

ETSI GS NFV-IFA 014 V3.6.1 (2022-01)



Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV) Release 3; Management and Orchestration; Network Service Templates Specification

Document Preview

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Contents

Intellectual Property Rights	7
Foreword.....	7
Modal verbs terminology.....	7
1 Scope	8
2 References	8
2.1 Normative references	8
2.2 Informative references.....	8
3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations.....	9
3.1 Terms.....	9
3.2 Symbols.....	9
3.3 Abbreviations	9
4 Overview	10
4.1 Network Service Descriptions.....	10
4.2 Relation to other ETSI NFV Group Specifications	11
4.3 Conventions.....	11
5 Functional requirements	12
5.1 Void.....	12
5.2 Functional requirements for Network Service Descriptor	12
5.3 Functional requirements for Network Service Deployment Flavour.....	13
5.4 Functional requirements for VNF Forwarding Graph Descriptor	14
5.5 Functional requirements for Virtual Link Descriptor	14
5.6 Functional requirements for Physical Network Function Descriptor	14
5.7 Functional requirements for PNFD archive.....	15
6 Descriptors formats and contents	15
6.1 Void.....	15
6.2 Information elements related to the Network Service Descriptor	15
6.2.1 Introduction.....	15
6.2.2 Network Service Descriptor information element	16
6.2.2.1 Description	16
6.2.2.2 Attributes.....	16
6.2.3 Sapid information element.....	17
6.2.3.1 Description	17
6.2.3.2 Attributes.....	17
6.2.4 Void	17
6.2.5 SecurityParameters information element	17
6.2.5.1 Description	17
6.2.5.2 Attributes.....	18
6.2.6 MonitoredData information element.....	18
6.2.6.1 Description	18
6.2.6.2 Attributes.....	18
6.2.7 VnfIndicatorData information element	18
6.2.7.1 Description	18
6.2.7.2 Attributes.....	18
6.2.8 MonitoringParameter information element.....	19
6.2.8.1 Description	19
6.2.8.2 Attributes.....	19
6.2.9 LifeCycleManagementScript information element.....	19
6.2.9.1 Description	19
6.2.9.2 Attributes.....	19
6.2.10 Information elements related to NS lifecycle management operations.....	20
6.2.10.1 Introduction.....	20
6.2.10.2 NsLcmAdditionalParams information element.....	20
6.2.10.2.1 Description	20

6.2.10.2.2	Attributes	20
6.2.10.3	InstantiateNsAdditionalParams information element.....	20
6.2.10.3.1	Description	20
6.2.10.3.2	Attributes	20
6.2.10.4	ScaleNsAdditionalParams information element.....	20
6.2.10.4.1	Description	20
6.2.10.4.2	Attributes	21
6.2.10.5	HealNsAdditionalParams information element.....	21
6.2.10.5.1	Description	21
6.2.10.5.2	Attributes	21
6.3	Information elements related to the Network Service Deployment Flavour	21
6.3.1	Introduction.....	21
6.3.2	NsDf information element	21
6.3.2.1	Description	21
6.3.2.2	Attributes.....	21
6.3.3	VnfProfile information element.....	23
6.3.3.1	Description	23
6.3.3.2	Attributes.....	23
6.3.4	VirtualLinkProfile information element	24
6.3.4.1	Description	24
6.3.4.2	Attributes.....	24
6.3.5	AffinityOrAntiAffinityGroup information element.....	25
6.3.5.1	Description	25
6.3.5.2	Attributes.....	25
6.3.6	PnfProfile information element.....	25
6.3.6.1	Description	25
6.3.6.2	Attributes.....	25
6.3.7	NsVirtualLinkConnectivity information element	26
6.3.7.1	Description	26
6.3.7.2	Attributes.....	26
6.3.8	LocalAffinityOrAntiAffinityRule information element.....	26
6.3.8.1	Description	26
6.3.8.2	Attributes.....	27
6.3.9	NsLevel information element	27
6.3.9.1	Description	27
6.3.9.2	Attributes.....	27
6.3.10	Void	28
6.3.11	NsProfile information element.....	28
6.3.11.1	Description	28
6.3.11.2	Attributes.....	28
6.3.12	Dependencies information element.....	29
6.3.12.1	Description	29
6.3.12.2	Attributes.....	29
6.3.13	VirtualLinkProtocolData information element	30
6.3.13.1	Description	30
6.3.13.2	Attributes.....	30
6.3.14	L2ProtocolData information element.....	30
6.3.14.1	Description	30
6.3.14.2	Attributes.....	31
6.3.15	L3ProtocolData information element.....	31
6.3.15.1	Description	31
6.3.15.2	Attributes.....	31
6.4	Information elements related to the VNF Forwarding Graph Descriptor.....	32
6.4.1	Introduction.....	32
6.4.2	Vnffgd information element	32
6.4.2.1	Description	32
6.4.2.2	Attributes.....	32
6.4.3	Nfpd information element.....	33
6.4.3.1	Description	33
6.4.3.2	Attributes.....	33
6.4.4	Void	33
6.4.5	NfpPositionDesc information element.....	33

6.4.5.1	Description	33
6.4.5.2	Attributes	33
6.4.6	NfpPositionElement information element	34
6.4.6.1	Description	34
6.4.6.2	Attributes	34
6.4.7	Void	35
6.4.8	CpdInConstituentElement information element	35
6.4.8.1	Description	35
6.4.8.2	Attributes	35
6.5	Information elements related to the Network Service Virtual Link Descriptor	35
6.5.1	Introduction	35
6.5.2	NsVirtualLinkDesc information element	35
6.5.2.1	Description	35
6.5.2.2	Attributes	36
6.5.3	ConnectivityType information element	36
6.5.3.1	Description	36
6.5.3.2	Attributes	36
6.5.4	VirtualLinkDf information element	36
6.5.4.1	Description	36
6.5.4.2	Attributes	36
6.5.5	LinkBitrateRequirements information element	37
6.5.5.1	Description	37
6.5.5.2	Attributes	37
6.5.6	NsQoS information element	37
6.5.6.1	Description	37
6.5.6.2	Attributes	37
6.6	Information elements related to the PNFD	38
6.6.1	Introduction	38
6.6.2	Pnfd information element	38
6.6.2.1	Description	38
6.6.2.2	Attributes	38
6.6.3	Cpd information element	38
6.6.3.1	Description	38
6.6.3.2	Attributes	38
6.6.4	PnfExtCpd information element	38
6.6.4.1	Description	38
6.6.4.2	Attributes	39
6.7	Information elements related to scaling	39
6.7.1	Introduction	39
6.7.2	NsScalingAspect information element	39
6.7.2.1	Description	39
6.7.2.2	Attributes	39
6.7.3	Void	39
6.7.4	VnfToLevelMapping information element	39
6.7.4.1	Description	39
6.7.4.2	Attributes	39
6.7.5	VirtualLinkToLevelMapping information element	40
6.7.5.1	Description	40
6.7.5.2	Attributes	40
6.7.6	NsToLevelMapping information element	40
6.7.6.1	Description	40
6.7.6.2	Attributes	41
Annex A (informative):	Support of service function chaining	42
A.1	Introduction	42
A.2	IETF SFC concepts	42
A.3	Use of the NFP Management interface	44
A.4	Mapping	44

Annex B (informative):	Change History	46
History		48

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ETSI GS NFV-IFA 014 V3.6.1 (2022-01)

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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 specifies requirements and templates for describing Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV) Network Services (NSs) in the form of meta-data.

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] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 011: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Release 3; Management and Orchestration; VNF Descriptor and Packaging Specification".

2.2 Informative references

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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 002: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Architectural Framework".
- [i.2] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 013: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Release 3; Management and Orchestration; Os-Ma-Nfvo reference point - Interface and Information Model Specification".
- [i.3] ETSI GS NFV-SWA 001: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Virtual Network Functions Architecture".
- [i.4] ISO/IEC 9646-7: "Information technology -- Open Systems Interconnection -- Conformance testing methodology and framework -- Part 7: Implementation Conformance Statements".
- [i.5] Void.
- [i.6] IETF RFC 7665: "Service Function Chaining (SFC) Architecture".
- [i.7] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 005: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Release 3; Management and Orchestration; Or-Vi reference point - Interface and Information Model Specification".
- [i.8] IETF RFC 4090: "Fast Reroute Extensions to RSVP-TE for LSP Tunnels".

[i.9] ETSI GS NFV-IFA 014 (V3.3.1): "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV) Release 3; 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] and the following apply:

Service Access Point (SAP): connection point where an NS can be accessed

NOTE: A SAP can either provide access to an NS, e.g. to an end-user, or interconnect different NS.

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:

CDN	Content Delivery Network
CM	Conditional Mandatory
CO	Conditional Optional
CP	Connection Point
CPD	Connection Point Descriptor
DF	Deployment Flavour
DSL	Domain Specific Language
E-LAN	Ethernet Local Area Network
GS	Group Specification
IPV4	Internet Protocol Version 4
IPV6	Internet Protocol Version 6
LAN	Local Area Network
LSP	Label-Switched Path
MANO	Management and Orchestration
MPLS	MultiProtocol Label Switching
NCT	Network Connectivity Topology
NFP	Network Forwarding Path
NFPD	Network Forwarding Path Descriptor
NS	Network Service
NSD	Network Service Descriptor
ODU2	Optical channel Data Unit - type 2
PM	Performance Management
PNFD	Physical Network Function Descriptor
RSVP-TE	Resource Reservation Protocol Traffic Engineering
SAL	Service Availability Level
SAP	Service Access Point
SAPD	Service Access Point Descriptor
SFC	Service Function Chaining
TE	Traffic Engineering
UML	Unified Modelling Language
VL	Virtual Link
VLD	Virtual Link Descriptor
VNFFG	VNF Forwarding Graph
VNFFGD	VNF Forwarding Graph Descriptor
XOR	eXclusive OR

4 Overview

4.1 Network Service Descriptions

The Network Service Descriptor (NSD) is a deployment template which consists of information used by the NFV Orchestrator (NFVO) for life cycle management of an NS.

An NS is a composition of Network Functions (NFs) arranged as a set of functions with unspecified connectivity between them or according to one or more forwarding graphs. As illustrated in figure 4.1-1, the description of an NS as used by the NFV Management and Orchestration (MANO) functions to deploy an NS instance includes or references the descriptors of its constituent objects:

- Zero, one or more Virtualised Network Function Descriptors (VNFD);
- Zero, one or more Physical Network Function Descriptor (PNFD) used by the NFVO to determine how to connect PNFs to VLs;
- Zero, one or more nested NSD;

NOTE 1: The information contained within the PNFD is limited to the description of the connectivity requirements to integrate PNFs in an NS.

NOTE 2: An NSD references at least either one VNFD or one nested NSD.

- Zero, one or more Virtual Link Descriptor (VLD) used by the NFVO to deploy Virtual Links (VL); and
- Zero, one or more VNF Forwarding Graph Descriptor (VNFFGD).

A VNF Forwarding Graph Descriptor (VNFFGD) describes a topology of the NS or a portion of the NS, by referencing a pool of connection points and service access points, the descriptors of its constituent VNFs, PNFs and of the VLs that connect them. It may also contain one or more Network Forwarding Path (NFP) descriptors.

NOTE 3: Different VNFFGDs can be contained in a given NSD. Each VNFFGD uses subsets of the lists of VLDs, VNFDs and PNFDs included in the NSD.

NOTE 4: For a given NS different VNFFGDs can result in packets/frames traversing identical sequences of (V)NFs, depending on the NFP descriptors included in the VNFFGDs.

NOTE 5: In a given VNFFGD the connectivity topology represents how the (V)NFs among which packets/frames can be exchanged are connected to each other. A Network Connectivity Topology (NCT), as defined in ETSI GS NFV-SWA 001 [i.3] represents a higher logical level connectivity, possibly a global view of combined connectivity from different VNFFGDs of a given NS.

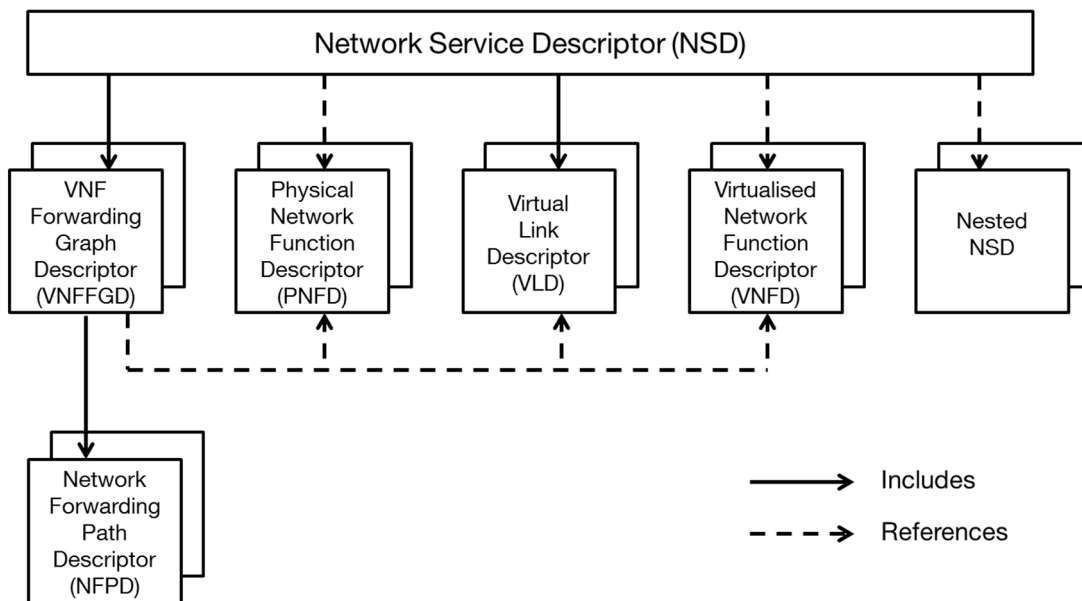


Figure 4.1-1: NSD overview

4.2 Relation to other ETSI NFV Group Specifications

The concepts of network services and forwarding graphs are described in ETSI GS NFV 002 [i.1].

Instances of objects created according to the templates specified in the present document are exchanged at the Os-Ma-Nfvo reference point as specified in ETSI GS NFV-IFA 013 [i.2].

The format of the VNF descriptors referenced in a network service template shall comply with the specifications in ETSI GS NFV-IFA 011 [2].

4.3 Conventions

The attributes of the NSD and associated information elements are described in the tables provided in clause 6. 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 needs not always to 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 part of the data model design.
- The "Description column" provides a brief explanatory description and additional constraints.

The following notations, defined in ISO/IEC 9646-7 [i.4], are used for the qualifier column of information elements:

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

The following notation is used for parameters that represent identifiers, and for attributes that represent identifiers in information elements and notifications:

- If parameters are referring to an identifier of an actual object, their type is "Identifier".
- If an object (information element or notification) contains an attribute that identifies the object, the type of that attribute is "Identifier" and the description states that the attribute is the identifier of that particular notification or information element.

EXAMPLE 1: Identifier "resourceId" of the "NetworkSubnet information element" has type "Identifier" and description "Identifier of this NetworkSubnet information element".

- If an object (information element or notification) contains an attribute that references another object or objects defined in an ETSI NFV Group Specification (GS), the type of the attribute is "Identifier", followed by the list of objects it references.

EXAMPLE 2: "Identifier (Reference to Vnfc)" or "Identifier (Reference to Vnfc, VirtualLink or VirtualStorage)".

4.4 Various levels of NFV entities

For NFV management and orchestration, there are four basic levels of entities:

- Descriptors - general type definitions for things such as NSs, VNFs and VLs.
- Descriptor objects - an instance of a descriptor, e.g. an instance of an NSD (not an instance of an NS instantiated according to this NSD):
 - 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. NSD_x as a subclass of NSD) 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 NS, VNF and VL. There is one-to-one mapping between the set of descriptor objects and the set of NFV entity classes. An example of NFV entity class is CDN NS.
- 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. More than one NFV entity instance can be created from the same associated descriptor object. An example of NFV entity instance is CDN NS 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.

5 Functional requirements

5.1 Void

5.2 Functional requirements for Network Service Descriptor

Table 5.2-1 specifies functional requirements applicable to the templates for NSD instances.