

Position Statement on SA4 role

Rufael Mekuria



December 2024





Position Statement on SA4

- SA4 is an important group in 3GPP
- SA4 can have significant influence in 3GPP mainly in media related use cases, including technological and architectural aspects
- SA4 can and should play a role in developing technology in external SDO and drive technology and requirements e.g. DASH, H.267
- Having more operators in SA4 can be helpful and more operator input will benefit SA4 and boost its relevance
- Some projects do not reach critical mass and go beyond the areas where SA4 can have meaningful impact
- Traffic Characteristics and delivery aspects are important given that majority of traffic in 3GPP network is media traffic
- SA4 can develop technologies successfully, e.g. IVAS, but often collaboration in 3GPP or other SDO's is the preferred way.



Future Vision

- SA4 can drive requirements for next generation video codec taking specific requirements and use cases from the mobile industry into account such as interactive and low delay communication, error resilience etc.
- Continue work on traffic characteristics, including dynamic traffic characteristics for leading media services to enable mobile network technology to consider optimizing for such services.
- Listen to operators but also consider opportunities for operators to collaborate and work in SA4 in ways that can benefit them directly, especially relating to 3GPP features.
- Codec specification in SA4 is not always necessary for the market and sometimes it is hard to reach consensus in SA4, 3GPP did not specify VVC but still a large part of mobile streaming traffic in China is VVC using software decoders. Maybe 3GPP should be more forward looking and more accepting to new technologies in order to stay relevant in this area and not be behind the curve.
- Support developments in 3GPP, scope of 3GPP SA4 is much broader than media formats alone, consider more SA4 project involving multiple SWG's to address key topics that matter to the 3GPP system.
- Operating system may become a topic to some extent more and more relevant to SA4