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5G;**  
**Common API Framework for 3GPP Northbound APIs  
(3GPP TS 23.222 version 16.13.0 Release 16)**

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# Contents

Intellectual Property Rights .....	2
Legal Notice .....	2
Modal verbs terminology.....	2
Foreword.....	10
Introduction .....	10
1 Scope .....	11
2 References .....	11
3 Definitions and abbreviations.....	11
3.1 Definitions .....	11
3.2 Abbreviations .....	12
4 Architectural requirements .....	13
4.1 General .....	13
4.1.1 Introduction.....	13
4.1.2 Requirements .....	13
4.1.3 Requirements for supporting 3 <sup>rd</sup> party API providers.....	13
4.2 Service API publish and discover.....	13
4.2.1 Introduction.....	13
4.2.2 Requirements .....	13
4.2.3 Requirements for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party API providers.....	14
4.3 Security .....	14
4.3.1 Introduction.....	14
4.3.2 Requirements .....	14
4.3.3 Additional requirements for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party API provider.....	14
4.4 Charging.....	14
4.4.1 Introduction.....	14
4.4.2 Requirements .....	15
4.4.3 Requirements for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party API providers.....	15
4.5 Operations, Administration and Maintenance .....	15
4.5.1 Introduction.....	15
4.5.2 Requirements .....	15
4.5.3 Requirements for 3 <sup>rd</sup> party API providers.....	15
4.6 Service API invocation monitoring .....	15
4.6.1 Introduction.....	15
4.6.2 Requirements .....	16
4.7 Logging .....	16
4.7.1 Introduction.....	16
4.7.2 Logging events related to service API invocations.....	16
4.7.3 Logging events related to API invoker onboarding .....	16
4.7.4 Logging events related to API invoker interaction with the CAPIF.....	16
4.8 Auditing service API invocation .....	17
4.8.1 Introduction.....	17
4.8.2 Requirements .....	17
4.9 Onboarding API invoker .....	17
4.9.1 Introduction.....	17
4.9.2 Requirements .....	17
4.10 Policy configuration .....	17
4.10.1 Introduction.....	17
4.10.2 Requirements .....	17
4.11 Protocol design .....	17
4.11.1 Introduction.....	17
4.11.2 Requirements .....	17
4.12 Interconnection between the CAPIF providers.....	18
4.12.1 Introduction.....	18

4.12.2	Requirements .....	18
4.13	Identities .....	18
4.13.1	Introduction.....	18
4.13.2	Requirements .....	18
4.14	API provider domain interactions .....	18
4.14.1	Introduction.....	18
4.14.2	Requirements .....	18
4.15	Dynamic routing of service API invocation .....	19
4.15.1	Introduction.....	19
4.15.2	Requirements .....	19
4.16	Registering API provider domain functions .....	19
4.16.1	Introduction.....	19
4.16.2	Requirements .....	19
5	Involved business relationships.....	19
6	Functional model .....	20
6.1	General .....	20
6.2	Functional model description .....	20
6.2.0	Functional model description for the CAPIF .....	20
6.2.1	Functional model description to support 3 <sup>rd</sup> party API providers .....	22
6.2.2	Functional model description to support CAPIF interconnection.....	23
6.3	Functional entities description.....	25
6.3.1	General.....	25
6.3.2	API invoker.....	25
6.3.3	CAPIF core function .....	25
6.3.4	API exposing function .....	26
6.3.5	API publishing function.....	26
6.3.6	API management function .....	26
6.4	Reference points .....	26
6.4.1	General.....	26
6.4.2	Reference point CAPIF-1 (between the API invoker and the CAPIF core function) .....	27
6.4.3	Reference point CAPIF-1e (between the API invoker and the CAPIF core function).....	27
6.4.4	Reference point CAPIF-2 (between the API invoker and the API exposing function).....	27
6.4.5	Reference point CAPIF-2e (between the API invoker and the API exposing function).....	27
6.4.6	Reference point CAPIF-3 (between the API exposing function and the CAPIF core function).....	28
6.4.7	Reference point CAPIF-4 (between the API publishing function and the CAPIF core function) .....	28
6.4.8	Reference point CAPIF-5 (between the API management function and the CAPIF core function).....	28
6.4.9	Reference point CAPIF-3e (between the API exposing function and the CAPIF core function) .....	29
6.4.10	Reference point CAPIF-4e (between the API publishing function and the CAPIF core function).....	29
6.4.11	Reference point CAPIF-5e (between the API management function and the CAPIF core function) .....	29
6.4.12	Reference point CAPIF-7 (between the API exposing functions) .....	29
6.4.13	Reference point CAPIF-7e (between the API exposing functions) .....	29
6.4.14	Reference point CAPIF-6 (between the CAPIF core functions of the same CAPIF provider).....	30
6.4.15	Reference point CAPIF-6e (between the CAPIF core functions of different CAPIF providers).....	30
7	Application of functional model to deployments .....	30
7.1	General .....	30
7.2	Centralized deployment.....	30
7.3	Distributed deployment .....	31
7.4	Multiple CCFs deployment .....	35
8	Procedures and information flows.....	36
8.1	Onboarding the API invoker to the CAPIF .....	36
8.1.1	General.....	36
8.1.2	Information flows .....	36
8.1.2.1	Onboard API invoker request.....	36
8.1.2.2	Onboard API invoker response .....	36
8.1.3	Procedure .....	36
8.2	Offboarding the API invoker from the CAPIF.....	37
8.2.1	General.....	37
8.2.2	Information flows .....	37
8.2.2.1	Offboard API invoker request.....	38

8.2.2.2	Offboard API invoker response.....	38
8.2.3	Procedure.....	38
8.3	Publish service APIs.....	39
8.3.1	General.....	39
8.3.2	Information flows.....	39
8.3.2.1	Service API publish request.....	39
8.3.2.2	Service API publish response.....	39
8.3.3	Procedure.....	39
8.4	Unpublish service APIs.....	40
8.4.1	General.....	40
8.4.2	Information flows.....	40
8.4.2.1	Service API unpublish request.....	40
8.4.2.2	Service API unpublish response.....	41
8.4.3	Procedure.....	41
8.5	Retrieve service APIs.....	41
8.5.1	General.....	41
8.5.2	Information flows.....	42
8.5.2.1	Service API get request.....	42
8.5.2.2	Service API get response.....	42
8.5.3	Procedure.....	42
8.6	Update service APIs.....	43
8.6.1	General.....	43
8.6.2	Information flows.....	43
8.6.2.1	Service API update request.....	43
8.6.2.2	Service API update response.....	43
8.6.3	Procedure.....	44
8.7	Discover service APIs.....	44
8.7.1	General.....	44
8.7.2	Information flows.....	44
8.7.2.1	Service API discover request.....	44
8.7.2.2	Service API discover response.....	45
8.7.3	Procedure.....	45
8.8	Subscription, unsubscription and notifications for the CAPIF events.....	46
8.8.1	General.....	46
8.8.2	Information flows.....	47
8.8.2.1	Event subscription request.....	47
8.8.2.2	Event subscription response.....	47
8.8.2.3	Event notification.....	47
8.8.2.4	Event notification acknowledgement.....	47
8.8.2.5	Event unsubscription request.....	48
8.8.2.6	Event unsubscription response.....	48
8.8.3	Procedure for CAPIF event subscription.....	48
8.8.4	Procedure for CAPIF event notifications.....	49
8.8.5	Procedure for CAPIF event unsubscription.....	50
8.8.6	List of CAPIF events.....	50
8.9	Revoking subscription of the CAPIF events.....	51
8.9.1	General.....	51
8.9.2	Information flows.....	51
8.9.2.1	Subscription revoke notification.....	51
8.9.2.2	Subscription revoke notification acknowledgement.....	51
8.9.3	Procedure.....	51
8.10	Authentication between the API invoker and the CAPIF core function.....	52
8.10.1	General.....	52
8.10.2	Information flows.....	52
8.10.3	Procedure.....	52
8.11	API invoker obtaining authorization to access service API.....	53
8.11.1	General.....	53
8.11.2	Information flows.....	53
8.11.3	Procedure.....	53
8.12	AEF obtaining service API access control policy.....	54
8.12.1	General.....	54
8.12.2	Information flows.....	54

8.12.2.1	Obtain access control policy request .....	54
8.12.2.2	Obtain access control policy response.....	55
8.12.3	Procedure .....	55
8.13	Topology hiding .....	56
8.13.1	General.....	56
8.13.2	Information flows .....	56
8.13.2.1	Service API invocation request (API invoker – AEF-1).....	56
8.13.2.2	Service API invocation request (AEF-1 – AEF-2).....	56
8.13.2.3	Service API invocation response (AEF-2 – AEF-1) .....	56
8.13.2.4	Service API invocation response (AEF-1 – API invoker).....	56
8.13.3	Procedure .....	56
8.14	Authentication between the API invoker and the AEF prior to service API invocation .....	57
8.14.1	General.....	57
8.14.2	Information flows .....	57
8.14.3	Procedure .....	57
8.15	Authentication between the API invoker and the AEF upon the service API invocation .....	58
8.15.1	General.....	58
8.15.2	Information flows .....	58
8.15.2.1	Service API invocation request with authentication information.....	58
8.15.2.2	Service API invocation response.....	59
8.15.3	Procedure .....	59
8.16	API invoker authorization to access service APIs .....	60
8.16.1	General.....	60
8.16.2	Information flows .....	60
8.16.2.1	Service API invocation request .....	60
8.16.2.2	Service API invocation response.....	60
8.16.3	Procedure .....	61
8.17	CAPIF access control .....	62
8.17.1	General.....	62
8.17.2	Information flows .....	62
8.17.2.1	Service API invocation request .....	62
8.17.2.2	Service API invocation response.....	62
8.17.3	Procedure .....	62
8.18	CAPIF access control with cascaded AEFs.....	63
8.18.1	General.....	63
8.18.2	Information flows .....	63
8.18.2.1	Service API invocation request .....	63
8.18.2.2	Service API invocation response.....	63
8.18.3	Procedure .....	64
8.19	Logging service API invocations .....	64
8.19.1	General.....	64
8.19.2	Information flows .....	65
8.19.2.1	API invocation log request.....	65
8.19.2.2	API invocation log response .....	65
8.19.3	Procedure .....	65
8.20	Charging the invocation of service APIs .....	66
8.20.1	General.....	66
8.20.2	Information flows .....	66
8.20.3	Procedure .....	66
8.21	Monitoring service API invocation .....	67
8.21.1	General.....	67
8.21.2	Information flows .....	67
8.21.2.1	Monitoring service API event notification.....	67
8.21.2.2	Monitoring service API event notification acknowledgement .....	67
8.21.3	Procedure .....	67
8.22	Auditing service API invocation .....	68
8.22.1	General.....	68
8.22.2	Information flows .....	68
8.22.2.1	Query service API log request .....	68
8.22.2.2	Query service API log response .....	68
8.22.3	Procedure .....	68
8.23	CAPIF revoking API invoker authorization.....	69

8.23.1	General.....	69
8.23.2	Information flows .....	69
8.23.2.1	Revoke API invoker authorization request .....	69
8.23.2.2	Revoke API invoker authorization response .....	70
8.23.2.3	Revoke API invoker authorization notify .....	70
8.23.3	Procedure for CAPIF revoking API invoker authorization initiated by AEF .....	70
8.23.4	Procedure for CAPIF revoking API invoker authorization initiated by CAPIF core function .....	71
8.24	API topology hiding management.....	72
8.24.1	General.....	72
8.24.2	Information flows .....	72
8.24.2.1	API topology hiding notify .....	72
8.24.3	Procedure .....	73
8.25	Support for CAPIF interconnenction.....	74
8.25.1	General.....	74
8.25.2	Information flows .....	74
8.25.2.1	Interconnection API publish request .....	74
8.25.2.2	Interconnection API publish response.....	74
8.25.2.3	Interconnection service API discover request .....	74
8.25.2.4	Interconnection service API discover response.....	75
8.25.3	Procedure .....	75
8.25.3.1	Service API publish for CAPIF interconnection.....	75
8.25.3.2	Service API discovery involving multiple CCFs .....	76
8.25.3.3	Service API discovery for CAPIF interconnection .....	77
8.26	Update API invoker's API list .....	78
8.26.1	General.....	78
8.26.2	Information flows .....	78
8.26.2.1	Update API invoker API list request.....	78
8.26.2.2	Update API invoker API list response .....	79
8.26.3	Procedure .....	79
8.27	Dynamically routing service API invocation .....	80
8.27.1	General.....	80
8.27.2	Information flows .....	80
8.27.2.1	Obtain routing information request .....	80
8.27.2.2	Obtain routing information response.....	80
8.27.3	Procedure .....	80
8.28	Registering the API provider domain functions on the CAPIF .....	81
8.28.1	General.....	81
8.28.2	Information flows .....	81
8.28.2.1	Registration request.....	81
8.28.2.2	Registration response .....	82
8.28.3	Procedure .....	82
8.29	Update registration information of the API provider domain functions on the CAPIF.....	83
8.29.1	General.....	83
8.29.2	Information flows .....	83
8.29.2.1	Registration request.....	83
8.29.2.2	Registration update response.....	83
8.29.3	Procedure .....	84
8.30	Deregistering the API provider domain functions on the CAPIF.....	85
8.30.1	General.....	85
8.30.2	Information flows .....	85
8.30.2.1	Deregistration request .....	85
8.30.2.2	Deregistration response .....	85
8.30.3	Procedure .....	85
9	API consistency guidelines .....	86
9.1	General .....	86
9.2	Fundamental API Guidelines .....	86
9.3	Architecture design considerations.....	87
10	CAPIF core function APIs .....	88
10.1	General .....	88
10.2	CAPIF_Discover_Service_API API .....	90

10.2.1	General.....	90
10.2.2	Discover_Service_API operation.....	90
10.2.3	Subscribe_Event operation .....	90
10.2.4	Notify_Event operation.....	90
10.2.5	Unsubscribe_Event operation .....	90
10.3	CAPIF_Publish_Service_API API.....	91
10.3.1	General.....	91
10.3.2	Publish_Service_API operation .....	91
10.3.3	Unpublish_Service_API operation .....	91
10.3.4	Update_Service_API operation .....	91
10.3.5	Get_Service_API operation .....	91
10.3.6	Subscribe_Event operation .....	92
10.3.7	Notify_Event operation.....	92
10.3.8	Unsubscribe_Event operation .....	92
10.4	CAPIF_Events API .....	92
10.4.1	General.....	92
10.4.2	Subscribe_Event operation .....	93
10.4.3	Notify_Event operation.....	93
10.4.4	Unsubscribe_Event operation .....	93
10.5	CAPIF_API_invoker_management API .....	94
10.5.1	General.....	94
10.5.2	Onboard_API_Invoker operation.....	94
10.5.3	Offboard_API_Invoker operation.....	94
10.5.4	Subscribe_Event operation .....	94
10.5.5	Notify_Event operation.....	94
10.5.6	Unsubscribe_Event operation .....	95
10.6	CAPIF_Security API.....	95
10.6.1	General.....	95
10.6.2	Obtain_Security_Method operation.....	95
10.6.3	Obtain_Authorization operation .....	95
10.6.4	Obtain_API_Invoker_Info operation .....	95
10.6.5	Revoke_Authorization operation .....	96
10.7	CAPIF_Monitoring API.....	96
10.7.1	General.....	96
10.7.2	Subscribe_Event operation .....	96
10.7.3	Notify_Monitoring_Service_Event operation.....	96
10.7.4	Unsubscribe_Event operation .....	96
10.8	CAPIF_Logging_API_Invocation API .....	97
10.8.1	General.....	97
10.8.2	Log_API_Invocation operation .....	97
10.9	CAPIF_Auditing API.....	97
10.9.1	General.....	97
10.9.2	Query_API_Invocation_Log operation.....	97
10.10	CAPIF_Access_Control_Policy API.....	97
10.10.1	General.....	97
10.10.2	Obtain_Access_Control_Policy operation.....	98
10.11	CAPIF_Routing_Info API.....	98
10.11.1	General.....	98
10.11.2	Obtain_Routing_Info operation .....	98
10.12	CAPIF_API_provider_management API.....	98
10.12.1	General.....	98
10.12.2	Register_API_Provider operation.....	98
10.12.3	Update_API_Provider operation.....	98
10.12.4	Deregister_API_Provider operation.....	99
11	API exposing function APIs.....	99
11.1	General .....	99
11.2	AEF_Security API.....	99
11.2.1	General.....	99
11.2.2	Revoke_Authorization operation .....	99
11.2.3	Initiate_Authentication operation .....	100

<b>Annex A (informative):</b>	<b>Overview of CAPIF operations.....</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Annex B (informative):</b>	<b>CAPIF relationship with network exposure aspects of 3GPP systems ..</b>	<b>103</b>
B.0	CAPIF utilization by service API provider .....	103
B.1	CAPIF relationship with 3GPP EPS network exposure .....	104
B.1.1	General .....	104
B.1.2	Deployment models.....	104
B.1.2.1	General.....	104
B.1.2.2	SCEF implements the CAPIF architecture .....	104
B.1.2.3	SCEF implements the service specific aspect compliant with the CAPIF architecture .....	105
B.1.2.4	Distributed deployment of the SCEF compliant with the CAPIF architecture .....	106
B.2	CAPIF relationship with 3GPP 5GS network exposure.....	107
B.2.1	General .....	107
B.2.2	Deployment models.....	108
B.2.2.1	General.....	108
B.2.2.2	NEF implements the CAPIF architecture .....	108
B.2.2.3	NEF implements the service specific aspect compliant with the CAPIF architecture .....	109
B.2.2.4	Distributed deployment of the NEF compliant with the CAPIF architecture .....	110
B.3	Integrated deployment of 3GPP network exposure systems with the CAPIF .....	111
B.3.1	General .....	111
B.3.2	Deployment model .....	112
B.3.2.1	General.....	112
B.3.2.2	Integrated deployment of the SCEF and the NEF with the CAPIF.....	112
<b>Annex C (informative):</b>	<b>CAPIF role in charging .....</b>	<b>113</b>
C.1	General .....	113
C.2	CAPIF role in online charging .....	114
C.3	CAPIF role in offline charging.....	114
<b>Annex D (informative):</b>	<b>CAPIF relationship with external API frameworks.....</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Annex E (normative):</b>	<b>Configuration data for CAPIF .....</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Annex F (informative):</b>	<b>Change history .....</b>	<b>117</b>
History .....		120

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  - 1 presented to TSG for information;
  - 2 presented to TSG for approval;
  - 3 or greater indicates TSG approved document under change control.
- y the second digit is incremented for all changes of substance, i.e. technical enhancements, corrections, updates, etc.
- z the third digit is incremented when editorial only changes have been incorporated in the document.

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# Introduction

In 3GPP, there are multiple northbound API-related specifications (e.g. APIs for Service Capability Exposure Function (SCEF) functionalities defined in 3GPP TS 23.682 [2], API for the interface between MBMS service provider and BM-SC defined in 3GPP TR 26.981 [5]). To avoid duplication and inconsistency of approach between different API specifications, 3GPP has considered the development of a common API framework (CAPIF) that includes common aspects applicable to any northbound service APIs.

The present document specifies the functional model, procedures and information flows needed to support the CAPIF, and the guidelines for consistent northbound API (service and CAPIF APIs) development in 3GPP.

**NOTE:** It is possible to use the CAPIF defined common aspects for other APIs as well, apart from northbound APIs.

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# 1 Scope

The present document specifies the architecture, procedures and information flows necessary for the CAPIF. The aspects of this specification include identifying architecture requirements for the CAPIF (e.g. registration, discovery, identity management) that are applicable to any service APIs when used by northbound entities, as well as any interactions between the CAPIF and the service APIs themselves. The common API framework applies to both EPS and 5GS, and is independent of the underlying 3GPP access (e.g. E-UTRA, NR).

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# 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.
- For a non-specific reference, the latest version applies. In the case of a reference to a 3GPP document (including a GSM document), a non-specific reference implicitly refers to the latest version of that document *in the same Release as the present document*.

- [1] 3GPP TR 21.905: "Vocabulary for 3GPP Specifications".
- [2] 3GPP TS 23.682: "Architecture enhancements to facilitate communications with packet data networks and applications".
- [3] 3GPP TS 23.501: "System Architecture for the 5G System; Stage 2".
- [4] 3GPP TS 23.502: "Procedures for the 5G System; Stage 2".
- [5] 3GPP TR 26.981: "MBMS Extensions for Provisioning and Content Ingestion".
- [6] 3GPP TS 32.240: "Telecommunication management; Charging management; Charging architecture and principles".
- [7] ETSI GS MEC 011 (V1.1.1): "Mobile Edge Computing (MEC); Mobile Edge Platform Application Enablement".
- [8] ETSI GS MEC 009 (V1.1.1): "Mobile Edge Computing (MEC); General Principles for Mobile Edge Service APIs".
- [9] OMA-ER\_Autho4API-V1\_0-20141209-A: "Authorization Framework for Network APIs".
- [10] OMA-TS-REST\_NetAPI\_Common-V1\_0-20180116-A: "Common definitions for RESTful Network APIs".
- [11] OMA-TS-NGSI\_Registration\_and\_Discovery-V1\_0-20120529-A: "NGSI Registration and Discovery".
- [12] 3GPP TS 33.122: "Security Aspects of Common API Framework for 3GPP Northbound APIs".

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# 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].

**API:** The means by which an API invoker can access the service.

**API invoker:** The entity which invokes the CAPIF or service APIs.

**API invoker profile:** The set of information associated to an API invoker that allows that API invoker to utilize CAPIF APIs and service APIs.

**API exposing function:** The entity which provides the service communication entry point for the service APIs.

**CAPIF administrator:** An authorized user with special permissions for CAPIF operations.

**Common API framework:** A framework comprising common API aspects that are required to support service APIs.

**Designated CAPIF core function:** The CAPIF core function which is configured as the serving CAPIF core function for interconnection.

**Northbound API:** A service API exposed to higher-layer API invokers.

**Onboarding:** One time registration process that enables the API invoker to subsequently access the CAPIF and the service APIs.

**Resource:** The object or component of the API on which the operations are acted upon.

**Service API:** The interface through which a component of the system exposes its services to API invokers by abstracting the services from the underlying mechanisms.

**PLMN trust domain:** The entities protected by adequate security and controlled by the PLMN operator or a trusted 3<sup>rd</sup> party of the PLMN.

**3<sup>rd</sup> party trust domain:** The entities protected by adequate security and controlled by the 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms and definitions given in 3GPP TS 32.240 [6] apply:

**Offline charging**

**Online charging**

## 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].

5GS	5G System
AEF	API Exposing Function
AF	Application Function
API	Application Program Interface
AS	Application Server
BM-SC	Broadcast Multicast Service Centre
CAPIF	Common API Framework
CDR	Charging Data Record
CRUD	Create, Read, Update, Delete
DDoS	Distributed Denial of Service
E-UTRA	Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access
EPS	Evolved Packet System
ETSI	European Telecommunications Standards Institute
GS	Group Specification
IP	Internet Protocol
MBMS	Multimedia Broadcast and Multicast Service
MEC	Multi-access Edge Computing
NEF	Network Exposure Function
NGSI	Next Generation Service Interfaces
NR	New Radio
OMA	Open Mobile Alliance
OAM	Operations, Administration and Maintenance
OWSER	OMA Web Services

PC	Protocol Converter
PLMN	Public Land Mobile Network
REST	REpresentational State Transfer
RPC	Remote Procedure Call
SCEF	Service Capability Exposure Function
SCS	Service Capability Server
UDDI	Universal Description, Discovery and Integration
URI	Uniform Resource Identifier
WSDL	Web Services Description Language

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## 4 Architectural requirements

### 4.1 General

#### 4.1.1 Introduction

This subclause specifies the general requirements for CAPIF architecture.

#### 4.1.2 Requirements

[AR-4.1.2-a] The CAPIF shall provide mechanisms (e.g. publish service APIs, authorization, logging, charging) to support service API operations.

[AR-4.1.2-b] The CAPIF shall enable API invoker(s) to discover and communicate with service APIs from the API providers.

[AR-4.1.2-c] Reference points between CAPIF and external applications shall be provided as APIs.

[AR-4.1.2-d] Reference points internal to CAPIF may be provided as APIs.

#### 4.1.3 Requirements for supporting 3<sup>rd</sup> party API providers

[AR-4.1.3-a] The CAPIF shall provide mechanisms (e.g. publish service APIs, authorization, logging, charging) to support service API operations from trusted 3<sup>rd</sup> party API providers.

[AR-4.1.3-b] The CAPIF shall enable API invoker(s) to discover and communicate with service APIs from trusted 3<sup>rd</sup> party API providers.

### 4.2 Service API publish and discover

#### 4.2.1 Introduction

This subclause specifies the service API publish and discover related requirements.

#### 4.2.2 Requirements

[AR-4.2.2-a] The CAPIF shall provide a mechanism to publish the service API information to be used by the API invokers to discover and subsequently invoke the service API.

[AR-4.2.2-b] The CAPIF shall provide a mechanism for the API invokers to discover the published service API information as specified in [AR-4.2.2-a] according to the API invokers' interest.

[AR-4.2.2-c] The CAPIF shall provide a mechanism to restrict the discovery of the published service API information by the API invokers, based on configured policies.

[AR-4.2.2-d] The CAPIF shall provide a mechanism to configure policies to restrict the discovery of the published service API information.