



## Lawful Interception (LI); Internal Network Interfaces; Part 1: X1

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*https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/etsi/103-221-1-v1.6.1-2019-12/43a9-8764-4823b290661e/etsi-ts-103-221-1-v1.6.1-2019-12*

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Reference

RTS/LI-00183-1

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Keywords

interface, lawful interception

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# Foreword

This Technical Specification (TS) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Lawful Interception (LI).

The present document is part 1 of a multi-part deliverable covering the Internal Network Interfaces for Lawful Interception (LI), as identified below:

**Part 1:** "X1";

Part 2 "X2/X3".

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# 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 defines an electronic interface for the exchange of information relating to the establishment and management of Lawful Interception. Typically, this interface would be used between a central LI administration function and the network internal interception points.

Typical reference models for LI define an interface between Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and Communication Service Providers (CSPs), called the handover interface. They also define an internal network interface within the CSP domain between administration and mediation functions for lawful interception and network internal functions, which facilitates the interception of communication. This internal network interface typically consists of three sub-interfaces; administration (called X1), transmission of intercept related information (X2) and transmission of content of communication (X3). The present document specifies the administration interface X1.

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## 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.

Referenced documents which are not found to be publicly available in the expected location might be found at <https://docbox.etsi.org/Reference/>.

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 necessary for the application of the present document.

- [1] ETSI TS 133 107: "Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS); LTE; Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+) (GSM); 3G security; Lawful interception architecture and functions (3GPP TS 33.107)".
- [2] IETF RFC 4122: "A Universally Unique Identifier (UUID) URN Namespace".
- [3] W3C Recommendation 28 October 2004: "XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes Second Edition".
- [4] ETSI TS 103 280: "Lawful Interception (LI); Dictionary for common parameters".
- [5] Recommendation ITU-T E.212: "The international identification plan for public networks and subscriptions".
- [6] ETSI TS 123 003: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+) (GSM); Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS); Numbering, addressing and identification (3GPP TS 23.003)".
- [7] IETF RFC 3261: "SIP: Session Initiation Protocol".
- [8] IETF RFC 3966: "The tel URI for Telephone Numbers".
- [9] IETF RFC 3508: "H.323 Uniform Resource Locator (URL) Scheme Registration".
- [10] IETF RFC 7542: "The Network Access Identifier".
- [11] IETF RFC 2865: "Remote Authentication Dial In User Service (RADIUS)".
- [12] IETF RFC 2818: "HTTP over TLS".
- [13] IETF RFC 7230: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Message Syntax and Routing".

- [14] IETF RFC 5246: "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.2".
- NOTE: Obsoleted by IETF RFC 8446.
- [15] Void.
- [16] IETF RFC 7525: "Recommendations for Secure Use of Transport Layer Security (TLS) and Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS)".
- [17] IETF RFC 6125: "Representation and Verification of Domain-Based Application Service Identity within Internet Public Key Infrastructure Using X.509 (PKIX) Certificates in the Context of Transport Layer Security (TLS)".
- [18] IETF RFC 4519: "Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP): Schema for User Applications".
- [19] ETSI TS 103 221-2: "Lawful Interception (LI); Internal Network Interfaces; Part 2: X2/X3".
- [20] IETF RFC 8446: "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.3".
- [21] IETF RFC 7540: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol Version 2 (HTTP/2)".
- [22] ETSI TS 133 127: "LTE; 5G; Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+) (GSM); Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS); Lawful Interception (LI) architecture and functions (3GPP TS 33.127)".

## 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] OWASP TLS Cheat Sheet.
- NOTE: Available at [https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/Transport\\_Layer\\_Protection\\_Cheat\\_Sheet.html](https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/Transport_Layer_Protection_Cheat_Sheet.html).
- [i.2] ETSI TR 103 308: "CYBER; Security baseline regarding LI and RD for NFV and related platforms".
- [i.3] ETSI GS NFV-SEC 009: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); NFV Security; Report on use cases and technical approaches for multi-layer host administration".
- [i.4] ETSI GS NFV-SEC 012: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV) Release 3; Security; System architecture specification for execution of sensitive NFV components".
- [i.5] OWASP XML Security Cheat Sheet.

NOTE: Available at [https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/XML\\_Security\\_Cheat\\_Sheet.html](https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/XML_Security_Cheat_Sheet.html).



## 3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations

### 3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms apply:

**destination:** point to which xIRI and/or xCC is delivered by the NE

**Destination Identifier (DID):** identifier to uniquely identify a Destination internally to the X1 interface

**Network Element (NE):** element or function performing the interception

NOTE: Equivalent to the term network function (NF).

**protocol error:** error at the X1 protocol level (rather than any fault with ADMF or NE)

NOTE: In the present document, the term "error" in general refers to a protocol error, whereas issues with systems not behaving correctly are called "faults".

**task:** continuous instance of interception at a single NE carried out against a set of target identifiers, identified by an X1 Identifier, starting from an activate command and ending with a deactivate command or terminating fault

**terminating fault:** fault signalled from NE to ADMF which terminates the specific Task

**X1:** LI interfaces internal to the CSP for management tasking

**X2:** LI interfaces internal to the CSP for xIRI delivery

**X3:** LI interfaces internal to the CSP for xCC delivery

**X1 Identifier (XID):** identifier to uniquely identify a Task internally to the X1 interface as well as across related X2 and X3 interfaces

NOTE: The XID is also either associated to only one LIID or can be allowed to be associated to multiple LIIDs.

**X1 Transaction ID:** identifier used to identify a specific request/response pair

### 3.2 Symbols

Void.

### 3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

ADMF	ADMInistration Function
AVP	Attribute-Value Pair
CC	Content of Communication
CIDR	Classless Inter Domain Routing
CSP	Communication Service Provider
DID	Destination Identifier
FQDN	Full Qualified Domain Name
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
GTP-C	GPRS Tunnel Protocol (Control plane)
GTP-U	GPRS Tunnel Protocol (User plane)
HI	Handover Interface
HTML	HyperText Markup Language
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	HTTP over TLS
IMEI	International Mobile Equipment Identity
IMPI	IP Multimedia Private Identity

IMPU	IP Multimedia PUBlic identity
IMSI	International Mobile Station Identity
IP	Internet Protocol
IRI	Intercept Related Information
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency
LEMF	Law Enforcement Monitoring Facility
LI	Lawful Interception
MAC	Media Access Control
MDF	Mediation and Delivery Function
NAI	Network Access Identifier
NAT	Network Address Translation
NE	Network Element

NOTE: The element or function performing the interception.

NF	Network Function
NFV	Network Functions Virtualisation
OWASP	Open Web Application Security Project
RADIUS	Remote Authentication Dial In User Service
SGSN	Serving GPRS Support Node
SIP	Session Initiation Protocol
SNMP	Simple Network Management Protocol
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
TISPAN	Telecommunication and Internet converged Services and Protocols for Advanced Networking
TLS	Transport Layer Security
TPM	Trusted Platform Module
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
UID	Unique Identifier
URI	Uniform Resource Identifier
UTF	UCS Transformation Formats
UUID	Universally Unique Identifier
xCC	X3 Content of Communications
xIRI	X2 Intercept Related Information
XID	X1 Identifier
XML	eXtended Markup Language
XSD	XML Schema Definition

## 4 Overview

### 4.1 Reference model

#### 4.1.1 Introduction

The X1 interface is based on communication between two entities; the controlling function (e.g. a CSP Administration Function (ADMF)), and the controlled function (e.g. a Network Element or Network Function (the terms are equivalent) performing interception or mediation and delivery). The X1 reference model is shown in figure 1.

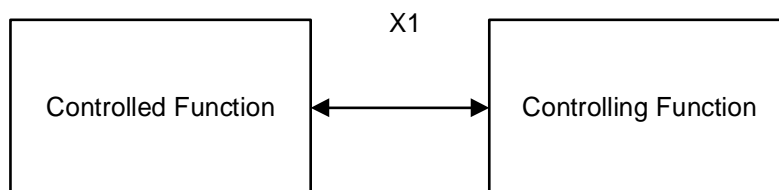
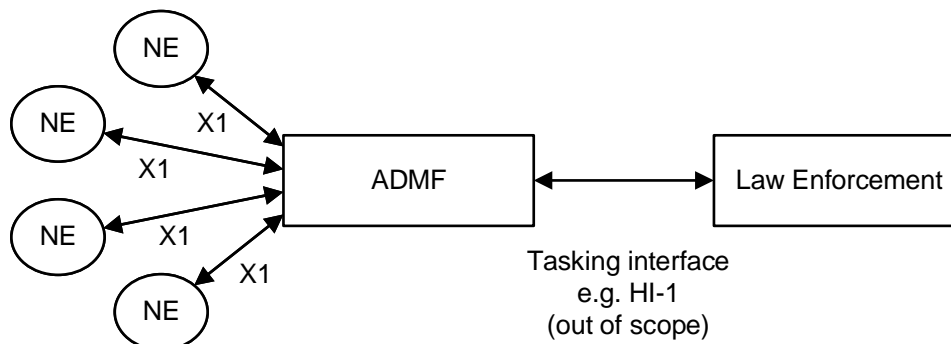


Figure 1: X1 reference model

While the present document uses the terms Network Element (NE), the term is intended to represent any given Network Function (NF) which is intended to be given information regarding interception or mediation and delivery. Similarly, the term "ADMF" is intended to represent any given network function that controls interception or mediation and delivery in other functions.

### 4.1.2 ADMF deployment model

Figure 2 shows a deployment model for X1 where a CSP ADMF uses X1 to provision a number of NEs to perform interception.



**Figure 2: X1 reference model**

Only one ADMF shall make changes by X1 to a given NE. This is called the ADMF which is "responsible" for that NE.

Onward delivery of information from the NE is called X2 (for xIRI) and X3 (for xCC). X2 and X3 are defined in ETSI TS 103 221-2 [19].

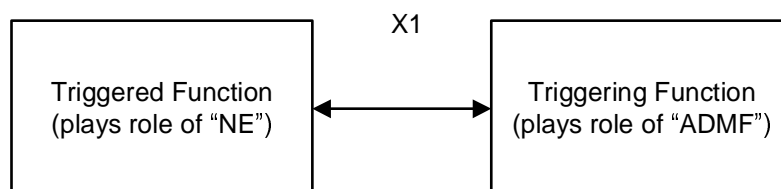
Some deployments may involve multiple ADMFs for redundancy or other purposes; where multiple ADMFs are required, the NE shall be implemented such that it presents itself as a separate NE to each ADMF.

ADMF and NE shall implement time synchronization where possible; in situations where it is not possible, the ADMF shall maintain knowledge of the timing offset between the ADMF and NE.

**NOTE:** The present document may be used in direct delivery scenarios, in which the NE delivers directly to the LEMF. Any consequences of using direct delivery are out of scope of the present document.

### 4.1.3 Triggering deployment model

Figure 3 shows another possible deployment model for X1, where the X1 protocol is used to trigger interception by one in a second network function. In this deployment model, the "Triggering Function" takes on the role of the ADMF in the previous deployment model, while the "Triggered Function" takes on the role of the NE.

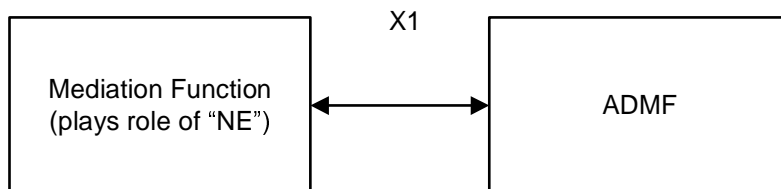


**Figure 3: X1 deployment model for Triggering Functions**

If this deployment model is used, then in the following clauses references to the ADMF should be interpreted as applying to the Triggering Function, while references to the NE should be interpreted as references to the Triggered Function.

#### 4.1.4 Mediation and delivery function deployment model

Figure 4 shows another possible deployment model for X1, where the X1 protocol is used to manage a CSP mediation and delivery function. In this deployment model, the MDF takes on the role of the NE in the previous deployment model.



**Figure 4: X1 deployment model for Mediation and Delivery Functions**

If this deployment model is used, then in the following clauses references to the NE should be interpreted as applying to the MDF.

## 4.2 Reference model for X1: requesting and responding

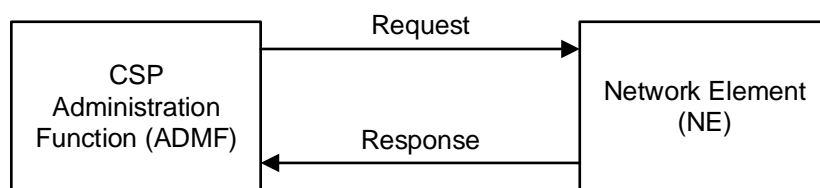
X1 transactions consist of a request followed by a response.

Requests may be sent in either direction i.e. with the ADMF or NE initiating the request. The side initiating the request is called the "Requester"; this term is used when it is not specified whether it is the ADMF or NE making the request. The other side is called the "Responder".

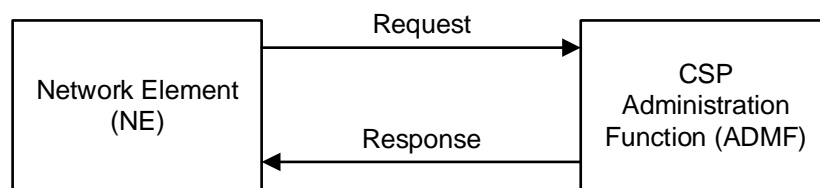


**Figure 5: Showing generic terminology**

It is likely that in most situations, the ADMF will initiate the message i.e. to distribute information or request status. However, it is possible that the NE will initiate the request in order to deliver fault reports, etc.



*ADMF is Requester*



*NE is Requester*

**Figure 6: Showing two situations with either ADMF or NE as the requester**