more sophisticated devices) and the network.

The MExE protocols shall support both low bandwidth bearers (e.g. SMS, USSD etc.) as well as medium bandwidth bearers (e.g. anything up to 64kb/s, HSCSD, UMTS). The introduction of new bearers shall be supported, allowing applications and applets to automatically benefit from their capabilities.

The MExE protocols shall support existing servers and applications and applets, and provide a stable platform for future application development.

8.4 Service independence

The MExE protocols shall be independent of the services communicated over the protocols. The modification in the range of services, or addition of new services, offered over the network shall not be restricted by the MExE protocols.

8.5 Network node type independence

The MExE protocols shall be independent of the network node type(s) being communicated with over the protocols. The MExE protocols shall support the evolution of network node types in a PLMN.

8.6 Enquiry and notification of MExE capabilities

The MExE protocols shall support a generic technology-independent means for the notification by the MExE MS to a MExE server, or enquiry from the MExE server to the MExE MS, of the supported MExE capabilities consisting of:

- MExE Classmark (mandatory, MExE server ↔ MExE MS);
the supported class of MExE MS;
- MExE technology (mandatory, MExE server ↔ MExE MS);
the supported types of MExE MS technology to support MExE services;
- terminal characteristics (optional, MExE MS → MExE server, following MExE server enquiry);
further details of the supportable characteristics (i.e. screen size, MMI capabilities, supportable bearer services, toolkits etc. as constrained by the network, terminal, subscription and user preferences).

In existing networks it may not be possible to determine the network capabilities (i.e. supported bearers) and subscription options of the subscriber.

The above notification by the MExE MS or the MExE server are supported at service initiation, dynamically during the provision of such a service, and following a change in the quality of service (i.e. following a handover, change of network, degradation of service, change in quality of service).

The notification mechanism shall flexibly support notification of the MExE MS, and be able to accommodate future evolution of MExE MS equipment.

8.7 MS request of services information

The MExE protocols shall support a notification from the PLMN or a request from the MExE MS to the PLMN, for information on the (local) services which may be transferred from the PLMN. The information from the PLMN may take the form of listing the services, or references to a PLMN entity (either internal or external to the PLMN) where the available services may be determined.

8.8 Support of transfer protocols

The MExE protocols shall support the capability to transfer new applications and applets to the MExE MS as required. The protocols shall support both user initiated and MExE server initiated transfer of several types of data (content description pages, procedural logic, images, libraries etc.), and be able to indicate the type of data being transferred.

Each specific MExE technology shall be support a a standardised transfer mechanism for that MExE technology.

9 MS application execution environment requirements

9.1 MS platform independence

In order to support the objectives of MExE, the ME and SIM is required to have an architecture capable of supporting applications, applets and content in a standardised execution environment, independently of the MExE MS manufacturer.

As this specification is not required to propose a specific technology, it identifies the common platform requirements from the service subscriber's and user's standpoint.

The limitations of small devices may result in the provision of the full application execution environment only being available in sophisticated devices.

The high level execution environment requirements are identified in the subsequent subclauses.

9.2 Document mark-up language and other coding formats

In order to cater for a wide variety of ME's with different display and input capabilities, support for both the standard Internet mark-up language and a content description language optimised for small display devices of low bandwidth bearers shall be defined with the MExE specifications. Both languages may be implemented on any MExE MS. Standardised ways of coding content (i.e. images, phonebook, calendar etc.) shall be defined, however the support of such standardised content coding is optional.

In order to facilitate global use of MExE services, a standardised range of character sets for MExE services requires to be defined, and the capabilities of the user and applications to use them.

9.3 MExE APIs

MExE APIs may be defined covering aspects (e.g. Network APIs, Non-network API's, Terminal APIs etc.) within a given MExE Classmark of MExE MS (ME an/or SIM), and the MExE MS shall support a core API to support the execution of MExE applications and applets. The core API is a the minimal set of API that is present on all MExE MS's, providing the MExE execution environment in which applications and applets can execute, and is known as the Core MExE API. The Core MExE API consists of generic and GSM/UMTS specific aspects.

Applications and applets which have been designed to execute in this Core MExE API environment (and the optional GSM MExE APIs subsequently identified), will provide additional functions to the MExE MS.

In addition to the Core MExE API on an MExE MS, standardised MExE API extensions such as Network API (e.g. access to call control services, SMS etc.), Non-network GSM/UMTS-defined services API (e.g. security aspects, SIM phonebook etc.), Terminal API (e.g. power management, access to alerting function, phonebook, MMI, smartcard access etc.), shall be subsequently defined and may be supported by the MExE MS in order to further exploit GSM's capabilities.

The standardised MExE API extensions shall include access to mobility information.

10 Charging requirements

The use of MExE services shall, at MExE service provider determination, be subject to charging.

There are several forms of charging which shall be available to the MExE service provider. It shall be possible for the MExE service provider to charge in the following instances:-

- subscription;
 - the subscriber's registration to use MExE services may be subject to a charge;
- service transfer;
 - the transfer of services and/or information to a subscriber's MExE MS may be subject to a charge;
- service upgrading;
 - the upgrading of previously transferred services to a subscriber's MExE MS may be subject to a charge (automated upgrading of services may be subject to a different charge);
- service usage;
 - the usage of transferred services by a subscriber's MExE MS may be subject to a charge (possibly use either internal to, or external to, the MExE MS);
- roaming ;
 - the usage of MExE services by a subscriber's MExE MS when roaming may be subject to additional charges;

A standardised means of transferring (indicative and/or final) charging information (for the use of MExE services) from the MExE service provider to the MExE MS shall be defined.

The usage of the bearer service may be subject to a charge (i.e. possibly time-based, volume-based, event-based etc.) by the network operator.

Normal service charges may additionally apply when using MExE services and incurring the above charges.

Other charging requirements may be identified in due course.

11 Security requirements

The common execution environment on the MExE MS shall provide a comprehensive set of security mechanisms.

With the transferring and execution of applications, applets and content to the MExE MS (via the GSM/UMTS network or other means), secure firewalls to the basic functionality of the MExE MS shall be provided. Transferred MExE applications, applets and content shall be secure and verified on the MExE MS. The secure area of the application, applet and content will be used to verify both the integrity of the transferred MExE applications, applets and content, as well as identifying and authenticating the Security Level and certification assigned to it. The security of content may be optional, as determined by the sender of the information. Strict rules are required in the MExE MS execution environment in terms of detecting and discarding rogue applets.

The security level of applications, applets and content shall be securely contained within the applications, applets and content and be verified for its integrity in the MExE MS as part of the security procedures.

The security level of applications, applets and content shall be graded according to the measure of authorisation which they have been designated. The following 4 levels of shall be supported for MExE applications, applets and content:

- MExE Security Level 1 (used by the HPLMN operator);

MExE applications, applets and content designated at this security level have been authorised by the network operator (i.e. HPLMN), with access to GSM security areas and functions.

- MExE Security Level 2 (system applications, applets and content);

MExE applications, applets and content designated at this security level have access authorisation on the ME or smartcard, to enhance the MExE MS's capabilities (i.e. upgrade the MExE MS software/firmware). This level of authorisation is normally ascribed to the MExE MS manufacturer.

- MExE Security Level 3 (trusted applications, applets and content);

MExE applications, applets and content designated at this security level have been authorised to perform functions (such as create files, or read files) on the MExE MS, and have access rights to the MExE MS's capabilities as defined by this level of user-authorised certification. The applications', applets' and content's access rights associated with the certification may be determined by the user.

- MExE Security Level 4 (untrusted applications, applets and content);

MExE applications, applets and content designated at this security level have restricted access authorisation on the ME or SIM, and do not have certification permitting access to the MExE MS's capabilities. The applications', applets' and content's access rights have not been supplied with an associated certification determined by the user, or the certification has not been successfully verified.

Multiple Security Levels may be assigned to applications, applets and content, and there is no implied hierarchy or inclusion of Security Levels. MExE Stage 2 shall further elaborate the capabilities of each Security Level.

The MExE subscriber shall be able to control whether applications, applets and content of specific Security Levels may be transferred to the MExE MS.

Applications and applets shall be able to designate whether their attributed file space is accessible by other applications and applets (i.e. application "A" which maintains a personal financial information in a file shall identify whether it may only be accessed by itself, or by other applications).

Within the constraints of the defined Security Levels, applications and applets (either on or off the MExE MS) shall not be able to originate calls, unless they have been authorised by the user.

With MExE's capability to transfer applications and applets from a network server to the MExE MS, the risk of compromising the integrity of the MExE MS's security must be prevented. Security requirements are therefore identified for both the ME and the SIM. Security mechanisms from the MExE MS to the accessed servers shall and have access to a range security functions to authenticate both the MExE MS and server; such authentication may be performed by the MExE MS, an intermediate entity, and/or the server. MExE shall continue to support the inherent security and integrity of the GSM network.

The integrity of the SIM and existing GSM security mechanisms shall not be compromised with the introduction of MExE services.

12 Interworking with other network features

All services available in the network shall continue to be offered in addition to MExE. This includes the basic services, supplementary services and network features.

It shall be network-determined whether specific MExE services supplement, co-operate with, or supersede the network available services, when a user is subscribed to MExE and has transferred the specific MExE service.

The interworking characteristics of individual MExE services with other network features is outside the scope of this specification.

13 Network interworking

All services offered in co-operation with other networks shall continue to be offered in combination with MExE. This includes the basic services, supplementary services and network features.

The interworking characteristics of individual MExE services with other networks is outside the scope of this specification.

History

Document history		
Date	Version	Comment
January 1998	0.1.0	Initial draft.
January 1998	0.2.0	Interim draft with updates of sections up to, and including section 7.2.2, during the Stage 1 review held in Sophia Antipolis on the 14 th -15 th January 1998.
January 1998	0.3.0	Revised draft following the review held in Sophia Antipolis on the 14 th -15 th January 1998, and forwarded to SMG1 for information.
February 1998	0.4.0	Revised draft following additions made by the rapporteur, together with comments received from the 1 st MExE Stage 2 meeting (Espoo, 28 th -30 th January 1998, and the SMG4 plenary (Lillehammer, 9 th -13 th February 1998).
February 1998	0.5.0	Revised draft following additions made by the rapporteur, including the addition of the bearer service requirements.
February 1998	0.6.0	Revised interim draft following additions made by the rapporteur, including comments received during the Stage 1 review held in Sophia Antipolis on the 25 ^h -27 th February 1998.
February 1998	0.7.0	Revised interim draft following additions made by the rapporteur, including comments received during the Stage 1 review held in Sophia Antipolis on the 25 ^h -27 th February 1998.
February 1998	0.8.0	Revised interim draft following additions made by the rapporteur, including comments received during the Stage 1 review held in Sophia Antipolis on the 25 ^h -27 th February 1998.
February 1998	0.9.0	Final draft following additions made by the rapporteur, including comments received during the Stage 1 review held in Sophia Antipolis on the 25 ^h -27 th February 1998.
March 1998	7.0.0	Approved at SMG#25 (not for Publication)
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