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Contents

Foreword

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1 Scope

The present specification describes the protocol for the Common API Framework (CAPIF) for 3GPP Northbound APIs. The CAPIF and the related stage 2 architecture and functional requirements are defined in 3GPP TS 23.222 [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.
- 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 23.222: "Functional architecture and information flows to support Common API Framework for 3GPP Northbound APIs; Stage 2".

[3] Open API Initiative, "OpenAPI 3.0.0 Specification", https://github.com/OAI/OpenAPI-Specification/blob/master/versions/3.0.0.md.

[4] IETF RFC 7230: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Message Syntax and Routing".

[5] IETF RFC 7231: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Semantics and Content".

[6] IETF RFC 7232: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Conditional Requests".

[7] IETF RFC 7233: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Range Requests".

[8] IETF RFC 7234: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Caching".

[9] IETF RFC 7235: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Authentication".

[10] IETF RFC 7540: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol Version 2 (HTTP/2)".

[11] IETF RFC 5246: "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.2".

[12] IETF RFC 7159: "The JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) Data Interchange Format".

[13] IETF RFC 6455: "The Websocket Protocol".

[14] 3GPP TS 29.122: "T8 reference point for northbound Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)".

[15] 3GPP TS 29.522: "5G System; Network Exposure Function Northbound APIs; Stage 3".

[16] 3GPP TS 33.122: "Security Aspects of Common API Framework for 3GPP Northbound APIs".

[17] IETF RFC 2617: "HTTP Authentication: Basic and Digest Access Authentication".

[18] 3GPP TS 29.501: "5G System; Principles and Guidelines for Services Definition; Stage 3".

[19] 3GPP TS 29.571: "5G System; Common Data Types for Service Based Interfaces Stage 3".

[20] IETF RFC 7239: "Forwarded HTTP Extension".

[21] 3GPP TS 29.500: "5G System; Technical Realization of Service Based Architecture; Stage 3".[22] W3C HTML 4.01 Specification, https://www.w3.org/TR/2018/SPSD-html401-20180327/.

[23] IETF RFC 6749: "The OAuth 2.0 Authorization Framework".

[24] IETF RFC 7519: "JSON Web Token (JWT)".

[25] IETF RFC 7515: "JSON Web Signature (JWS)".

[26] IETF RFC 5280: "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile".

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 registry: API registry is a registry maintained by the CAPIF core function to store information about the service APIs based on the data models defined in this specification. The structure of the API registry is out of scope of this specification.

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

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

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.

Subscriber: A functional entity that subscribes to another functional entity for notifications.

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].

AEF	API Exposing Function
AMF	API Management Function
APF	API Publishing Function
AS	Application Server
CAPIF	Common API Framework
CCF	CAPIF Core Function
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
REST	Representational State Transfer
SCEF	Service Capability Exposure Function
SCS	Service Capability Server

4 Overview

4.1 Introduction

In 3GPP, there are multiple northbound API-related specifications. To avoid duplication and inconsistency of approaches between different API specifications and to specify common services (e.g. authorization), 3GPP has considered in 3GPP TS 23.222 [2] the development of a common API framework (CAPIF) that includes common aspects applicable to any northbound service APIs.

The present document specifies the APIs needed to support CAPIF.

4.2 Service Architecture

3GPP TS 23.222 [2], clause 6 specifies the functional entities and domains of the functional model, which is depicted in Figure 4.2-1, in detail.

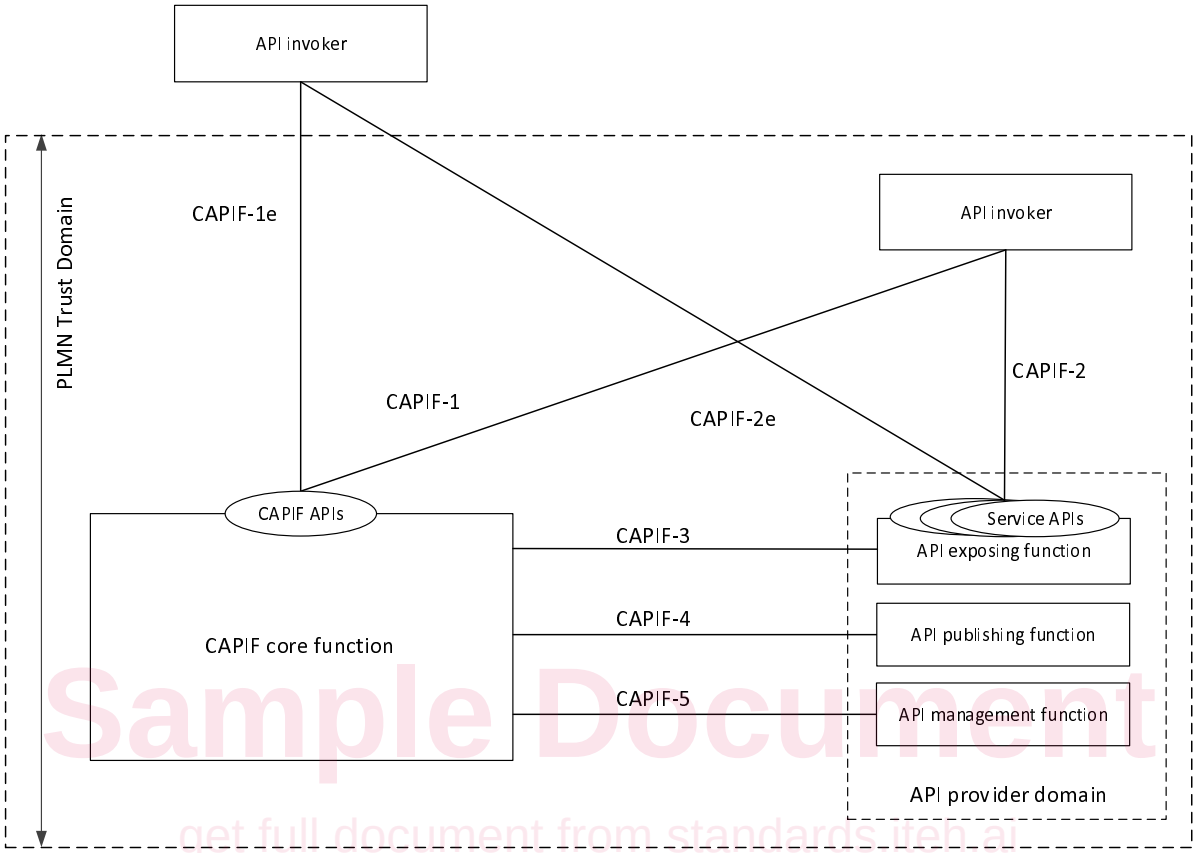

Figure 4.2-1: CAPIF Functional Model

CAPIF-1 and CAPIF-1e reference points connect an API invoker inside the PLMN Trust Domain and an API invoker outside the PLMN Trust Domain respectively, with the CAPIF core function.

CAPIF-2 and CAPIF-2e reference points connect an API invoker inside the PLMN Trust Domain and an API invoker outside the PLMN Trust Domain respectively, with the API exposing function.

CAPIF-3 reference point connects an API exposing function inside the PLMN Trust Domain with the CAPIF core function.

CAPIF-4 reference point connects an API publishing function inside the PLMN Trust Domain with the CAPIF core function.

CAPIF-5 reference point connects an API management function inside the PLMN Trust Domain with the CAPIF core function.

NOTE: The API exposing function, API publishing function and API management function are part the API provider domain which can be implemented by the Service Capability Exposure Function (SCEF) and/or the Network Exposure Function (NEF).

4.3 Functional Entities

4.3.1 API invoker

The API invoker is typically provided by a 3rd party application provider who has service agreement with PLMN operator. The API invoker may reside within the same trust domain as the PLMN operator network.

The API invoker supports several capabilities such as supporting

- the authentication and obtaining authorization and discovering using CAPIF-1/CAPIF-1e reference point as defined in 3GPP TS 23.222 [2]; and
- invoking the Service APIs using CAPIF-2/CAPIF-2e referenced point as defined in 3GPP TS 23.222 [2], e.g. the T8 interface as defined in 3GPP TS 29.122 [14] or the NEF Northbound interface as defined in 3GPP TS 29.522 [15].

4.3.2 CAPIF core function

The CAPIF core function (CCF) supports the following capabilities over CAPIF-1/CAPIF-1e reference point as defined in 3GPP TS 23.222 [2]:

- authenticating the API invoker;
- providing the authorization information; and
- service API discovery.

The CAPIF core function supports the following capabilities over CAPIF-3 reference point as defined in 3GPP TS 23.222 [2]:

- providing the service API access policy;
- providing the authentication and authorization information of API invoker for validation;
- logging of service API invocations and
- charging of service API invocations.

The CAPIF core function supports the following capabilities over CAPIF-4 reference point as defined in 3GPP TS 23.222 [2]:

- publishing and storing the service APIs information.

The CAPIF core function supports the following capabilities over CAPIF-5 reference point as defined in 3GPP TS 23.222 [2]:

- providing the service API invocation log for auditing;
- providing monitoring information the status of service APIs and
- storing configurations of the API provider policies.

4.3.3 API exposing function

The API exposing function (AEF) is the provider of the Service APIs and is also the service communication entry point of the Service API to the API invokers using CAPIF-2/CAPIF-2e reference point as defined in 3GPP TS 23.222 [2]. The API exposing function consists of capabilities such as authenticating the API invoker, validating the authorization provided by the CAPIF core function and logging the Service API invocations at the CAPIF core function using CAPIF-3 reference point as defined in 3GPP TS 23.222 [2].

According to the distributed deployment scenarios specified in 3GPP TS 23.222 [2], it is possible that the CAPIF can be deployed by splitting the functionality of the API exposing function among multiple API exposing function entities, of which one acts as the entry point. The source API exposing function takes the role of API invoker and communicates with the destination API exposing function over CAPIF-2.

4.3.4 API publishing function

The API publishing function (APF) enables the API provider to publish the Service APIs information using CAPIF-4 reference point as defined in 3GPP TS 23.222 [2] in order to enable the discovery of Service APIs by the API invoker.