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<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>31 May 2017</td>
<td>Initial version of the proposal for internal discussion.</td>
<td>Harald Welte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>November 2020</td>
<td>Update with changes on what was actually implemented in recent years; change from future to past tense.</td>
<td>Harald Welte</td>
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1 Introduction

This document serves as a paper to illustrate the different configurations of OsmoBSC in terms of integration with BTSs and MSCs.

The document was created ahead of the 2017 development cycle which included the death of the NITB, i.e. the move away from OsmoNITB to having OsmoBSC in all configurations, whether with a proprietary/external MSC or with OsmoMSC.

Particular attention is spent on the user plane, including aspects such as

• user plane transport address handling
• use of MGCP (Media Gateway Control Protocol)
• the (required) evolution of osmo-bsc_mgcp
• not loosing classic TDM (E1/T1) BTS support when moving from OsmoNITB to split OsmoBSC + OsmoMSC setup

2 Overview

2.1 Classic GSM RAN with E1 based Abis and E1 A

This is how GSM was originally specified when it was introduced: E1/T1 circuits on all interfaces, no IP anywhere.

This configuration was actually never supported by OpenBSC, as E1 support was always only on the Abis side (OpenBSC, OsmoNITB and today OsmoBSC).

We never supported A interface over E1. It could be done if there was a need.
### 2.2 OsmoBSC 2010-2017: IPA-style A over SCCPlite

This configuration was introduced as early as 2010 in OpenBSC. It allowed the use of IP based BTSs (ip.access nanoBTS as well as all the OsmoBTS supported BTS models) in combination with third-party MSCs implementing a pre-standard, proprietary way of transporting the A interface over IP at a time where the 3GPP specifications only allowed classic TDM transport.

```
We assume a SDCCH is already established
DTAP CC SETUP
DTAP CC CALL PROCEEDING
RSL CHAN ACT
RSL CHAN ACT ACK
Assignment
IPA CRCX
IPA CRCX ACK
IPA MDCX
Connect RTP socket to remote (bsc_mgcp) RTP Port
IPA MDCX ACK

RTP Audio
Um Audio (unidirectional)

DTAP CC ALERTING
MGCP MDCX (sndrecv)
Switch to bi-directional audio
MGCP MDCX OK
RTP Audio

Um Audio (bidirectional)

DTAP CC CONNECT
DTAP CC CONNECT ACK
MGCP MDCX 1@mgw (sndrecv)
MGCP MDCX 1@mgw OK

Why?
MGCP MDCX 1@mgw OK

Voice Call in Progress
DTAP CC DISCONNECT

DTAP CC RELEASE
DTAP CC RELEASE COMPL
BSSMAP CLEAR CMD
BSSMAP CLEAR COMPL
SCCP INQ
SCCP RLC
MGCP DLCX 1@mgw
Release local RTP port
MGCP DLCX 1@mgw OK
```
2.3 OsmoBSC 2017+: 3GPP AoIP + Abis/IP

Release 7 of 3GPP included an official specification on how an interoperable A-over-IP (AoIP) interface shall look like. As more modern MSCs at operators tend to favor implementing 3GPP AoIP rather than the proprietary SCCPlite based A interface, it became necessary for OsmoBSC to support this.

At the same time, for compatibility reasons, the classic SCCPlite support is kept in OsmoBSC as a configuration option.
### 2.4 OsmoBSC 2020+: 3GPP AoIP + Abis/E1

Since OsmoNITB was deprecated in 2017, and OsmoBSC only supported Abis/IP, we temporarily lost the ability to use classic E1 based BTSs. In 2020, we re-introduced and re-tested the support of Abis/E1.

For the control plane of Abis (RSL, OML) the E1 support via libosmo-abis never really ceased to exist. But for the user plane,
E1 support had to be introduced to osmo-mgw, and osmo-bsc needed to be taught how to configure E1 endpoints at the MGW. The related call flow for such setups looks like this:

We assume a SDCCH is already established

DTAP CC SETUP
DTAP CC CALL PROCEEDING

RSL CHAN ACT
RSL CHAN ACT ACK

Assignment

MGCP CRCX ts1/ss2@mgw (MSC:4000)

Bind arbitrary local port (4000)

MGCP CRCX ts1/ss2@mgw OK (MGW:3000)

Bind to MGW-local RTP Port (3000)

Connect to MSC:4000

MGCP CRCX ts1/ss2@mgw (MGW:3000)

MGCP CRCX ts1/ss2@mgw OK (MGW:3000)

MGCP CRCX ts1/ss2@mgw OK (MGW:3000)

Connect remote RTP to MGW addr from ASSIGN CMPL

RTP Audio MGW:3000 MSC:4000

TRAU Frame Audio (E1 TS1 SS2)

Um Audio (bidirectional)

DTAP CC ALERTING

DTAP CC CONNECT
DTAP CC CONNECT ACK

Voice Call in Progress

DTAP CC DISCONNECT

DTAP CC RELEASE

DTAP CC RELEASE COMPLETE

BSSMAP CLEAR CMD

BSSMAP CLEAR COMPLETE

SCCP BLKD

SCCP RLC

MGCP DLCK ts1/ss2@mgw

Release MSC-facing local RTP port

MGCP DLCK ts1/ss2@mgw OK

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