Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects *TSGS#9(00)0467*
Meeting #9, Hawaii, USA, 25-28 September 2000

Source: **Lucent Technologies**

Title: **Handling of documentation for release 4 and release 5**

Document for: **Discussion**

Agenda Item:

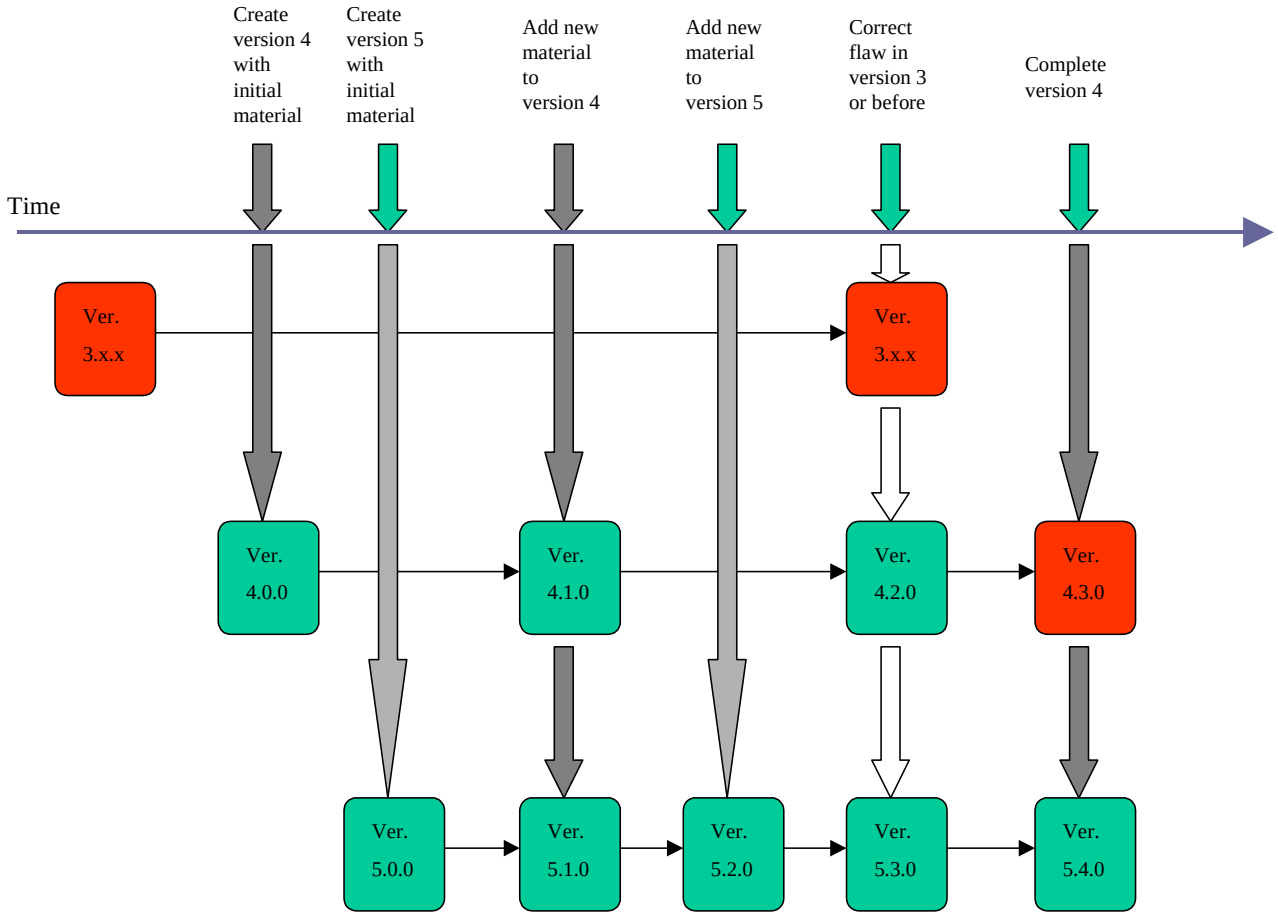
Abstract

The recent 3GPP SA Adhoc is proposing that Release 2000 is split into two releases, R4 and R5, with R4 being scheduled for March 2001 and R5 for December 2001. It is expected that the bulk of the IP Multimedia Subsytem will be put in R5. Lucent Technologies believe that work on R4 and R5 will need to be progressed in parallel if the schedule is to be met. This contribution examines the issues surrounding parallel versions of specifications when the proposed release 4 and release 5 are being worked on together.

Discussion

If the proposals for release 4 and release 5 are followed, and if the current policies for creation of releases under change control are followed, then in many cases, version 4.x.x and version 5.x.x of the same document will exist in parallel. All version 4 CRs will need to be propagated in parallel as version 5 CRs.

The diagram below illustrates the potential situation. Given that changes to both version 4 and version 5 are liable to appear at the same meeting, then the editor could find themselves working on multiple sets of change requests to be incorporated into multiple versions. This will impose a tremendous load on the editors of even simple documents, and some of the 3GPP documents have very complex structure.



If this occurs, then strict adherence to existing rules on change requests will be required, and there is scope for an amount of confusion amongst editors and contributors.

This problem can be alleviated by reducing the number of specifications being modified by both releases. In many cases, changes are of an entirely different nature to the scope defined in the previous release. Simply by redefining the scope of the original document, a new document can be created to cover the new work, whilst still ernsuring that the two documents are distinct and non-overlapping. A document with a scope of “UMTS QoS” could be revised to be “UMTS QoS in the PS domain” in order to allow a new document “UMTS QoS in the IM subsystem” to exist. This should only be done where it is possible to provide non-overlapping scopes between the two specifications, and the content of each individual specification is clear to the outside reader by reading the title and scope.

Proposal

Lucent Technologies proposes that SA should consider the following options.

1. The current working procedures are followed. Change requests are created, but these are not provided to the TSG until all further study items are closed. The Change requests are continuously revised in order to do this.

2. Release 4.y.z and 5.yz. versions of existing specifications are created and kept under change control. Change Requests are generated and accepted at SA plenary, even if further study items are not closed. Subsequent Change Requests will be required to remove the “For Further Study” items, before the release is declared stable.

3. Interim versions, that are not under change control, are produced and developed with the Working Groups until all further study items are closed. Then the document then moves into change control. An interim version will need to be clearly indicated in the version number. E.g. the version number of xA.y.z could be used to indicate an interim version under change control. The version number would then move to x.0.0 when the draft is approved at the TSG Plenary. i.e. 3.y.z -> 4A.y.z -> 4.y.z. It will be the responsibility of the Working group to ensure that changes from earlier releases are reflected within the interim draft as they are agreed.

After consideration of the above options, it is proposed that SA should request MCC to study this issue and develop a proposal for all TSGs. The proposal should provide clear rules for handling multiple releases.