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Foreword

This Technical Committee Reference Technical Report (TCR-TR) has been produced by the Network Aspects (NA) Technical Committee of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). This TCR-TR has been endorsed by the 21st TC Chairmens' Co-ordination (TCC 21) meeting, and approved by the 23rd Technical Assembly (TA 23).

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This TCR-TR is based on CCITT Recommendations Q.1201 [1] to Q.1290 [2] as given in CCITT COM XI-R 164, 1992.

Introduction

This TCR-TR provides a framework for the description of the Service Life Cycle (SLC). The SLC is the description of both phases and activities involved during the complete life of any service, in a service independent manner. It is considered the basis for defining the possible behaviour of a service at all times, the phases identified covering all aspects of a service life, including its "death". The SLC is composed of several phases, with specific activities that can be carried out by one or more actors in each phase. It is intended that this framework applies to all possible services. This implies that in some cases some of the activities may be not applicable.

The SLC may be viewed in two perspectives:

- a) to describe the processes that the different actors have to face in order to offer a new service in a network. For instance, for a service provider there is a difference between offering generic services and subscriber specific services;
- b) to describe the different states that occur during the execution of a service (such as "subscribed", "activated", "invoked"). This can be relevant for identifying service interactions, or for identifying how the service subscriber experiences the service when it is being used.

These different views are outlined in clause 5.

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1 Scope

This Technical Committee Reference Technical Report (TCR-TR) develops the concept of Service Life Cycle (SLC) for all kinds of services supported by an Intelligent Network (IN). However, this TCR-TR could be used in a broader perspective. Notably, the used terminology is in line with that used for ISDN supplementary services.

The SLC is the description of both phases and activities involved during the complete life of a service, in a service independent manner. During each phase activities are identified that can be undertaken by actors such as service providers, network operators, service subscribers, etc.

The rationale for defining a SLC reference model and its intended usage is:

- it creates a **common understanding** and a **common terminology** to be used when discussing a service;
- it provides a common framework that structures the discussion on many other issues, such as IN security requirements given in NA-TR 026 [5], IN management requirements given in NA-TR 022 [6], service interaction aspects given in ETR 137 [7] and service creation aspects;
- it helps to identify where in the service creation process additional support is needed (tools, methodology);
- it helps to identify and structure internal processes involved for a service provider or network operator when offering services.

In this TCR-TR, the SLC is not described to its fullest extent. Instead, a framework is given that can be refined when needed.

2 References

This TCR-TR incorporates by dated and undated reference, provisions from other publications. These references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this TCR-TR only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

[1]	CCITT Recommendation Q.1201 (1992): "Principles of intelligent network architecture".
[2]	ITU-T Recommendation Q.1290 (1993): "Glossary of terms used in the definition of intelligent networks".
[3]	CCITT Recommendation I.130 (1988): "Method for the characterization of telecommunication services supported by an ISDN and network capabilities of an ISDN".
[4]	TCR-TR 027: "Intelligent Network (IN); Vocabulary of terms and abbreviations".
[5]	NA-TR 026: "Intelligent Network (IN); Security requirements for global IN systems".
[6]	NA-TR 022: "Intelligent Network (IN); IN intra domain management requirements for Capability Set 2 (CS-2)".
[7]	ETR 137: "Intelligent Network (IN); Service and feature interaction: service creation aspects, service management aspects and service execution aspects".

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3 Definitions

For the purposes of this TCR-TR, the following definitions apply:

actor: See TCR-TR 027 [4].

generic services: Services created to suit the needs of a variety of service subscribers.

network operator: See TCR-TR 027 [4].

service instance: A particular combination of service data and service logic that applies to only one service subscriber.

Service Life Cycle (SLC): The SLC is the description of both phases and activities involved during the complete life of any service, in a service independent manner.

service provider: See TCR-TR 027 [4].

service subscriber: See TCR-TR 027 [4].

service type: A collection of functions and data distributed across network resources, providing the potential for the offering of a service instance to a customer.

service user: See TCR-TR 027 [4].

NOTE: In the context of open networking, the terms service user, service subscriber, network operator, service provider and customer, are currently being reconsidered; additional terms (e.g. service broker, information provider) are being discussed.

subscriber specific services: Services created to initially suit the need of a single service subscriber only.

4 Abbreviations

For the purposes of this TCR-TR, the following abbreviations apply:

IN	Intelligent Network
SLC	Service Life Cycle
CLIR	Calling Line Identification Restriction

5 SLC: phases and activities

The SLC consists of a series of phases. During a phase, certain activities can be performed, either in sequence or in parallel. Activities are assembled into activity groups. The identified phases are:

- needs analysis;
- service creation;
- service acceptance testing;
- service deployment;
- service provisioning and operation;
- service removal.

Any service can be described at three different levels: service type, service instance and service invocation:

- **service type related activities** involve all general aspects of the service. This covers needs analysis, creation, acceptance testing, deployment and removal;
- **service instance related activities** involve all aspects of a service type associated with a particular service subscriber. This covers activities of the service provisioning and operation phase. These activities can only take place when a service type is deployed in the network;
- **service invocation related activities** involve all aspects that influence the invocation(s) of the service instance of a particular service subscriber. These activities can only take place after service subscription and provisioning.

The phases and activities of the SLC are presented in figure 1. For the activities within the service provisioning and operation phase, any alterations of control data within a control activity will affect all activities shown to its right within the diagram. Namely, any use of service instance control will be reflected in all invocations of that instance, while any service type control actions will affect all instances (and therefore invocations) of that service.

If a problem occurs within a phase of the SLC, resulting in an inability to proceed to the next phase, it is possible for the preceding phase to be re-entered in order to take any necessary corrective measures. For example, if the service type creation fails in the service acceptance testing phase, it is possible to return to the service creation phase to re-evaluate any design flaws.

NOTE: After provisioning and subscription, an instance of the service type is created. So, for one service type multiple instances may exist at the same time. In the same sense, many service invocations may occur within the context of one service instance.



Service type related activities Service instance related activities Service invocation related activities

NOTE: Activities shown to the right occur within the context of activities shown to the left. Activities shown below another activity are only allowed if the other activity has already taken place. The shading of the background indicates if the activities relate to a service type, a service instance or a service invocation.

Figure 1: Phases and main activities of the SLC

NOTE: Planning and co-ordination activities need to be carried out by a service provider to guard the progress of a service in the SLC. These activities relate to planning for development, testing, deployment, etc.

In each of the following subclauses a phase is described, as well as the activities within that phase. Also the relevant actors performing the activities are identified. In each phase, activities related to service interaction can be identified (e.g. service interaction spotting during the service creation phase, or service interaction germination and service interaction watching in the service provisioning and operation phase). Such activities are defined in ETR 137 [7] and are outside the scope of this TCR-TR.

5.1 Needs analysis phase

The initiative to create a new telecommunication service which is supported by IN capabilities may be taken either by the service provider (driven by needs detected in the market or needs detected for a particular customer) or by a customer. From the creation point of view, the following types of services are to be distinguished:

- **generic services**: services created to suit the needs of a variety of service subscribers. The creation of generic services is market driven and when deployed, the services may be offered to all customers without modification or may be parameterized for the needs of a specific service subscriber; i.e. a service instance unique to the customer is generated;
- **subscriber specific services**: services created to initially suit the need of a single service subscriber only. This may be considered to be a joint initiative between the service provider and customer and occurs when the requirements of the customer cannot be met through the parameterization of an existing generic service, resulting in the need for the creation of a new service type. However, this subscriber specific service has the potential to become generic if, during the creation process, parameterization options are included.

If an individual customer wants covering of particular telecommunication needs, then the specific needs of this customer will be analysed. Initially, the customer's needs should be examined to evaluate if they can be met by provisioning a generic service, whereby further customization may occur during the service instance provisioning activities of the service provisioning and operation phase by means of selecting appropriate parameter settings (service instance parameterization). If the customer's requirements cannot be met in this way, then the creation of a subscriber specific service may result. This process is reflected in the flowchart shown in figure 2.



Figure 2: Flowchart diagram to illustrate when the creation of a new service type is required and when existing service types can be used

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Customer needs analysis: customer needs analysis is an activity where the customer and service provider agree upon a set of requirements which adequately represents the customer's needs.

Market needs analysis: market needs analysis is an activity where the service provider explores the market and specifies a set of requirements which adequately represents an expected need in the market.

The output of the needs analysis phase is a stage 1 description (see the three stage methodology defined in CCITT Recommendation I.130 [3]) of the service.

NOTE: **Modifying existing services:** the creation and implementation of modified service logic is considered to constitute a new service with its own life cycle. In order to achieve a smooth transition from a particular service version to an updated version, it is conceivable to have both versions deployed in the network, but only one being enabled at a time. If the service is offered in a distributed way, it is possible that in different domains (groups of service subscribers, groups of locations) there will be different versions enabled. Another method is to remove the old version is before the new version is deployed. Particular attention should be paid to the case where service logic is to be replaced by an updated version and the data template used by the updated service does not differ from the data template of the existing service version. In this case, it should be possible to copy the existing service data into the new service version, or simply maintain it.

Actors: service provider, service subscriber.

5.2 Service creation phase

The service creation phase is subdivided into the following activity groups:

- service specification;
- service validation;
- service development;
- service verification.

Actors: service provider, network operator.

5.2.1 Service specification

Service specification activities transform the service requirements into a final stage-1 service description agreed with customer or service provider, and the definition of a high level design by means of refinement of detailed description requirements and functional analysis.

5.2.2 Service validation

Service validation activities comprise the formal testing of the specification to validate if it satisfies the needs. Testing is performed in a prototyping or simulation environment. Prototyping may provide, by means of simulation tools, Use Case Diagrams that enable a better understanding of the service and facilitate explanations given to the customer.

5.2.3 Service type development and building block development

Service type development and building block development is the transformation of the high level design into development or the re-use of the necessary software components (building blocks), data definitions etc. required to realise that design. When existing building blocks do not suffice to build the service type, new ones may have to be developed (as a parallel activity with the service type development).

5.2.4 Service verification

Service verification activities comprise the rigorous test of the developed software to verify that the resulting service completely satisfies the specification. Testing is performed in a non-operational environment.

Service verification and validation may include specific conformance tests in order to ensure the needed openness of the service. At service specification level specific conformance points can be specified. Such conformance points or reference points in the service system may include perceptual conformance, interworking conformance or interchange conformance.

5.3 Service acceptance test phase

The service acceptance **test phases tests** in a real IN environment that the service is ready for deployment¹). It may occur in a non-operational environment or in an operational environment (field trial), or in both.

Furthermore, the service acceptance test phase may include also a service pilot. A service pilot is a try out of a service with real service subscribers and service users. A service pilot will also include management activities such as deployment and control of the service on a limited scale in the real and operational network. All subsequent parts of the SLC as described below, including the lower levels, are then applicable. However, there will usually be restrictions with relation to the number of service subscribers and possibly also with relation to the geographical location of service subscribers and users.

Actors: initiated by service provider,

carried out by network operator, service subscriber, service user.

5.4 Service deployment phase

The **service deployment phase** comprises downloading of service logic and service data into appropriate network elements and installing the management functions and management data associated with the service. Allocation of resources is required to identify the relevant resources necessary to support the service type.

Actors: initiated by service provider,

carried out by network operator.

5.5 Service provisioning and operation phase

The **service provisioning** process covers all the activities which relate to creating service instances of a service type, preparing them for operation and eventually withdrawing them (see figure 1).

Service operation covers all the activities which relate to the users modifying stored data (preparation activities), invoking the service instance (possibly multiple times) and the control of these invocations (see figure 1).

The service provisioning and operation phase is subdivided in the following activity groups:

- service type control activities;
- service instance and invocation activities.

These activity groups are evaluated in the next two subclauses. Furthermore, in a third subclause, the various states a service instance can be in during this phase of the SLC, as well as the activities that cause transitions between the states, are described in a finite state model.

¹⁾ Note that in some bodies the wording acceptance test may have a different meaning.

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The following actors may be involved in service operation:

- the **service provider** acts at provision and subscription, at service type parameterization, at service instance parameterization and at service type or service instance control;
- the **service subscriber** may act at service instance parameterization and activation;
- depending on the service, the **service user** may act at registration and at invocation;
- another **service user** may act at invocation.

Actors: service provider, network operator, service subscriber, service user.

5.5.1 Service type control activities

The **service type control activities** may start after downloading of the service software into the appropriate network elements as well as the related management software into the appropriate management systems. These activities allow the modification of service parameters on a global level, i.e. those parameters which are **not** service subscriber specific. These activities are performed consistently and service data integrity is guaranteed on a network wide basis.

Service type control will be possible for the service provider or network operator only, in contrast to service instance control, which, depending on the nature of the service, may also be possible for the service subscriber.

The following activities are to be distinguished during the service control:

- service type enabling / disabling;
- service type feature enabling / disabling;
- service type parameterization.

Actors: service provider, network operator.

These activities are outlined in the following subclauses.

5.5.1.1 Service type enabling / disabling

In order to allow the service to be or not to be generally operative, it is necessary that it can be enabled and disabled on a global (i.e. network wide) level.

Whether a service is enabled or disabled should not affect the possibilities of global level service control and, in the case of generic services, the possibility of parameter setting related to subscription and withdrawal. The advantage of enabling is then that a service can be put into operation at a given point in time by means of a single command, whereas all control operations and parameter settings for the initial service subscribers, which affords multiple commands, can be prepared before.

After service enabling has taken place, service subscribers to whom the service has been provided can control their service (as far as the service allows) and service users can invoke the service. Service disabling will cause that the service cannot be controlled by service subscribers nor be invoked by service users.

5.5.1.2 Service type feature enabling / disabling

Service type feature enabling/disabling is the activity performed by a service provider or network operator to enable or disable certain service features. This may apply to features which have in advance been installed as part of the service, but which, for commercial or operational reasons, are put into operation at a later point in time.

5.5.1.3 Service type parameterization

Service type parameterization deals with setting general parameters that involve all service instances (all subscriptions). Example: the service provider or network operator may change the allowed maximum number of retries for entering a PIN code from three to two times.

Service type parameterization should be independent of the enabled or disabled state of the service type concerned.

5.5.2 Service instance and invocation activities

This activity encompasses the following activities:

- service instance provisioning;
- preparation activities;
- activation activities;
- invocation activities;
- service instance withdrawal.

Once the customer has subscribed to and is provisioned with the service, both preparation activities, activation activities and invocation activities may occur, until the service is withdrawn.

Actors: service provider, network operator, service subscriber, service user.

5.5.2.1 Service instance provisioning activities

Service instance provisioning is the process of creating a service instance from a service type.

The service instance provisioning activities are always initiated by a customer need for a service. However, the path through the SLC preceding this point has either involved service creation, service acceptance testing and deployment in case of subscriber specific services, or has arrived directly from needs analysis phase in case of generic services.

The first activities of service instance provisioning involve a technical feasibility study by the provider to evaluate all issues involved in providing the service instance to the customer:

Service identification and configuration: this activity is a matching process, which (after comparison of the description of the customer's needs against one or more service types to identify possible service instance solutions to those needs) customizes the identified service type to the specific situation of the customer, by parameterizing modifiable aspects of the service type.

Procure component service: this activity involves the acquisition of services or service features from another service provider in order to add value to this procured service as a component of another service offering.

Resource assignment: the resource assignment activity identified the relevant resources necessary to support the requested service instance. The activity will need to consider the requirements of the customer and the requirements of the service provider to ensure that the needs of both are met satisfactorily.

The next actions in service provisioning involve the actual signing of the contract between service provider and customer, and, additionally, the setting of certain customer specific service instance parameters. Also, commissioning and test activities are carried out before the service instance is enabled.

Service subscription: a formal agreement is drawn up between the customer and the service provider.

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Service instance parameterization: service instance parameterization involves the setting of certain service parameters in such a way that the service instance that is being created fulfils the particular needs of the service subscriber. By means of service customization the service may be tailored to the customer's needs. In some cases service instance parameterization may not be applicable (e.g. call forwarding unconditional).

Service instance commissioning and test: specific deployment activities will be necessary to ensure that the appropriate logic and physical resources are in place and operational for the activation and subsequent use by the service subscriber. If these specific resources are not in place, they will need to be deployed.

Service instantiation: this activity enables the service instance for use by the service subscriber as defined in the contract.

Actors: initiated by service subscriber,

carried out by service provider, network operator.

5.5.2.2 Preparation activities

Using preparation activities after service instance provisioning, the state of a service instance, with respect to a certain service subscriber, can be changed by means of modifying stored service data. These activities could also be carried out by the service provider (or network operator) and optionally services can allow for control by the service subscriber. Preparation activities affect the parameter settings of the service instance concerned. The following activities are part of this activity group.

Registration: registration is the programming of information to enable subsequent operation of the service instance. This programming action involves input of specific user information. Examples: entering the forwarded-to number in case of a call forwarding service, or changing data in a service profile of the user. Registration may also involve the modification of already registered data. Registration can be a part of customization of a service.

Erasure: erasure is the deletion of information stored (by a previous registration activity) for a particular service instance.

NOTE 1: With the three aforementioned activities the service subscriber is able to change stored data related to the service (e.g. related to his service profile). The actual changing of the data can be done in two ways: either by a management process (controlled by the service provider or network operator, but initiated by the service subscriber) or by executing a part of the service logic dedicated for this purpose.

Interrogation: an interrogation is the procedure of requesting information about the stored service data in the network.

NOTE 2: In subclause 6.5.3 the relations between (sub)states and activities that cause transitions between states are evaluated in a finite state diagram.

Actors: initiated by service subscriber,

carried out by service provider, network operator (or automatically).

5.5.2.3 Activation activities

Activation activities simply enable or disable invocation of the service.

Activation: service activation is the action where the service instance is activated, i.e. it is made ready to be invoked.

Deactivation: service deactivation is the action where the activation is cancelled.

(**Registration**): this action is similar to the registration action defined as a preparation activity, except that it occurs when the stored service instance data are modified without deactivating the service instance. What in fact happens, is that the service is deactivated, data are modified and the service is activated again.

Interrogation: an interrogation is the procedure of requesting information about stored service data in the network.

Actors: initiated by service user,

carried out by service provider, network operator (or automatically).

5.5.2.4 Invocation activities

Invocation activities starts with a service invocation request and usually ends when a certain point in the basic call handling process is reached or upon a user's action. The precise contents of the service invocation depend on the nature of the service concerned and are described as the normal and exceptional procedures for service operation in the stage 1 description of the service.

Invocation: invocation is the action where a telecommunication event is detected, which starts execution of the service instance. Such an event may either be an action taken by the user or an action automatically generated by the network or the terminal as a result of a particular condition.

NOTE: When the service instance is invoked, the service logic may either be executing (and having control over the call processing) or waiting for a particular event to occur.

Invocation disabling: invocation disabling is the action taken by the user on a per call basis to prevent the action of a service (e.g. Calling Line Identification Restriction (CLIR), suppression of Call Waiting indication during a modem call).

End of service execution: end of service execution is the return of the service to the activated state, waiting for a new telecommunication event.

NOTE: Each service invocation yields output to billing and service monitoring processes. These processes, however, are considered not to be part of the service itself.

Actors: initiated by service user.

5.5.2.5 Service instance withdrawal

Service instance withdrawal: service withdrawal is the cancellation of the contract entered by the service subscriber with the service provider. The service instance is made unavailable for the service subscriber and is deleted.

Actors: initiated by service subscriber (or service provider),

carried out by service provider, network operator.

5.5.3 State model for the service provisioning and operation phase

During this phase of the SLC, the service can be in certain stable states; the activities applicable may cause transitions from one stable state to another. In this respect, the service instance may be considered as a finite state machine²), as described in the next subclauses.

²⁾ Such finite state machine may be used during the service creation activities, for interaction spotting purposes (see ETR 137 [7]).

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5.5.3.1 States

During its operation, a service instance goes through stable **states** as follows:

Unprovided: the service instance has not yet been provided to the service subscriber. Note that the service type has already been deployed and is ready for provisioning and operation.

Provided: the service instance has been provided to the service subscriber (i.e. a service instance has been created and is available to the user).

Registered: user specific data related to the service instance have been entered.

Active: the user has requested the service instance to be ready for its automatic invocation.

Invoked: the service instance is being executed (either after the user has directly placed a request to the service instance or after a telecommunication event has been detected).

NOTE: A state can not be skipped; all states have to be passed. However, in some cases such passing of states is not relevant to the service and might be considered as being performed implicitly (e.g. call forwarding: registration and activation can be performed in one action, when the user enters the forwarded-to number).

5.5.3.2 Activities that cause state transitions

The activities mentioned in the previous subclauses cause transitions between the stable states. The activities are (see subclause 6.5.2):

- service instance provision;
- service instance withdrawal;
- registration;
- erasure;
- activation;
- deactivation;
- interrogation;
- invocation;
- invocation disabling;
- end of service execution.

Figure 3 shows which activities cause transitions between which states.

5.5.3.3 Finite state machine

Figure 3 shows a finite state machine based on the definitions of the previous two subclauses.

Each invocation of a service instance, when going from one state to another via a transition, takes its course in the finite state machine. This course may change from a service invocation to another (see above) and also from a service instance to another (e.g. a service may have been activated then deactivated without having been invoked, or invoked several times during the same activation). Therefore, we have to distinguish between the possible transitions allowed for a service instance and the actual transitions during the life of a service instance.



Figure 3: Finite state machine of a service instance

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5.5.3.4 Examples

In this subclause, some examples on the finite state machine are presented.

EXAMPLE 1: Card calling.

Provided: the service instance has been made ready for use by a service subscriber, i.e. data necessary to the service instance (card number, etc.) have been recorded by the service provider for the service subscriber.

Registered: for a simple Card Calling service, no subscriber's registration activity is necessary to enter this state. However, some services require the subscriber to change his PIN: this is registration.

Active: the service user is enabled to invoke the service instance (possibly after service subscriber's action).

Invoked: a call has been placed to the service by the service user, who is requested to authenticate and to enter the called number.

EXAMPLE 2: Call forwarding.

Provided: the service instance has been made ready for use by a service subscriber.

Registered: the service subscriber has entered data related to the forwarded-to number. In the plainest design of the service, the registration is done in the same move as the activation. With a most user-friendly service definition which permits the recording of directory numbers associated with an abbreviated number (e.g. a digit), the registration consists in entering the directory number and the associated abbreviated number.

Active: the service subscriber has requested his incoming calls to be forwarded to a given number, and the request has been accepted.

Invoked: a call has been placed to the service subscriber and is forwarded.

EXAMPLE 3: Terminating call screening.

Provided: the service instance has been made ready for use by a service subscriber, but no directory number is recorded in his white list or blacklist yet.

Registered: directory numbers are recorded in the service subscriber's white list or blacklist.

Active: the white list or the blacklist has been put in operation by the service subscriber.

Invoked: a call has been placed to the service subscriber, and is either rejected or accepted according to Calling Line Identification.

EXAMPLE 4: Completion of calls to busy subscriber.

Provided: the service instance has been made ready for use by a service subscriber.

Registered: the data related to the outgoing call placed by the service user are recorded by the network.

Active: the service user has encountered a busy condition (on one or several calls) and asked to be informed when (one of) the called party becomes free.

Invoked: the service execution (i.e. informing the service user that the called party has become free, and setting up the new call) has started.

5.6 Service removal phase

The **service removal phase** comprises the removal of service logic and service data from the relevant network elements systems. Also the management functions and/or management data associated with the service are removed from the management systems. The service should first be disabled before the removal takes place.

These activities are performed consistently and service data integrity is guaranteed on a network wide basis.

Actors: initiated by service provider,

carried out by network operator.

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