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| 3GPP TR 33.840 V1.0.0 (2021-01) | |
| Technical Report | |
| 3rd Generation Partnership Project;  Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects;  Study on Security aspects of the disaggregated gNB architecture  (Release 17) | |
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# Foreword

This Technical Report has been produced by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).

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

Version x.y.z

where:

x the first digit:

1 presented to TSG for information;

2 presented to TSG for approval;

3 or greater indicates TSG approved document under change control.

y the second digit is incremented for all changes of substance, i.e. technical enhancements, corrections, updates, etc.

z the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the document.

In the present document, modal verbs have the following meanings:

**shall** indicates a mandatory requirement to do something

**shall not** indicates an interdiction (prohibition) to do something

The constructions "shall" and "shall not" are confined to the context of normative provisions, and do not appear in Technical Reports.

The constructions "must" and "must not" are not used as substitutes for "shall" and "shall not". Their use is avoided insofar as possible, and they are not used in a normative context except in a direct citation from an external, referenced, non-3GPP document, or so as to maintain continuity of style when extending or modifying the provisions of such a referenced document.

**should** indicates a recommendation to do something

**should not** indicates a recommendation not to do something

**may** indicates permission to do something

**need not** indicates permission not to do something

The construction "may not" is ambiguous and is not used in normative elements. The unambiguous constructions "might not" or "shall not" are used instead, depending upon the meaning intended.

**can** indicates that something is possible

**cannot** indicates that something is impossible

The constructions "can" and "cannot" are not substitutes for "may" and "need not".

**will** indicates that something is certain or expected to happen as a result of action taken by an agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

**will not** indicates that something is certain or expected not to happen as a result of action taken by an agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

**might** indicates a likelihood that something will happen as a result of action taken by some agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

**might not** indicates a likelihood that something will not happen as a result of action taken by some agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

In addition:

**is** (or any other verb in the indicative mood) indicates a statement of fact

**is not** (or any other negative verb in the indicative mood) indicates a statement of fact

The constructions "is" and "is not" do not indicate requirements.

# Introduction

This clause is optional. If it exists, it shall be the second unnumbered clause.

# 1 Scope

The present document contains a study on the security aspects of disaggregated gNB. TR 38.823[2] contains the enhanced service requirements for disaggregated gNB without any security relevant conclusion, while TS 38.401[3] contains the basic disaggregated architecture.

The present document provides key issues including security threats and potential requirements related to the work in TR 38.823[2] and develops applicable solutions to the key issues. This study is expected to investigate whether there are security impacts based on TR 38.823[3] comparing existing security architecture as well. The potential solutions shall support backward compatibility.

NOTE: Potential solutions will not compromise the requirement that the 5G RAN internal architecture (i.e., CP/UP separation and DU/CU split) is invisible to the UE.

NOTE: The present document assumes that deviation from existing security mechanism needs to be avoided as much as possible.

# 2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non‑specific.

- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.

- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

[1] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".

[2] 3GPP TR 38.823: "Study of further enhancement for disaggregated gNB".

[3] 3GPP TS 38.401: "NG-RAN; Architecture description".

# 3 Definitions of terms, symbols and abbreviations

This clause and its three subclauses are mandatory. The contents shall be shown as "void" if the TS/TR does not define any terms, symbols, or abbreviations.

## 3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the terms given in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply. A term defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same term, if any, in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1].

**example:** text used to clarify abstract rules by applying them literally.

## 3.2 Symbols

For the purposes of the present document, the following symbols apply:

<symbol> <Explanation>

## 3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply. An abbreviation defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same abbreviation, if any, in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1].

<ABBREVIATION> <Expansion>

# 4 Security aspects of disaggregated gNB architecture

Architecture for separation of gNB-CU-CP and gNB-CU-UP is specified in TS 38.401 [yy] and shown in Figure 4-1.

****

Figure 4-1: Overall architecture for separation of gNB-CU-CP and gNB-CU-UP

The gNB-CU-CP selects the appropriate gNB-CU-UP(s) for the requested services for the UE. As specified in TS38.401, CP/UP separation is invisible to other nodes, i.e. UE and 5GC, this principle is inherited in this document.

Based on this, the present document will consider whether security enhancements inside a disaggregated gNB architecture are needed.

# 5 Key issues

Editor’s Note: This clause contains all the key issues identified during the study.

## 5.X Key Issue #X: <Key Issue Name>

### 5.X.1 Key issue details

### 5.X.2 Security threats

### 5.X.3 Potential security requirements

# 6 Solutions

Editor’s Note: This clause contains the proposed solutions addressing the identified key issues.

## 6.Y Solution #Y: <Solution Name>

### 6.Y.1 Introduction

Editor’s Note: Each solution should list the key issues being addressed.

### 6.Y.2 Solution details

### 6.Y.3 Evaluation

Editor’s Note: Each solution should motivate how the potential security requirements of the key issues being addressed are fulfilled.

# 7 Conclusions

It is concluded that no new security measures are defined in the support of disaggregated gNB architecture where one UE connects to several gNB-CU-UPs.

Annex A (informative):  
Change history

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Change history** | | | | | | | |
| **Date** | **Meeting** | **TDoc** | **CR** | **Rev** | **Cat** | **Subject/Comment** | **New version** |
| 2020-08 | SA3#100 | S3-201629 |  |  |  | Initial template | 0.0.0 |
| 2020-08 | SA3#100 | S3-201704 |  |  |  | Change the TR template | 0.0.1 |
| 2020-08 | SA3#100 | S3-201705 |  |  |  | 1. remove the clause 6.3 “system impact” 2. TR title and Clause 4 title revised | 0.0.2 |
| 2020-08 | SA3#100 | S3-202230 |  |  |  | Revise the version number | 0.0.3 |
| 2020-10 | SA3#100bis | S3-202793 |  |  |  | Version after incorporating changes in S3-202798 and S3-202768 | 0.1.0 |
| 2020-11 | SA3#101 | S3-203451 |  |  |  | Version after incorporating changes in S3-203030 | 0.2.0 |
| 2021-01 | SA3#102 | S3-210606 |  |  |  | Version after incorporating changes in S3-210595 | 1.0.0 |

Change history of this template:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 2001-07 | Copyright date changed to 2001; space character added before TTC in copyright notification; space character before first reference deleted. | 1.3.3 |
| 2002-01 | Copyright date changed to 2002. | 1.3.4 |
| 2002-07 | Extra Releases added to title area. | 1.3.5 |
| *2002-12* | *"TM" added to 3GPP logo.* | *1.3.6* |
| *2003-02* | *Copyright date changed to 2003.* | *1.3.7* |
| *2003-12* | *Copyright date changed to 2004. Chinese OP changed from CWTS to CCSA* | *14.0* |
| *2004-04* | *North American OP changed from T1 to ATIS* | *1.5.0* |
| *2005-11* | *Stock text of clause 3 includes reference to 21.905.* | *1.6.0* |
| *2005-11* | *Caters for new TSG structure. Minor corrections.* | *1.6.1* |
| *2006-01* | *Revision marks removed.* | *1.6.2* |
| *2008-11* | *LTE logo line added, © date changed to 2008, guidance on keywords modified; acknowledgement of trade marks; sundry editorial corrections and cosmetic improvements* | *1.7.0* |
| *2010-02* | *3GPP logo changed for cleaner version, with tag line; LTE-Advanced logo line added;  © date changed to 2010; editorial change to cover page footnote text; trade marks acknowledgement text modified; additional Releases added on cover page; proforma copyright release text block modified* | *1.8.0* |
| *2010-02* | *Smaller 3GPP logo file used.* | *1.8.1* |
| *2010-07* | *Guidance note concerning use of LTE-Advanced logo added.* | *1.8.2* |
| *2011-04-01* | *Guidance of use of logos on cover page modified; copyright year modified.* | *1.8.3* |
| *2013-05-15* | *Changed File Properties to MCC macro default.*  *Removed R99, added Rel-12/13.*  *Modified Copyright year.*  *Guidance on annex X Change history.* | *1.8.4* |
| *2014-10-27* | *Updated Release selection on cover. In clause 3, added "3GPP" to TR 21.905.* | *1.8.5* |
| *2015-01-06* | *New Organizational Partner TSDSI added to copyright block. Old Releases removed.* | *1.9.0* |
| *2015-12-03* | *Provision for LTE Advanced Pro logo  Update copyright year to 2016* | *1.10.0* |
| *2016-03-08* | *Standarization of the layout of the Change History table in the last annex.(Unreleased)* | *1.11.0* |
| *2016-06-15* | *Minor adjustment to Change History table heading* | *1.11.1* |
| *2017-03-13* | *Adds option for 5G logo on cover* | *1.12.0* |
| *2017-05-03* | *Smaller 5G logo to reduce file size* | *1.12.1* |
| *2019-02-25* | *Replacement of frames on cover pages by in-line text.*  *Clarification of help text on when to use 5G logo. Removal of defunct keywords frame on page 2. Add Rel-16, Rel-17 options, eliminated earlier, frozen, Releases (cover page, below title) Corrections to some guidance text, addition of guidance text concerning automatic page headers under Word 2016 ff. Use of modal auxiliary verbs added to Foreword. More explicit guidance on Bibliography and Index annexes. Converted to .docx format.* | *1.13.0* |
| *2019-09-12* | *Cover page table outline shown dotted for ease of logo selection. (Author to hide outline after logo selection.) User now needs to delete whole table rows instead of individual cells, which proved to be tricky.*  *Change of style for "notes" in the Foreword to normal paragraphs.*  *Insertion of new bookmarks, correction of location of existing bookmarks. (To improve navigation.)*  *Improvements to guidance text.* | *1.13.1* |