



Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV) Release 3; Management and Orchestration; VNF Descriptor and Packaging Specification

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Contents

Intellectual Property Rights	8
Foreword.....	8
Modal verbs terminology.....	8
1 Scope	9
2 References	9
2.1 Normative references	9
2.2 Informative references.....	9
3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations.....	10
3.1 Terms.....	10
3.2 Symbols.....	10
3.3 Abbreviations	10
4 General description.....	11
4.1 Introduction	11
4.2 Objectives.....	11
4.3 Conventions.....	11
4.4 Levels of NFV Entities.....	12
5 VNF Packaging use-cases (informative).....	13
5.1 General	13
5.2 VNF Package bundling for distribution.....	13
5.3 VNF Package testing	14
5.4 VNF pre procurement.....	15
5.5 VNF Package validation and certification.....	15
5.6 VNF install	16
5.7 Keeping NFV management and orchestration in sync about a VNF application software modification	16
5.8 VNF configurable parameter provisioning.....	17
6 Functional requirements for VNF Packaging.....	18
6.1 Generic Functional Requirements	18
6.2 Functional requirements for VNF Packaging specification.....	19
6.2.1 Requirements for the structure of a VNF Package.....	19
6.2.2 Requirements for the description of VNF Package content	20
6.2.3 Requirements for VNF Identification	20
6.2.4 Requirements for security and integrity of a VNF Package.....	21
6.2.5 Requirements for VNFD Metadata.....	21
6.2.6 Requirements for LCM scripts.....	23
6.2.6.1 General	23
6.2.6.2 Requirements for DSL	23
7 Virtualised Network Function information elements	24
7.1 VNF Descriptor (VNFD).....	24
7.1.1 Introduction.....	24
7.1.2 VNFD information element	25
7.1.2.1 Description	25
7.1.2.2 Attributes.....	25
7.1.3 Information elements related to VnfExtCpd.....	27
7.1.3.1 Introduction.....	27
7.1.3.2 VnfExtCpd information element	27
7.1.3.2.1 Description	27
7.1.3.2.2 Attributes	27
7.1.3.3 AddressData information element.....	28
7.1.3.3.1 Description	28
7.1.3.3.2 Attributes	28
7.1.3.4 L3AddressData information element	28
7.1.3.4.1 Description	28

7.1.3.4.2	Attributes	28
7.1.3.5	L2AddressData information element	29
7.1.3.5.1	Description	29
7.1.3.5.2	Attributes	29
7.1.4	Void	29
7.1.5	Information elements related to the configuration of VNF lifecycle management operations	29
7.1.5.1	Introduction	29
7.1.5.2	VnfLcmOperationsConfiguration information element	29
7.1.5.2.1	Description	29
7.1.5.2.2	Attributes	30
7.1.5.3	InstantiateVnfOpConfig information element	30
7.1.5.3.1	Description	30
7.1.5.3.2	Attributes	30
7.1.5.4	ScaleVnfOpConfig information element	30
7.1.5.4.1	Description	30
7.1.5.4.2	Attributes	30
7.1.5.5	ScaleVnfToLevelOpConfig information element	31
7.1.5.5.1	Description	31
7.1.5.5.2	Attributes	31
7.1.5.6	HealVnfOpConfig information element	31
7.1.5.6.1	Description	31
7.1.5.6.2	Attributes	31
7.1.5.7	TerminateVnfOpConfig information element	31
7.1.5.7.1	Description	31
7.1.5.7.2	Attributes	32
7.1.5.8	OperateVnfOpConfig information element	32
7.1.5.8.1	Description	32
7.1.5.8.2	Attributes	32
7.1.5.9	ChangeVnfFlavourOpConfig information element	32
7.1.5.9.1	Description	32
7.1.5.9.2	Attributes	32
7.1.5.10	ChangeExtVnfConnectivityOpConfig information element	33
7.1.5.10.1	Description	33
7.1.5.10.2	Attributes	33
7.1.5.11	CreateSnapshotVnfOpConfig information element	33
7.1.5.11.1	Description	33
7.1.5.11.2	Attributes	33
7.1.5.12	RevertToSnapshotVnfOpConfig information element	33
7.1.5.12.1	Description	33
7.1.5.12.2	Attributes	33
7.1.5.13	ChangeCurrentVnfPackageOpConfig information element	34
7.1.5.13.1	Description	34
7.1.5.13.2	Attributes	34
7.1.6	Information elements related to the Vdu	34
7.1.6.1	Introduction	34
7.1.6.2	Vdu information element	34
7.1.6.2.1	Description	34
7.1.6.2.2	Attributes	35
7.1.6.3	Cpd information element	36
7.1.6.3.1	Description	36
7.1.6.3.2	Attributes	36
7.1.6.4	VduCpd information element	37
7.1.6.4.1	Description	37
7.1.6.4.2	Attributes	37
7.1.6.5	SwImageDesc information element	38
7.1.6.5.1	Description	38
7.1.6.5.2	Attributes	38
7.1.6.6	VirtualNetworkInterfaceRequirements information element	39
7.1.6.6.1	Description	39
7.1.6.6.2	Attributes	40
7.1.6.7	VnfcConfigurableProperties information element	40
7.1.6.7.1	Description	40

7.1.6.7.2	Attributes	40
7.1.6.8	CpProtocolData information element.....	41
7.1.6.8.1	Description	41
7.1.6.8.2	Attributes	41
7.1.6.9	SecurityGroupRule information element	41
7.1.6.9.1	Description	41
7.1.6.9.2	Attributes	42
7.1.6.10	ChecksumData information element	42
7.1.6.10.1	Description	42
7.1.6.10.2	Attributes	42
7.1.7	Information elements related to the VLD	43
7.1.7.1	Introduction.....	43
7.1.7.2	VnfVirtualLinkDesc information element	43
7.1.7.2.1	Description	43
7.1.7.2.2	Attributes	43
7.1.7.3	ConnectivityType information element.....	43
7.1.7.3.1	Description	43
7.1.7.3.2	Attributes	43
7.1.8	Information elements related to the DeploymentFlavour	44
7.1.8.1	Introduction.....	44
7.1.8.2	VnfDf information element.....	44
7.1.8.2.1	Description	44
7.1.8.2.2	Attributes	44
7.1.8.3	VduProfile information element.....	45
7.1.8.3.1	Description	45
7.1.8.3.2	Attributes	45
7.1.8.4	VirtualLinkProfile information element.....	46
7.1.8.4.1	Description	46
7.1.8.4.2	Attributes	46
7.1.8.5	VirtualLinkDescFlavour information element.....	46
7.1.8.5.1	Description	46
7.1.8.5.2	Attributes	46
7.1.8.6	LinkBitrateRequirements information element.....	47
7.1.8.6.1	Description	47
7.1.8.6.2	Attributes	47
7.1.8.7	InstantiationLevel information element.....	47
7.1.8.7.1	Description	47
7.1.8.7.2	Attributes	47
7.1.8.8	ScaleInfo information element.....	48
7.1.8.8.1	Description	48
7.1.8.8.2	Attributes	48
7.1.8.9	VduLevel information element	48
7.1.8.9.1	Description	48
7.1.8.9.2	Attributes	48
7.1.8.10	QoS information element	49
7.1.8.10.1	Description	49
7.1.8.10.2	Attributes	49
7.1.8.11	LocalAffinityOrAntiAffinityRule information element.....	49
7.1.8.11.1	Description	49
7.1.8.11.2	Attributes	49
7.1.8.12	AffinityOrAntiAffinityGroup information element	49
7.1.8.12.1	Description	49
7.1.8.12.2	Attributes	50
7.1.8.13	VirtualLinkProtocolData information element.....	50
7.1.8.13.1	Description	50
7.1.8.13.2	Attributes	50
7.1.8.14	L2ProtocolData information element.....	50
7.1.8.14.1	Description	50
7.1.8.14.2	Attributes	50
7.1.8.15	L3ProtocolData information element.....	51
7.1.8.15.1	Description	51
7.1.8.15.2	Attributes	51

7.1.8.16	VnfInterfaceDetails information element.....	52
7.1.8.16.1	Description	52
7.1.8.16.2	Attributes	52
7.1.9	Information elements related to Virtual Resource descriptors.....	52
7.1.9.1	Introduction	52
7.1.9.2	Information elements related to Virtual CPU.....	52
7.1.9.2.1	Introduction	52
7.1.9.2.2	VirtualComputeDesc information element.....	52
7.1.9.2.3	VirtualCpuData information elements.....	53
7.1.9.2.4	VirtualCpuPinningData information element.....	53
7.1.9.3	Information elements related to Virtual Memory.....	54
7.1.9.3.1	Introduction	54
7.1.9.3.2	VirtualMemoryData information element	54
7.1.9.4	Information elements related to Virtual Storage	55
7.1.9.4.1	Introduction	55
7.1.9.4.2	VirtualStorageDesc information element	55
7.1.9.4.3	BlockStorageData information element	55
7.1.9.4.4	ObjectStorageData information element	56
7.1.9.4.5	FileStorageData information element.....	56
7.1.9.5	RequestedAdditionalCapabilityData information element.....	56
7.1.9.5.1	Description	56
7.1.9.5.2	Attributes	56
7.1.9.6	LogicalNodeRequirements information element	57
7.1.9.6.1	Description	57
7.1.9.6.2	Attributes	57
7.1.10	Information elements related to scaling.....	57
7.1.10.1	Introduction.....	57
7.1.10.2	ScalingAspect information element.....	57
7.1.10.2.1	Description	57
7.1.10.2.2	Attributes	58
7.1.10.3	AspectDeltaDetails information element	58
7.1.10.3.1	Description	58
7.1.10.3.2	Attributes	58
7.1.10.4	ScalingDelta information element.....	59
7.1.10.4.1	Description	59
7.1.10.4.2	Attributes	59
7.1.10.5	VirtualLinkBitRateLevel information element	59
7.1.10.5.1	Description	59
7.1.10.5.2	Attributes	59
7.1.11	Information elements related to monitoring.....	60
7.1.11.1	Introduction.....	60
7.1.11.2	VnfIndicator information element.....	60
7.1.11.2.1	Description	60
7.1.11.2.2	Attributes	60
7.1.11.3	MonitoringParameter information element.....	60
7.1.11.3.1	Description	60
7.1.11.3.2	Attributes	60
7.1.12	VnfConfigurableProperties information element.....	61
7.1.12.1	Description	61
7.1.12.2	Attributes.....	61
7.1.13	LifeCycleManagementScript information element.....	61
7.1.13.1	Description	61
7.1.13.2	Attributes.....	61
7.1.14	VnfInfoModifiableAttributes information element.....	63
7.1.14.1	Description	63
7.1.14.2	Attributes.....	63
7.1.15	Information elements related to change current VNF Package.....	64
7.1.15.1	Introduction.....	64
7.1.15.2	VnfPackageChangeInfo information element	64
7.1.15.2.1	Description	64
7.1.15.2.2	Attributes.....	65
7.1.15.3	VersionSelector information element.....	65

7.1.15.3.1	Description	65
7.1.15.3.2	Attributes	65
7.1.15.4	ComponentMapping information element	66
7.1.15.4.1	Description	66
7.1.15.4.2	Attributes	66
7.1.16	Information elements related to the coordination in VNF lifecycle management operations	66
7.1.16.1	Introduction	66
7.1.16.2	VnfLcmOperationCoordination information element	67
7.1.16.2.1	Description	67
7.1.16.2.2	Attributes	67
8	Functional requirements for VNF Snapshot Packaging	67
8.1	Generic Functional Requirements	67
8.2	Functional requirements for VNF Snapshot Packaging specification	68
8.2.1	Requirements for the structure of a VNF Snapshot Package	68
8.2.2	Requirements for the description of VNF Snapshot Package content	68
8.2.3	Requirements for security and integrity of a VNF Snapshot Package	69
Annex A (informative):	Explanation of the scaling model.....	70
A.1	Overview	70
A.2	Scaling the individual scaling aspects of a VNF	70
A.3	Scaling a VNF to a pre-defined target size.....	71
Annex B (informative):	Authors & contributors.....	73
Annex C (informative):	Bibliography.....	76
Annex D (informative):	Change History.....	77
History		79

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Foreword

This Group Specification (GS) has been produced by ETSI Industry Specification Group (ISG) Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV).

Modal verbs terminology

In the present document "**shall**", "**shall not**", "**should**", "**should not**", "**may**", "**need not**", "**will**", "**will not**", "**can**" and "**cannot**" are to be interpreted as described in clause 3.2 of the [ETSI Drafting Rules](#) (Verbal forms for the expression of provisions).

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1 Scope

The present document provides requirements for the structure and format of a VNF Package to describe the VNF properties and associated resource requirements in an interoperable template.

The focus is on VNF packaging, meta-model descriptors (e.g. VNFD) and package integrity and security considerations.

2 References

2.1 Normative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

- [1] ETSI GS NFV 003: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Terminology for main concepts in NFV".
- [2] Hash Function Textual Names registry at IANA.

NOTE: Available at <https://www.iana.org/assignments/hash-function-text-names>.

2.2 Informative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

- [i.1] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 002: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Acceleration Technologies; VNF Interfaces Specification".
- [i.2] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 006: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Management and Orchestration; Vi-Vnfm reference point - Interface and Information Model Specification".
- [i.3] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 007: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Management and Orchestration; Or-Vnfm reference point - Interface and Information Model Specification".
- [i.4] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 008: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Management and Orchestration; Ve-Vnfm reference point - Interface and Information Model Specification".
- [i.5] ISO/IEC 9646-7: "Information technology -- Open Systems Interconnection -- Conformance testing methodology and framework -- Part 7: Implementation Conformance Statements".
- [i.6] ISO/IEC 9899: "Information Technology -- Programming languages -- C".

[i.7] Assigned Internet Protocol Numbers.

NOTE: Available at <https://www.iana.org/assignments/protocol-numbers/protocol-numbers.xhtml>.

[i.8] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 014: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Management and Orchestration; Network Service Templates Specification".

3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations

3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the terms given in ETSI GS NFV 003 [1] apply.

3.2 Symbols

Void.

3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in ETSI GS NFV 003 [1] and the following apply:

ARM	Advanced RISC Machine
CDN	Content Delivery Network
CP	Connection Point
CPD	Connection Point Descriptor
CPU	Central Processing Unit
DF	Deployment Flavour
DSL	Domain Specific Language
EM	Element Manager
GS	Group Specification
IFA	Infrastructure and Architecture Working Group
IP	Internet Protocol
ISG	Industry Specification Group
LAN	Local Area Network
LCM	Life Cycle Management
MAC	Media Access Control
MPLS	MultiProtocol Label Switching
NFV	Network Functions Virtualisation
NFVI	Network Functions Virtualisation Infrastructure
NFVO	Network Functions Virtualisation Orchestrator
NS	Network Service
PM	Performance Management
QA	Quality Assurance
QoS	Quality of Service
RAM	Random Access Memory
RDMA	Remote Direct Memory Access
SAL	Service Availability Level
SW	Software
UML	Unified Modelling Language
URL	Uniform Resource Locator
VDU	Virtual Deployment Unit
VIM	Virtualised Infrastructure Manager
VL	Virtual Link
VLD	Virtual Link Descriptor
VM	Virtual Machine
VNF	Virtualised Network Function
VNFC	Virtualised Network Function Component

VNFD Virtualised Network Function Descriptor
 VNFM Virtualised Network Function Manager

4 General description

4.1 Introduction

The present document develops specifications for packaging of VNFs to be delivered to service providers, focusing on the holistic end-to-end view of the VNF Package lifecycle, from design to runtime, capturing development as well as operational views. The present document provides an analysis of end-to-end VNF Package lifecycle management operations based on use-cases and NFV Architectural Framework functional blocks.

A VNF Package contains all of the required files and meta-data descriptors required to validate and instantiate a VNF.

Standardized meta-data descriptors are required to:

- describe the NFV infrastructure resource requirements for a VNF in a service provider environment;
- describe design constraints and other dependencies in order for the VNF to successfully install, instantiate and terminate; and
- describe VNF operational behaviour including VNF lifecycle events (e.g. scaling, upgrading).

Standardized packaging and validation of VNFs is required to:

- provide a consistent, documented method for VNF providers to package VNFs;
- harmonize the service provider on-boarding process for VNFs coming from different VNF providers;
- ensure integrity, trust and auditability of a VNF Package;
- allow for a flexible and extensible VNF packaging structure that accommodates a wide variety of NFV infrastructure scenarios; and
- allow the packaged VNF-related meta-data to be interpreted and the packaged VNF to be instantiated in a wide variety of orchestration systems irrespective of technology choice or infrastructure environment.

4.2 Objectives

The present document delivers:

- A description of a set of use cases involving the handling of VNF Packages.
- A set of functional requirements to be fulfilled when packaging a VNF.
- A specification of the information elements and attributes applicable to the VNFD.

4.3 Conventions

The attributes of the VNFD and associated information elements are described in the tables provided in clause 7. Each table has 5 columns, with the following significance:

- The "Attribute" column provides the attribute name.
- The "Qualifier" column indicates whether the support of the attribute is mandatory, optional or conditional.
- The "Cardinality" column contains the minimum and maximum cardinality of this information element (e.g. 1, 2, 0..N, 1..N). A cardinality range starting with 0 indicates that the attribute need not always be included.

- The "Content" column provides information on the type of the attribute values. It can be the name of an Information Element, a primitive type (Identifier, DateTime, etc.) or a generic UML type (String, Integer, etc.). If a cell in the "Content" column is marked as "Not specified", this means that the specification of the type is left to the data model design stage.
- The "Description column" provides a brief explanatory description and additional constraints.

The following notations, defined in ISO/IEC 9646-7 [i.5], are used for the qualifier column:

- M mandatory - the attribute shall be supported.
- O optional - the attribute may, but need not to, be supported.
- CM conditional mandatory - the attribute shall be supported under certain conditions. If the specified conditions are met then the attribute shall be supported. These conditions are specified in the Description column.
- CO conditional optional - the attribute may, but need not to, be supported under certain conditions. These conditions are specified in the Description column.

A Mandatory qualifier would imply that NFVO/VNFM shall understand/parse the particular element but the presence (inclusion in an occurrence of a VNFD) of the element is dictated by Cardinality. The lower bound of "1.." cardinality would imply that the attribute shall be present in the VNFD.

The following notations are used for the content column of information elements, input parameters, notifications, etc.:

- Parameters are of type "Identifier" when referring to an identifier of an actual object.
- For a "true" identifier identifying an object (information element or structure) the content type "Identifier" and the description "Identifier of this <object_name> <notification/information element/...>" is used.

EXAMPLE: Identifier "resourceId" of the "NetworkSubnet information element" shall have the description "Identifier of this NetworkSubnet information element".

- Object(s) are referenced by their identifier using the syntax "Identifier (Reference to <object_name1> [, <object_name2>...][, or <object_nameN>])".
- Names for attributes and parameters of type Identifier shall be of the following pattern: <name>Id.

4.4 Levels of NFV Entities

For NFV management, there are four levels of entities, i.e.:

- Descriptors - general type definitions for entities such as VNFs and VLs, e.g. VNFD and VLD.
- Descriptor objects - an instance of a descriptor, e.g. an instance of a VNFD (not an instance of a VNF instantiated according to this VNFD):
 - A descriptor object may provide (among other things) value ranges and default values for the attributes in the associated NFV entity class.
 - In the present document, the creation of subclasses of generic descriptors (e.g. VNFD_x as a subclass of VNFD) has been avoided, since this approach would create a proliferation of descriptor classes.
- NFV Entity Classes - these are classes that represent various NFV entities such as VNF and VL. There is one-to-one mapping between a descriptor object and an NFV entity class. An example of an NFV Entity Class is CDN Cache VNF.
- NFV Entity Instances - these are instances of a given NFV entity class. An NFV entity instance is used to represent the current state and attribute values for a given NFV entity. Each NFV entity instance is bound by the associated descriptor object, e.g. value ranges and default values for attributes. An example of an NFV Entity Instance is a CDN Cache VNF instance.

Each level puts constraints on the subsequent levels.

Information in a lower level does not appear in a higher level, e.g. NFV entity instance information does not appear in the associated NFV entity class, descriptor object or descriptor.

For example:

- A VNFD has parameters such as virtualisationDeploymentUnit, intVirtualLinkDesc, extConnectionPointDesc and deploymentFlavour. These same parameters apply to every type of VNF.
- For a given type of VNF (e.g. a firewall), one would create an instance of the VNFD and populate the various VNFD parameters with values specific to the given type of firewall: specific VDU instances describing the resource requirements for this VNFD instance, VLD instances describing the various types of VL needed, specific deployment flavour (DF), etc.
- Next, one defines the class for the given VNF firewall. The class includes the attributes that are seen across the given reference point.
- Finally, one can instantiate one or more VNF firewall by populating the various attributes in the VNF class with actual values.

5 VNF Packaging use-cases (informative)

5.1 General

The following use cases describe the steps involving the VNF Package as it transitions from the VNF Provider to the Service Provider. They capture the generic processes as well as the actions required to be performed by actors playing different roles in order to identify the requirements for the standard packaging format.

All the use cases presented in this clause are informative.

For the purpose of the use cases, the roles identified in table 5.1-1 have been identified.

Table 5.1-1: List of roles

Role	Description
VNF Provider	The role providing the VNF. Actors that can play this role include, but are not limited to, vendor, integrator or in-house developer.
Supply Chain Specialist	Service provider function responsible for recommending or identifying VNFs required for desired services.
Service Designer	Service provider function responsible for defining and providing requirements (functional and non-functional) for required services. Also responsible for creating services to be deployed by the service provider.
Service Acceptance Specialist	Service provider function responsible to validate, certificate and on-board VNFs.
Service Deployment Manager	Service provider function responsible for managing the deployment (e.g. instantiation, update) of the VNFs and VLDs validated by the Service Acceptance Specialist.

5.2 VNF Package bundling for distribution

A VNF is, from a delivery point of view a software application so most of the general principles and processes associated with the software development lifecycle apply. After a VNF provider completes the development and functional testing for the VNF it needs to bundle all the necessary binaries and corresponding metadata for distribution to potential customers.

Roles

#	Role
1	VNF Provider