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**Source:** Siemens  
**Title:** GBA\_U: Bootstrapping secrets to the UICC  
**Document for:** Discussion and decision  
**Agenda Item:** 6.9.2: GBA

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## 1 Introduction

This contribution works out a solution to bootstrap secrets to the UICC which has been called GBA\_U within this contribution. The architecture that has been developed for bootstrapping secrets to the ME (GBA\_ME) shall be re-used as far as possible. The BM-SC could be considered as the a NAF-type that can make use of GBA\_U, but also current NAF-types like the presence admin server could make use of the GBA\_U characteristics. One important characteristic is the long term secure storage at the UICC. Therefore a longer lifetime may be assigned to keys generated by GBA\_U than for GBA\_ME leading to less bootstrapping runs. Another advantage is that keys stored on the UICC allow plastic-roaming. A companion document to SA3#32 describes how the changes could be accommodated within TS 33.220 optimally. When SA3 agrees with the proposed concept, Siemens volunteers to finalize the stage 2 concept for GBA\_U till next SA3-meeting by writing the needed CRs.

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## 2 GBA\_U Concept

### 2.1 Requirements and assumptions

Sections 2.3 and 2.4 will explore the possible solutions to bootstrap a secret key Ks to the UICC using GBA\_U. But before doing this, we make the following assumptions for the proposed alternative solutions.

1. As few network nodes as possible shall be able to obtain or derive the bootstrapped GBA\_U secret.
2. The ME shall not be able to obtain or derive the bootstrapped GBA\_U secret.
3. The effects on AKA should be minimized.
4. Impacts on Rel-6 UICC are allowed, but should have no effect on the authentication of Pre-Rel-6 cards. *It is assumed that all functions of Pre-Rel6 card are upgradeable using manual point-of-sale provisioning, but preferably using OTA-mechanism.*

We make following assumptions with respect to the effects on the GBA-architecture currently used for GBA\_ME.

5. GBA-functional changes are still allowed for Rel-6 but should be minimized. One important reason for changing some GBA\_ME details may be to plan a smooth migration path for NAFs upgrading from GBA\_ME to GBA\_U.
6. The GBA\_U architecture shall be NAF-type independent.

## 2.2 Problem description

- For GBA\_ME the ME receives CK and IK from the UICC, and concatenates these keys to form Ks. This and all further key derivation functions are implemented within the ME (e.g. Ks\_NAF derivation from Ks).
- When running GBA\_U the key  $Ks = CK||IK$  shall never leave the UICC. For some applications (ME security services) the key Ks\_NAF is needed within the ME (e.g. within http digest authentication). For other applications (UICC security services) the key Ks and its derived keys shall not be made available to the ME (e.g. for MBMS the key Ks\_NAF may be used for transferring the MBMS Master Key to the UICC).

Conclusion: Two problems have to be solved.

- a. The ME shall NOT be able to obtain a key used within UICC security services, but the ME shall be able to obtain a key used for ME security services. Solutions are discussed within section 2.3
- b. The UICC has to be told that GBA\_U shall be run. Solutions are discussed within section 2.4

It is further assumed that GBA\_U is run whenever the UE is capable of GBA\_U. (Otherwise there may be confusion between keys Ks\_NAF derived by means of GBA\_U and those derived by means of GBA\_ME.)

## 2.3 Delivering keys to two types of applications

Problem statement: ‘The ME shall NOT be able to obtain a key used within UICC security services, but the ME shall be able to obtain a key used for ME security services’.

There are two possible ways to solve this

- a) Introduce a second set of derived keys, where one remains on the UICC and the other is transferred to the ME.
- b) Realise ME-service specific security functions on the UICC.

Within solution approach b, as an example, the digest authentication function will have to be realized on the UICC. (This is similar with the EAP-SIM termination on the card). The same would hold true for all other security functions in a Ua protocol which make use of the derived key. This would necessitate new implementations on the UICC for every new Ua protocol requiring security services.

**Therefore solution (a) is the preferred one.**

Following solution approach (a), two keys are derived whereby the first key Ks\_int\_NAF would remain internal to the UICC and the second derived key Ks\_ext\_NAF would be delivered from the UICC to the ME. The key Ks\_int\_NAF and Ks\_ext\_NAF are derived from  $Ks = CK||IK$  and further key derivation parameters including IMSI, NAF\_Id\_n and RAND. NAF\_Id\_n is sent by the ME to the UICC when the ME calls the UICC for key derivation. The parameter RAND is the random challenge in the AKA authentication vector containing CK and IK. The ME shall not be able to derive the Ks\_int\_NAF from Ks\_ext\_NAF.

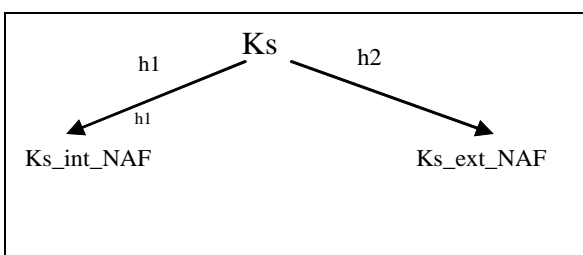


Figure 1: Key derivation

From the network point of view the procedure is as follows.

- The BSF derives Ks\_int\_NAF and Ks\_ext\_NAF from Ks and the key derivation parameters in the same way as the UICC, and sends both Ks\_int\_NAF and Ks\_ext\_NAF to the NAF.
- The NAF makes the choice between Ks\_int\_NAF and Ks\_ext\_NAF depending on the requirements.

NOTE: The key derivation procedures above are only given by way of example. Further study and input by SAGE is needed regarding the key derivation procedure in general and the required input parameters in particular. But it is envisaged that the two derived keys Ks\_int\_NAF and Ks\_ext\_NAF can be derived from Ks and the key derivation parameters “in one go”, i.e. using one function call.

Examples: For MBMS Ks\_int\_NAF would be used as the point to point key to transfer a MKK (MBMS Master key) to the UICC, whereas Ks\_ext\_NAF would be used as the point to point key to transfer a MKK to the ME. For Ut-reference point authentication with http-digest using GBA\_U, the ME would ask Ks\_ext\_NAF from the UICC.

## 2.4 Enforcing a GBA\_U run at the UICC

Problem statement: The UICC has to be told that GBA\_U shall be run.

Within this section two solutions are discussed:

1. Set one bit within the RAND to indicate to the UICC that GBA\_U has to be run.
2. Pre-process the AKA inputs (RAND and K) before feeding them into the authentication functions.

Solution 1: Set one bit within the RAND to indicate to the UICC that GBA\_U has to be run.

The authentication generation function is currently authentication domain agnostic (i.e. PS, CS, IMS and WLAN domain use the same procedures), a sequence number management array mechanism may be applied per domain but the result CK, IK and RES value are the same for the same RAND and are always available for the ME).

The proposal is to use one bit that has to be set differently by the AuC to distinguish between GBA\_U and GBA\_ME users. The PS, CS, IMS and WLAN domain can be considered as GBA\_ME type of users from the UICC point of view (although these authentication domains do not use GBA\_ME mechanisms for authentication) as they currently require the CK and IK to be present at the ME.

**Assumption: A network with NAFs/UICC's that wants to use GBA\_U shall first introduce a Rel-6 AuC that generates GBA\_U RANDs in response to a GBA\_U request).**

When a GBA\_U capable UICC would be used without an AuC capable of GBA\_U RAND generation, then the authentication in the other domains may fail (PS, CS, IMS, WLAN). All further text for this solution assumes a Rel-6 AuC.

A GBA\_U capable UICC introduced in a Rel-6 Network will then be able to enforce GBA\_U handling. Such a UICC shall hold back CK and IK and not give it to the ME if the GBA\_U RAND bit has been set. Non GBA\_U capable UICC will ignore the RAND setting.

Only these users that have a GBA\_U capable UICC in their possession shall be able to request GBA\_U handling, otherwise a malicious user could fake GBA\_U handling and as such bypass the security settings

of the UICC. So within the HSS a setting per user is needed which specifies that GBA\_U functions are available or not on the UICC.

The ME shall indicate within the initial GET request on the Ub-interface that GBA\_U has to be run. The BSF will return an error if the users profile settings do not indicate GBA\_U capability. If GBA\_U has been run the BSF forwards both Ks\_ext\_NAF and Ks\_int\_NAF, if GBA\_ME has been run the BSF forwards only Ks\_ext\_NAF to the NAF. The RAND implicitly indicates GBA\_U during the sequence number re-synchronization procedure.

The ME shall know what type of GBA-run shall be invoked (e.g. depending of the type of service it is intended for, or according to stored settings).

A minor disadvantage is that it would sacrifice a bit of the RAND, also for those existing authentication domains where it is not intended for (CS, PS, ..). It should be noted here, though, that the mechanism proposed here does not interfere with the special RAND mechanism proposed to counter the attack against A5/2 for the following reason: GBA\_U itself does not need to apply encryption of A5/x or GEAx, therefore AV's destined for GBA\_U need not to apply the special-RAND encoding to counter the attack against A5/2.

Solution 2: Pre-process the AKA inputs (RAND and K) before feeding them into authentication functions.

A simple and fast solution would be to compute a 128-bit keyed hash using K and RAND and using the result as key K. Another solution is to use a SHA-1 hash on K and using the result as key K for the authentication process.

The concept therefore relies on realizing two different authentication procedures which can be called by the ME and which produces different outputs. One authentication procedure, which is called by the current authentication domains and by GBA\_ME, and a new authentication procedure, which is called by GBA\_U applications. Calling the new procedure will result in a different Ks even with the same RAND as input. In addition, the RES would be different so the BSF can detect a user trying to defeat the network.

Again we make the assumption (similar as with solution 1) that first a Rel-6 AuC shall be introduced within the network. But if GBA\_U capable UICC would be introduced within a pre-Rel6 network this will create no problem as the GBA\_U function wouldn't be usable by the ME.

A GBA\_U capable UICC introduced in a Rel-6 Network will then be able to enforce GBA\_U handling. Such a UICC shall hold back CK and IK and not give it to the ME if requested by the ME. A user running GBA\_ME but telling the network that GBA\_U is run (and vice versa), results in a failed GBA-authentication.

The ME shall indicate within the initial GET request on the Ub-interface that GBA\_U has to be run. If GBA\_U has been run the BSF forwards both Ks\_ext\_NAF and Ks\_int\_NAF and if GBA\_ME has been run the BSF forwards only Ks\_NAF to the NAF.

The BSF has to use a different type of AV dependent on whether GBA\_ME or GBA\_U is invoked. The AuC shall be able to generate a GBA\_U type AV when requested by the BSF. The HSS (AuC) has to know whether the sequence number resynchronization token AUTS was generated on the basis of GBA\_U or GBA\_ME when coming from the BSF.

The ME shall know what type of GBA-run shall be invoked (e.g. depending of the type of service it is intended for, or according to stored settings).

Evaluation:

Proposal 2 has the advantage that it allows to generate Ks in a complete secure way (unless key K or the authentication algo's would be compromised). A medium disadvantage is that it impacts the core of the AKA procedures. Extra signalling during SQN-resynchronization may be necessary.

Proposal 1 creates minimal impacts at the UICC and the AuC. The UICC controls the security of the GBA-generated keys based on an explicit indication within RAND. A disadvantage is that HSS administration is necessary.

Based on this assessment and the described consequences (taking into account the section 2.1 requirements and assumptions), proposal 1 is preferred.

## 2.5 Migration and impacts to introduce GBA\_U.

*This section is described under the assumption that the preferred solutions from previous sections are adopted.*

### **Impacts:**

- Zh-interface: The GBA relevant profile parameter shall be transported via the BSF to the NAF. An indication that GBA\_U has to be run needs to be introduced (i.e. the BSF has to ask GBA\_U authentication vectors).
- Ub-interface protocols: The initial GET message has to include a GBA\_U request parameter.
- Zn-Interface: If GBA\_U has been run the BSF forwards both Ks\_ext\_NAF and Ks\_int\_NAF and if GBA\_ME has been run the BSF forwards only Ks\_ext\_NAF to the NAF.
- UICC: shall implement GBA\_U procedures and the key derivation functions (KDF) to generate Ks\_ext\_NAF and Ks\_int\_NAF from Ks.
- The ME needs to be able to handle the new GBA\_U procedures on the UICC.

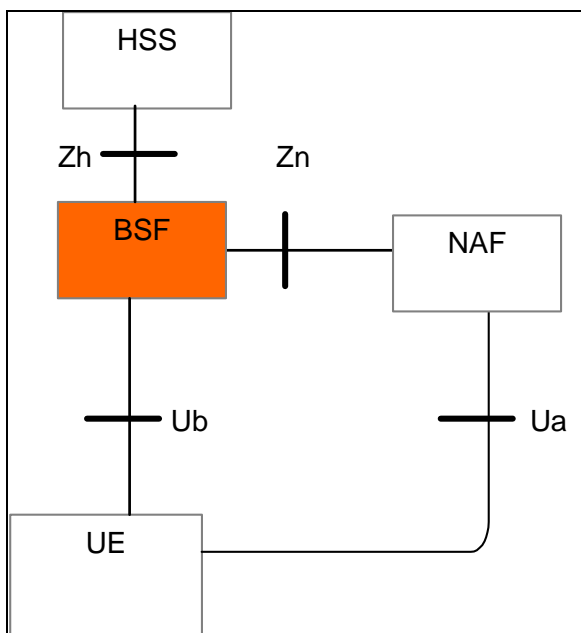


Figure 2: GBA architecture and reference points from TS 33.210

### **Migration issues:**

The HSS(AuC) shall be upgraded first before NAFs are introduced in the network that use the GBA\_U services and the UICC GBA setting has to be administrated.

The BSF needs to be upgraded as well, however the upgrade is considered small.

A NAF using only GBA\_ME type of service can ignore Ks\_int\_NAF if forward to him.

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## 3 Conclusion

Siemens proposes to adopt the proposed concept after deciding on each of the proposed preferences in section 2.3 and 2.4. Assuming SA3 agrees with realizing GBA\_U, Siemens volunteers to finalize the stage 2 concept for GBA\_U till next SA3-meeting by writing the needed CRs.