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Technical Specification

**LTE;
Evolved Universal Terrestrial
Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN);
X2 data transport
(3GPP TS 36.424 version 8.4.0 Release 8)**



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650 Route des Lucioles
F-06921 Sophia Antipolis Cedex - FRANCE

Tel.: +33 4 92 94 42 00 Fax: +33 4 93 65 47 16

Siret N° 348 623 562 00017 - NAF 742 C
Association à but non lucratif enregistrée à la
Sous-Préfecture de Grasse (06) N° 7803/88

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Foreword

This Technical Specification has been produced by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP).

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Version x.y.z

where:

- x the first digit:
 - 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.

1 Scope

The present document specifies the standards for user data transport protocols and related signalling protocols to establish user plane transport bearers over the X2 interface.

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] GTP-U is the reference; final TS reference required further assessment.
 - [3] IETF RFC 768 (August 1980): "User Datagram Protocol".
 - [4] IETF RFC 2474 (December 1998): "Definition of the Differentiated Services Field (DS Field) in the Ipv4 and Ipv6 Headers".
 - [5] IETF RFC 2460 (December 1998): "Internet Protocol, Version 6 (IPv6) Specification".
 - [6] IETF RFC 791 (September 1981): "Internet Protocol".
 - [7] 3GPP TS 36.401: "Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN); Architecture Description".
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3 Definitions, symbols and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms and definitions below apply. Terms and definitions not defined below can be found in [1].

E-RAB: Defined in [7].

X2: logical interface between two eNBs. Whilst logically representing a point to point link between eNBs, the physical realisation need not be a point to point link.

3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the abbreviations given in 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 TR 21.905 [1].

eNB	E-UTRAN Node B
EPC	Evolved Packet Core
E-RAB	E-UTRAN Radio Access Bearer

E-UTRA	Evolved UTRA
E-UTRAN	Evolved UTRAN
GTP	GPRS Tunnelling Protocol
IP	Internet Protocol
MME	Mobility Management Entity
TEID	Tunnel Endpoint Identifier
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
UPE	User Plane Entity

4 Data link layer

Any data link protocol that fulfils the requirements toward the upper layer may be used.

5 X2 interface user plane protocol

5.1 General

The transport layer for data streams over X2 is an IP based Transport. The following figure shows the transport protocol stacks over X2.

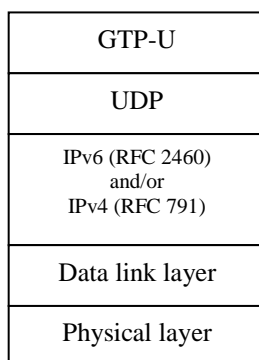


Figure 6.1: Transport network layer for data streams over X2

The GTP-U [2] protocol over UDP over IP shall be supported as the transport for data streams on the X2 interface. The data link layer is as specified in clause 4.

There may be zero or one UL data stream and zero or one DL data stream per E-RAB at the X2 interface.

- The DL data stream is used for DL data forwarding from the source eNB to the target eNB.
- The UL data stream is used for UL data forwarding from the source eNB to the target eNB.

Each data stream is carried on a dedicated transport bearer.

The identity of a transport bearer signalled in the RNL control plane consists of the IP address and the TEID of the corresponding GTP tunnel, allocated by the target eNB (see [2]).

5.2 GTP-U

The GTP-U [2] protocol shall be used over the X2 interface between two eNBs.

5.3 UDP/IP

The path protocol used shall be UDP [3].

The UDP port number for GTP-U shall be as defined in [2].

The eNBs over the X2 interface shall support fragmentation and assembly of GTP packets at the IP layer.

The eNB shall support IPv6 [5] and/or IPv4 [6].

There may be one or several IP addresses in the both eNBs. The packet processing function in the source eNB shall send downstream packets of a given E-RAB to the target eNB IP address (received in X2AP) associated to the DL transport bearer of that particular E-RAB. The packet processing function in the source eNB shall send upstream packets of a given E-RAB to the target eNB IP address (received in X2AP) associated to the UL transport bearer of that particular E-RAB.

Transport Layer Address signalled in X2AP messages is a bit string of

- a) 32 bits in case of IPv4 address according to [6]; and
- b) 128 bits in case of IPv6 address according to [5].

5.4 Diffserv code point marking

IP Differentiated Services code point marking [4] shall be supported. The mapping between traffic categories and Diffserv code points shall be configurable by O&M for based on QoS Class Identifier (QCI)/ Label Characteristics and others E-UTRAN traffic parameters. Traffic categories are implementation-specific and may be determined from the application parameters.

Annex A (informative): Change history

Change history							
Date	TSG #	TSG Doc.	CR	Rev	Subject/Comment	Old	New
2007-11	38	RP-070857			presented to TSG-RAN for information and approval		1.0.0
2007-12	38				approved at TSG-RAN and placed under change control	1.0.0	8.0.0
2008-03	39	RP-080078	001	-	Editorial correction on 36.424	8.0.0	8.1.0
2008-03	39	RP-080078	002	-	Data link layer proposal	8.0.0	8.1.0
2008-06	40	RP-080302	003	1	eGTP draft reference for X2 Data Transport	8.1.0	8.2.0
2008-06	40	RP-080302	005	-	Define format for TLA signalled in X2AP messages	8.1.0	8.2.0
2008-09	41	RP-080583	006	1	X2 transport bearers	8.2.0	8.3.0
2008-12	42	RP-080845	007		Correction of SAE Bearer	8.3.0	8.4.0

History

Document history		
V8.2.0	November 2008	Publication
V8.3.0	November 2008	Publication
V8.4.0	January 2009	Publication