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Contents

Intellectual Property Rights	2
Legal Notice	2
Modal verbs terminology.....	2
Foreword.....	5
1 Scope	6
2 References	6
3 Definitions and abbreviations.....	7
3.1 Definitions	7
3.2 Abbreviations	7
4 NEF Northbound Interface	7
4.1 Overview	7
4.2 Reference model.....	8
4.3 Functional elements.....	9
4.3.1 NEF.....	9
4.3.2 AF	9
4.4 Procedures over NEF Northbound Interface	9
4.4.1 Introduction.....	9
4.4.2 Procedures for Monitoring.....	9
4.4.3 Procedures for Device Triggering.....	9
4.4.4 Procedures for resource management of Background Data Transfer.....	10
4.4.5 Procedures for CP Parameters Provisioning.....	10
4.4.6 Procedures for PFD Management.....	10
4.4.7 Procedures for Traffic Influence	10
4.4.7.1 General	10
4.4.7.2 AF request identified by UE address.....	11
4.4.7.3 AF request not identified by UE address.....	11
4.4.8 Procedures for changing the chargeable party at session set up or during the session.....	12
4.4.9 Procedures for setting up an AF session with required QoS.....	12
5 NEF Northbound APIs	12
5.1 Introduction	12
5.2 Information applicable to several APIs	12
5.3 Reused APIs	13
5.4 TrafficInfluence API	13
5.4.1 Resources.....	13
5.4.1.1 Overview.....	13
5.4.1.2 Resource: Traffic Influence Subscription.....	14
5.4.1.2.1 Introduction	14
5.4.1.2.2 Resource Definition.....	14
5.4.1.2.3 Resource Methods	14
5.4.1.2.3.1 General.....	14
5.4.1.2.3.2 GET.....	14
5.4.1.2.3.3 POST.....	15
5.4.1.3 Resource: Individual Traffic Influence Subscription	15
5.4.1.3.1 Introduction	15
5.4.1.3.2 Resource Definition.....	15
5.4.1.3.3 Resource Methods	16
5.4.1.3.3.1 General.....	16
5.4.1.3.3.2 GET.....	16
5.4.1.3.3.3 PUT.....	16
5.4.1.3.3.4 PATCH	17
5.4.1.3.3.5 DELETE	17
5.4.2 Notifications	18
5.4.2.1 Introduction.....	18

5.4.2.2 Event Notification 18

5.4.2.3 Operation Definition 18

5.4.2.3.1 Notification via HTTP POST 18

5.4.2.3.2 Notification via Websocket 18

5.4.3 Data Model 19

5.4.3.1 General 19

5.4.3.2 Reused data types 19

5.4.3.3 Structured data types 19

5.4.3.3.1 Introduction 19

5.4.3.3.2 Type: TrafficInfluSub 19

5.4.3.3.3 Type: TrafficInfluSubPatch 22

5.4.3.3.4 Type: EventNotification 23

5.4.3.4 Simple data types and enumerations 23

5.4.3.4.1 Introduction 23

5.4.3.4.2 Simple data types 24

5.4.3.4.3 Enumeration: SubscribedEvent 24

5.4.4 Used Features 24

6 Security 24

7 Using Common API Framework 24

7.1 General 24

7.2 Security 25

Annex A (normative): OpenAPI representation for NEF Northbound APIs 26

A.1 General 26

A.2 TrafficInfluence API 26

Annex B (informative): Change history 33

History 36

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1 Scope

The present specification describes the protocol for the NEF Northbound interface between the NEF and the AF. The NEF Northbound interface and the related stage 2 functional requirements are defined in 3GPP TS 23.502 [2].

2 References

The following documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of the present document.

- References are either specific (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.) or non-specific.
- For a specific reference, subsequent revisions do not apply.
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- [1] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".
- [2] 3GPP TS 23.502: "Procedures for the 5G system".
- [3] 3GPP TS 23.501: "System Architecture for the 5G".
- [4] 3GPP TS 29.122: "T8 reference point for northbound Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)".
- [5] Open API Initiative, "OpenAPI 3.0.0 Specification", <https://github.com/OAI/OpenAPI-Specification/blob/master/versions/3.0.0.md>.
- [6] 3GPP TS 33.501: "Security architecture and procedures for 5G System".
- [7] 3GPP TS 29.514: "5G System; Policy Authorization Service; Stage 3".
- [8] 3GPP TS 29.571: "5G System; Common Data Types for Service Based Interfaces; Stage 3".
- [9] 3GPP TS 29.521: "5G System; Binding Support Management Service; Stage 3".
- [10] Void.
- [11] 3GPP TS 23.222: "Common API Framework for 3GPP Northbound APIs; Stage 2".
- [12] 3GPP TS 29.222: "Common API Framework for 3GPP Northbound APIs; Stage 3".
- [13] IETF RFC 6749: "The OAuth 2.0 Authorization Framework".
- [14] 3GPP TS 33.122: "Security Aspects of Common API Framework for 3GPP Northbound APIs".
- [15] Void.
- [16] IETF RFC 5246: "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.2".
- [17] 3GPP TS 29.503: "5G System; Unified Data Management Services; Stage 3".
- [18] 3GPP TS 29.518: "5G System; Access and Mobility Management Services; Stage 3".
- [19] 3GPP TS 29.554: "5G System; Background Data Transfer Policy Control Service; Stage 3".
- [20] 3GPP TS 29.504: "5G System; Unified Data Repository Services; Stage 3".
- [21] 3GPP TR 21.900: "Technical Specification Group working methods".

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the terms and definitions given in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply. A term defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same term, if any, in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1].

3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1] and the following apply. An abbreviation defined in the present document takes precedence over the definition of the same abbreviation, if any, in 3GPP TR 21.905 [1].

AF	Application Function
BDT	Background Data Transfer
CAPIF	Common API Framework
CP	Communication Pattern
DN	Data Network
DNAI	DN Access Identifier
DNN	Data Network Name
GPSI	Generic Public Subscription Identifier
NEF	Network Exposure Function
PCF	Policy Control Function
PCRF	Policy and Charging Rule Function
PFD	Packet Flow Description
PFDf	Packet Flow Description Function
REST	Representational State Transfer
SCEF	Service Capability Exposure Function
S-NSSAI	Single Network Slice Selection Assistance Information
UDR	Unified Data Repository
UP	User Plane

4 NEF Northbound Interface

4.1 Overview

The NEF Northbound interface is between the NEF and the AF. It specifies RESTful APIs that allow the AF to access the services and capabilities provided by 3GPP network entities and securely exposed by the NEF.

This document also specifies the procedures triggered at the NEF by API requests from the AF and by event notifications received from 3GPP network entities.

The stage 2 level requirements and signalling flows for the NEF Northbound interface are defined in 3GPP TS 23.502 [2].

The NEF Northbound interface supports the following procedures:

- Procedures for Monitoring
- Procedures for Device Triggering
- Procedures for resource management of Background Data Transfer
- Procedures for CP Parameters Provisioning
- Procedures for PFD Management

- Procedures for Traffic Influence
- Procedures for changing the chargeable party at session set up or during the session
- Procedures for setting up an AF session with required QoS

Which correspond to the following services respectively, supported by the NEF as defined in 3GPP TS 23.502 [2]:

- Nnef_EventExposure service
- Nnef_Trigger service
- Nnef_BDTPNegotiation service
- Nnef_ParameterProvision service
- Nnef_PFDManagement service
- Nnef_TrafficInfluence service
- Nnef_ChargeableParty service
- Nnef_AFsessionWithQoS service

NOTE: For Nnef_PFDManagement service, only the Nnef_PFDManagement_Create/Update/Delete service operations are applicable for the NEF Northbound interface.

4.2 Reference model

The NEF Northbound interface resides between the NEF and the AF as depicted in figure 4.2.1. The overall NEF architecture is depicted in 3GPP TS 23.502 [2]. An AF can get services from multiple NEFs, and an NEF can provide service to multiple AFs.

NOTE: The AF can be provided by the third party.

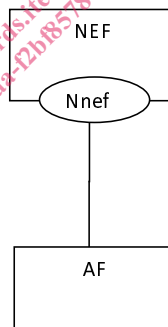


Figure 4.2-1: Reference Architecture for the Nnef Service; SBI representation



Figure 4.2-2: Reference Architecture for the Nnef Service; reference point representation

4.3 Functional elements

4.3.1 NEF

The Network Exposure Function (NEF) is a functional element that supports the following functionalities:

- The NEF shall securely expose network capabilities and events provided by 3GPP NFs to AF.
- The NEF shall provide a means for the AF to securely provide information to 3GPP network and may authenticate, authorize and assist in throttling the AF.
- The NEF shall be able to translate the information received from the AF to the one sent to internal 3GPP NFs, and vice versa.
- The NEF shall support to expose information (collected from other 3GPP NFs) to the AF.
- The NEF may support a PFD Function which allows the AF to provision PFD(s) and may store and retrieve PFD(s) in the UDR. The NEF further provisions PFD(s) to the SMF.

A specific NEF instance may support one or more of the functionalities described above and consequently an individual NEF may support a subset of the APIs specified for capability exposure.

NOTE: The NEF can access the UDR located in the same PLMN as the NEF.

4.3.2 AF

The Application Function (AF) may interact with the 3GPP Core Network via the NEF in order to access network capabilities.

4.4 Procedures over NEF Northbound Interface

4.4.1 Introduction

All procedures that operate across the NEF Northbound interface, as specified in 3GPP TS 23.502 [2], are specified in the following subclauses.

4.4.2 Procedures for Monitoring

The procedures for monitoring as described in subclause 4.4.2 of 3GPP TS 29.122 [4] shall be applicable in 5GS with the following differences:

- description of the SCS/AS applies to the AF;
- description of the SCEF applies to the NEF;
- description of the HSS applies to the UDM, and the NEF shall interact with the UDM by using Nudm_EventExposure service as defined in 3GPP TS 29.503 [17];
- description of the MME/SGSN applies to the AMF, and the NEF shall interact with the AMF by using Namf_EventExposure service as defined in 3GPP TS 29.518 [18];
- description about the PCRF is not applicable.
- description about the change of IMSI-IMEI(SV) association monitoring event applies to the change of SUPI-PEI association monitoring event.

4.4.3 Procedures for Device Triggering

The procedures for device triggering as described in subclause 4.4.6 of 3GPP TS 29.122 [4] shall be applicable in 5G with the following differences:

- description of the SCS/AS applies to the AF;
- description of the SCEF applies to the NEF;
- description of the HSS applies to the UDM;
- the NEF shall interact with the UDM by using the Nudm_SubscriberDataManagement service and the Nudm_UEContextManagement service as defined in 3GPP TS 29.503 [17]; and
- the NEF acts as MTC-IWF.

4.4.4 Procedures for resource management of Background Data Transfer

The procedures for resource management of Background Data Transfer (BDT) in 5GS are described in subclause 4.4.3 3GPP TS 29.122 [4] with the following differences:

- description of the SCS/AS applies to the AF;
- description of the SCEF applies to the NEF;
- description of the PCRF applies to the PCF; and
- the NEF shall interact with the PCF by using Npcf_BDTPolicyControl service as defined in 3GPP TS 29.554 [19].

4.4.5 Procedures for CP Parameters Provisioning

The procedures for CP parameters provisioning as described in subclause 4.4.9 of 3GPP TS 29.122 [4] shall be applicable in 5G with the following differences:

- description of the SCS/AS applies to the AF;
- description of the SCEF applies to the NEF;
- description of the HSS applies to the UDM;
- the NEF shall interact with the UDM by using Nudm_ParameterProvision service as defined in 3GPP TS 29.503 [17].

4.4.6 Procedures for PFD Management

The procedures for PFD management as described in subclause 4.4.10 of 3GPP TS 29.122 [4] shall be applicable for 5GS with the following differences:

- description of the SCS/AS applies to the AF;
- description of the SCEF applies to the NEF; and
- the NEF (PFDF) shall interact with the UDR for PFD management by using Nudr_DataRepository service as defined in 3GPP TS 29.504 [20]. The PFDF is functionality within the NEF.

4.4.7 Procedures for Traffic Influence

4.4.7.1 General

In order to create a resource for the Traffic Influence, the AF shall send an HTTP POST message to the NEF to the resource "Traffic Influence Subscription", the body of the HTTP POST message may include the AF Service Identifier, external Group Identifier, external Identifier, any UE Indication, the UE IP address, GPSI, DNN, S-NSSAI, Application Identifier or traffic filtering information, Subscribed Event, Notification destination address, a list of geographic zone identifier(s), AF Transaction Identifier, a list of DNAI(s), routing profile ID(s) or N6 traffic routing information, Indication of application relocation possibility, type of notifications, Temporal and spatial validity conditions. The Notification destination address shall be included if the Subscribed Event is included in the HTTP request message.