
Title: Reply LS on multiple connections to VPLMNs simultaneously
Response to: S3-040457 (S1-040389) Reply LS on multiple connections to VPLMNs simultaneously
Work Item: WLAN

Source: SA3
To: SA1
Cc: SA2

Contact Person:

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1. Question by SA2:

“SA1 ask SA3 group to provide comment whether simultaneous UE connections to multiple VPLMNs can be provided without reducing the security provided by 3GPP.”

2. Reply by SA3:

At current stage, SA3 identified in the contribution S3-040352 to SA3#33 a potential compromise to 3GPP security by supporting simultaneous UE connections to multiple VPLMNs, or more generally, by supporting multiple WLAN Access sessions with different MAC address and/or VPLMN id, and/or WLANAN information. The corresponding CR S3-040417 to TS 33.234 was approved at SA3#33.

With the approved CR S3-040417 and S3-040668, SA3 have developed a mechanism to enable the restriction to multiple WLAN Access sessions of a subscriber. Thereby the multiple WLAN Access sessions (including simultaneous UE connections to multiple VPLMNs) can be properly restrict under the operator’s need or subscriber’s request. The need for restricting the number of simultaneous connections may depend, among other things, on the charging model, cf. S3-040352. Nevertheless, if SA1 decide that simultaneous connections to multiple VPLMNs have to be allowed, SA3 need to study the implications more in detail, as it would mean to remove the restriction provided by the mechanism cited above.

In summary, SA3 identified a potential impact to the 3GPP security with simultaneous UE connections to multiple VPLMNs or more general multiple WLAN Access sessions of a subscriber. Consequently, SA3 has put appropriate measures into place.

3. Actions

SA3 would like to ask SA1 take the above information into consideration in the decision about supporting multiple WLAN Access sessions.

4. Dates of Next SA3 Meetings:

TSG-SA3 Meeting #35 5-8 October 2004 Malta
TSG-SA3 Meeting #36 23-26 November 2004 Shenzhen, China