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Characteristics of the Slice Subscriber Identity Module
application
(3GPP TS 31.105 version 18.1.0 Release 18)



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Foreword

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In the present document, modal verbs have the following meanings:

- shall** indicates a mandatory requirement to do something
- shall not** indicates an interdiction (prohibition) to do something

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- should** indicates a recommendation to do something
- should not** indicates a recommendation not to do something
- may** indicates permission to do something
- need not** indicates permission not to do something

The construction "may not" is ambiguous and is not used in normative elements. The unambiguous constructions "might not" or "shall not" are used instead, depending upon the meaning intended.

- can** indicates that something is possible
- cannot** indicates that something is impossible

The constructions "can" and "cannot" are not substitutes for "may" and "need not".

- will** indicates that something is certain or expected to happen as a result of action taken by an agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document
- will not** indicates that something is certain or expected not to happen as a result of action taken by an agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document
- might** indicates a likelihood that something will happen as a result of action taken by some agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

might not indicates a likelihood that something will not happen as a result of action taken by some agency the behaviour of which is outside the scope of the present document

In addition:

is (or any other verb in the indicative mood) indicates a statement of fact

is not (or any other negative verb in the indicative mood) indicates a statement of fact

The constructions "is" and "is not" do not indicate requirements.

Introduction

The present document defines the Slice Subscriber Identity Module (SSIM) application. This application resides on the UICC as specified in TS 31.101 [2]. In particular, TS 31.101 [2] specifies the application independent properties of the UICC/terminal interface such as the physical characteristics and the logical structure.

TS 31.101 [2] is one of the core documents for this specification and is therefore referenced in many places in the present document.

UICC detection clause is removed as useless in case of SSIM, the UICC detection is following the USIM requirement as USIM always selected for primary authentication.

1 Scope

The present document defines the SSIM application for 3GPP telecom network operation related to Network Slice-Specific Authentication and Authorization procedure.

The present document specifies:

- specific command parameters;
- file structures;
- contents of EFs (Elementary Files);
- security functions;
- application protocol to be used on the interface between UICC (SSIM) and ME.

This is to ensure interoperability between a SSIM and an ME independently of the respective manufacturer, card issuer or operator.

The present document does not define any aspects related to the administrative management phase of the SSIM. Any internal technical realisation of either the SSIM or the ME is only specified where these are reflected over the interface. The present document does not specify any of the security algorithms which may be used.

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 31.101: "UICC-Terminal Interface, Physical and Logical Characteristics".
- [3] ISO/IEC 7816-4: "Integrated circuit cards, Part 4: Organization, security and commands for interchange".
- [4] ISO/IEC 8825-1 (2008): "Information technology – ASN.1 encoding rules : Specification of Basic Encoding Rules (BER), Canonical Encoding Rules (CER) and Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER)".
- [5] 3GPP TS 23.003: "Numbering, Addressing and Identification".
- [6] 3GPP TS 33.501: "Security Architecture and procedures for 5G system".
- [7] ETSI TS 101 220: "Smart cards; ETSI numbering system for telecommunication application providers".
- [8] IETF RFC 3748: "Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP)".
- [9] IETF RFC 2716: "PPP EAP TLS Authentication Protocol".

3 Definitions of terms, symbols and abbreviations

3.1 Terms

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

PIN/ADM: A terminal is required to evaluate the access condition and verify it in order to access the EF if the access condition is set to PIN or PIN2.

Slice SIM: UICC application residing on the UICC, providing necessary mechanism for Network Slice-Specific Authentication and Authorization (NSSAA).

3.2 Symbols

For the purposes of the present document, the following symbols apply:

|| Concatenation

3.3 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].

AAA-S	Authentication, Authorization and Accounting Server
AID	Application Identifier
EF	Elementary File
EAP	Extensible Authentication Protocol
NSSAA	Network Slice-Specific Authentication and Authorization
PIN	Personal Identification Number
SD	Slice Differentiator
SSIM	Slice Subscriber Identity Module
SST	Slice/Service type
S-NSSAI	Single Network Slice Selection Assistance Information

3.4 Coding Conventions

The following coding conventions apply to the present document.

All lengths are presented in bytes, unless otherwise stated. Each byte is represented by bits b8 to b1, where b8 is the most significant bit (MSB) and b1 is the least significant bit (LSB). In each representation, the leftmost bit is the MSB.

The coding of Data Objects in the present document is according to TS 31.101 [2].

'XX': Single quotes indicate hexadecimal values. Valid elements for hexadecimal values are the numbers '0' to '9' and 'A' to 'F'.

4 Contents of the Files

This clause specifies the EFs for the 3GPP session defining access conditions, data items and coding. A data item is a part of an EF which represents a complete logical entity.

A file is associated with attributes that depending of the file type indicates how data is to be accessed e.g. file size, record length etc. Although in the present document some files and data items stored in a file are indicated as having a fixed length; when reading such structures the terminal shall derive the length of the data item from the attributes provided in the file information i.e. not use the fixed value specified for the file in the present document. Although the terminal is able to read the entire structure it should only use those elements in the data item which is recognised by the terminal.

For any EF, when the SFI is not indicated in the description of the file it is not allowed to assign an SFI. If in the description of the file an SFI value is indicated the file shall support SFI. The SFI value shall be assigned by the card issuer. It is mandatory for EFs stating an SFI value ('YY') in the description of their structure to provide an SFI. For files where in the file description the SFI is indicated as 'Optional' the file may support an SFI.

For an overview containing all files see figure 1.

4.1 Contents of the EFs at the MF level

4.2 Contents of files at the SSIM ADF (Application DF) level

The EFs in the SSIM ADF contain service and NSSAA procedure information related.

The File Ids '6F1X' (for EFs), '5F1X' and '5F2X' (for DFs) with X ranging from '0' to 'F' are reserved under the SSIM ADF for administrative use by the card issuer.

4.2.1 EF_{ARR} (Access Rule Reference)

This EF contains the access rules for files located under the SSIM ADF in the UICC. If the security attribute tag '8B' is indicated in the FCP it contains a reference to a record in this file.

Table 4.2.1-1: Structure of EF_{ARR} at ADF-level

Identifier: '6F06'	Structure: Linear fixed	Mandatory
SFI: '06'		
Record Length: X bytes, (X > 0)	Update activity: low	
Access Conditions:		
READ	ALW	
UPDATE	ADM	
DEACTIVATE	ADM	
ACTIVATE	ADM	
Bytes	Description	M/O Length
1 to X	Access Rule TLV data objects	M X bytes

This EF contains one or more records containing access rule information according to the reference to expanded format as defined in ISO/IEC 7816-4 [3]. Each record represents an access rule. Unused bytes in the record are set to 'FF'.

If the card cannot access EF_{ARR}, any attempt to access a file with access rules indicated in this EF_{ARR} shall not be granted.

4.2.2 EF_{EAPID} (EAP Identifier)

This file shall be available.

This EF contains the EAP Identifier to be used in NSSAA procedure.

Table 4.2.2-1: EF_{EAPID} file structure

Identifier: '6F01'	Structure: transparent	Mandatory
SFI: '01'		
File size: X bytes	Update activity: low	
Access Conditions:		
READ	PIN	
UPDATE	ADM	
DEACTIVATE	ADM	
ACTIVATE	ADM	
Bytes	Description	M/O
1 to X	EAP ID TLV data object	M

EAP ID

Contents:

- EAP ID used for the NSSAA procedure

Coding: the coding of EAP ID TLV data object is described hereafter.

Table 4.2.2-2: EAP ID TLV data object coding

Length	Description	Value	Status
1 byte	EAP ID Tag	80	M
1 byte	Length (see note 1)	Z	M
Z bytes	EAP Identifier	--	M

Note 1: coded according to ISO/IEC 8825-1 [4].

4.2.3 EF_{NSSAI} (S-NSSAI List)

This file shall be available.

This EF contains one or more records, each indicating the S-NSSAI supported by the SSIM application.

Table 4.2.3-1: EF_{NSSAI} file structure

Identifier: '6F02'	Structure: linear fixed	Mandatory
SFI: '02'		
Record length: 4 bytes	Update activity: low	
Access Conditions:		
READ	PIN	
UPDATE	ADM	
DEACTIVATE	ADM	
ACTIVATE	ADM	
Bytes	Description	M/O
1 to 4	S-NSSAI	M

S-NSSAI

Contents:

- S-NSSAI for which the SSIM application is used for NSSAA procedure

Coding:

- S-NSSAI shall be coded on 32 bits as specified in TS 23.003 [5], SD reserved value "no SD value associated with the SST" defined as hexadecimal FFFFFFFF shall be used to pad value to 32 bits.

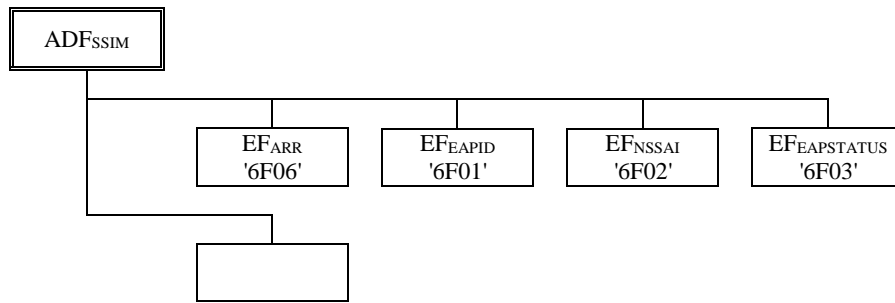


Figure 1: File identifiers and directory structures of SSIM

5 Application protocol

The requirements stated in the corresponding clause of TS 31.101 [2] apply to the SSIM application.

The procedures listed in clause "SSIM management procedures" are required for execution of the procedures in the subsequent clauses "SSIM security related procedures". The procedures listed in clauses "SSIM security related procedures" are mandatory.

5.1 SSIM management procedures

5.1.0 SSIM identification

When a Network Slice-Specific Authentication and Authorization procedure starts as specified in TS 33.501 [6] on a S-NSSAI, the ME shall use the appropriate SSIM (clause 5.1.1) based on following criteria:

- 1) the AID is present in EF_{DIR} and identified with '3GPP SSIM' App Code as defined in Annex E,
- 2) the S-NSSAI of the NSSAA procedure listed in the application as described in S-NSSAI list request, clause 5.1.5

5.1.1 SSIM initialisation

5.1.1.1 SSIM application selection

The ME shall select an SSIM application using the SELECT by DF name as defined in TS 31.101 [2].

After a successful SSIM application selection, the selected SSIM (AID) is stored on the UICC. This application is referred to as the last selected SSIM application. The last selected SSIM application shall be available on the UICC after a deactivation followed by an activation of the UICC.

If a SSIM application is selected using partial DF name, the partial DF name supplied in the command shall uniquely identify a SSIM application. Furthermore, if a SSIM application is selected using a partial DF name as specified in TS 31.101 [2] indicating in the SELECT command the last occurrence the UICC shall select the SSIM application stored as the last SSIM application. If, in the SELECT command, the options first, next/previous are indicated, they have no meaning if an application has not been previously selected in the same session and shall return an appropriate error code.

5.1.1.2 SSIM initialisation

The SSIM shall not indicate any language preference. It shall use the language indicated by any other application currently active on the UICC or by default, choose a language from EF_{PL} at the MF level according to the procedure defined in TS 31.101 [2].

If the ME does not support the languages of EF_{PL}, then the ME shall use its own internal default selection.

The ME then runs the:

- user verification procedure.
- EAP Identifier request.

If all these procedures have been performed successfully then the Network Slice-Specific Authentication and Authorization procedure shall start. In all other cases Network Slice-Specific Authentication and Authorization procedure shall not start.

After the SSIM initialisation has been completed successfully, the ME is ready for an SSIM session and shall indicate this to the SSIM by sending a particular STATUS command as defined in TS 31.101 [2].

5.1.2 SSIM session termination

NOTE 1: This procedure is not to be confused with the deactivation procedure in TS 31.101 [2].

The SSIM session is terminated by the ME as follows.

The ME deletes all these NSSAA procedure related information elements from its memory.

NOTE 2: If the ME has already updated any of the NSSAA procedure related information during the NSSAA procedure, and the value has not changed until SSIM session termination, the ME may omit the respective update procedure.

To terminate the session, the ME shall then use one of the mechanisms described in TS 31.101 [2].

5.1.3 SSIM application closure

After termination of the SSIM session as defined in clause 5.1.2, the SSIM application may be closed by closing the logical channels that are used to communicate with this SSIM application.

5.1.4 EAP Identifier request

The ME performs the reading procedure with EF_{EAPID} .

5.1.5 S-NSSAI list request

The ME performs the reading procedure with EF_{NSSAI} .

5.2 SSIM security related procedures

5.2.1 Authentication procedure

The ME selects a SSIM application (see 5.1) and uses the AUTHENTICATE command (see 7.2). The response is sent to the ME (in case of the T=0 protocol when requested by a subsequent GET RESPONSE command).

6 Security features

6.0 General

The security aspects of NSSAA procedure are specified in TS 33.501 [6]. This clause gives information related to security features supported by the SSIM with respect to user verification and file access conditions.

6.1 User verification and file access conditions

The security architecture as defined in TS 31.101 [2] applies to the SSIM and UICC with the following definitions and additions:

- The SSIM application shall use a global key reference as PIN1 as specified in TS 31.101 [2].
- The only valid usage qualifier is '08' which means user authentication knowledge based (PIN) as defined in ISO/IEC 7816-4 [3].

7 SSIM commands

7.0 Introduction

The status conditions and the commands specified in TS 31.101 [2] are supported by SSIM application, with the restrictions identified in the following clauses.

7.1 Status Conditions returned by the SSIM

7.1.0 General

Status of the card after processing of the command is coded in the status bytes SW1 and SW2. This clause specifies the coding of the status bytes in the following tables, in addition to the ones defined in TS 31.101 [2].

7.1.1 Security management

Table 7.1.1-1: Security management error Status Words

SW1	SW2	Error description
'98'	'62'	- Authentication error (EAP Failure Packet received)

7.1.2 Application errors

Table 7.1.2-1: Application error Status Words

SW1	SW2	Error description
'62'	'00'	- No information given, state of non-volatile memory unchanged (EAP Packet silently ignored)

7.1.3 Status Words of the Commands

The provisions of TS 31.101 [2] clause 10.2.2 apply with the exceptions in the following table which shows the possible status conditions returned (marked by an asterisk *).

Table 7.1.3-1: Commands and status words

Status Words	AUTHENTICATE
90 00	*
91 XX	*
93 00	
98 50	
98 62	*
98 64	*
62 00	*
62 81	
62 82	
62 83	
62 F1	*
62 F3	*
63 CX	
63 F1	*
64 00	*
65 00	*
65 81	*
67 00	*
67 XX – (see note)	*
68 00	*
68 81	*
68 82	*
69 81	
69 82	*
69 83	
69 84	*
69 85	*
69 86	
6A 80	
6A 81	*
6A 82	
6A 83	
6A 86	*
6A 87	
6A 88	*
6B 00	*
6E 00	*
6F 00	*
6F XX – (see note)	*
NOTE: Except SW2 = '00'.	

7.2 AUTHENTICATE

7.2.1 Command description

The function is used to transfer the EAP packets of the NSSAA procedure from the ME to the SSIM application (i.e. the SSIM application that supports the S-NSSAI requiring the NSSAA procedure).

The SSIM application provides a response EAP packet (as defined in RFC 3748 [8]) or a warning status word according to the EAP method being used.

The SSIM application maintains the EAP authentication status as described for the particular EAP method used.

The function is related to a particular SSIM application and cannot be executable unless this SSIM application is initialised following the SSIM initialisation defined in clause 5.1.1.

NOTE: EAP Identity is provided by the SSIM application.

The following EAP packets are allowed input packets for this command:

- EAP packets with code field equal to 1 "Request", 3 "Success" or 4 "Failure"
- EAP packets with code equal to 2 "Response" for EAP type 1 "Identity" (Code and type values as defined in RFC 3748 [8]).

The command and response data may contain specific EAP method related data as an additional input/output parameter (e.g. `gmt_unix_time` for EAP-TLS implementations as defined in RFC 2716 [9]).

The AUTHENTICATE command shall use ODD INS code only, the EAP input and response data shall be encapsulated in BER TLV data objects, as specified in TS 31.101 [2].

Input:

- S-NSSAI associated to EAP Packet;
- EAP Packet;
- EAP method related data.

Output:

- Either none (i.e. if authentication successful: EAP success packet received).

Or:

- S-NSSAI associated to EAP Packet;
- EAP Response Packet;
- EAP method related data.

7.2.2 Command parameters and data

Table 7.2.2-1: Command parameters

Code	Value
CLA	As specified in TS 31.101 [2]
INS	As specified in section 11.1.16 of TS 31.101 [2], ODD INS code only
P1	See Table 7.2.2-2 below
P2	00
Lc	Length of command data
Data	See below
Le	Length of the response data

Table 7.2.2-2: Coding of the reference control P1

b8	b7	b6	b5	b4	b3	b2	b1	Meaning
			0	0	0	0	0	Parameter P1 = 'XXX0 0000' indicates that no information on the algorithm is given. The algorithm is known from EAP packets embedded into EAP command/response data.
x	x	x						As specified in TS 31.101 [2]

Command data:

Table 7.2.2-3: Command data, 'First block of authentication data' (b8b7b6 of P1 set to '100')

Byte(s)	Description	Length
1	BER-TLV Tag, encapsulation data ('53' for not structured data as defined in TS 31.101 [2] clause 11.1.16)	1
2 to L+2	BER-TLV length	$1 \leq L \leq 4$ (Note)
L+3 to L+6	S-NSSAI	4
L+7 to Lc	EAP command data (see table 7.2.2-5), possibly segmented	$Lc - 5 - L$
Note: Length is coded as specified in TS 31.101 [2] clause 11.3		

S-NSSAI shall be coded on 32 bits.

- As specified in TS 23.003 [5], SD reserved value "no SD value associated with the SST" defined as hexadecimal FFFFFFFF shall be used to pad value to 32 bits.

If command data does not fit in one APDU, subsequent AUTHENTICATE commands with b8b7b6 of P1 set to '000' shall have the following Command data:

Table 7.2.2-4: Command data, 'Next block of authentication data' (b8b7b6 of P1 set to '000'), only if EAP command data is segmented in more than one chained blocks

Byte(s)	Description	Length
1 to Lc	Next block of EAP command data (see table 7.2.2-5)	Lc

Table 7.2.2-5: Coding of EAP command data

Byte(s)	Description	Status	Length
1 to J	EAP packet (coded as defined for the method of EAP used as defined in RFC 3748 [8])	M	J bytes
J+1 to J+K+1	EAP method related data (specified by each application specific document defining a particular EAP method implementation)	O	K bytes
NOTE: The length of an EAP packet is contained within the packet and can therefore be retrieved from it.			

7.2.3 Response data

This clause describes the response data.

Response data:

Table 7.2.3-1: Response data

Byte(s)	Description	Length
1 to 4	S-NSSAI	4
5 to Le - 4	EAP Packet Response Data (see table 7.2.3-1)	Le - 4

S-NSSAI shall be coded on 32 bits.

- As specified in TS 23.003 [5], SD reserved value "no SD value associated with the SST" defined as hexadecimal FFFFFFFF shall be used to pad value to 32 bits.

Table 7.2.3-2: Coding of EAP Response data

Byte(s)	Description	Status	Length
1 to L	EAP packet	M	L bytes
L+1 to L+N+1	EAP method related data (specified by each application specific document defining a particular EAP method implementation)	O	N bytes
NOTE: The length of an EAP packet is contained within the packet and can therefore be retrieved from it.			

Annex A (informative): EF changes via Data Download or USAT applications

This annex defines if changing the content of an EF by the network (e.g. by sending an SMS), or by a USAT Application, is advisable. Updating of certain EFs "over the air" could result in unpredictable behaviour of the UE; these are marked "Caution" in the table below. Certain EFs are marked "No"; under no circumstances should "over the air" changes of these EFs be considered.

Table A-1: File change advised

File identification	Description	Change advised
'6F01'	EAP Identifier	Caution
'6F02'	S-NSSAI List	Caution
'6F03'	EAP Authentication Status	Caution
'6F06'	Access rule reference (under ADF _{SSIM})	Caution

Annex B (informative): Suggested contents of the EFs at pre-personalization

If EFs have an unassigned value, it may not be clear from the main text what this value should be. This annex suggests values in these cases.

Table B-1: Suggested content

File Identification	Description	Value
'6F01'	EAP Identifier	AAA-Server dependent
'6F02'	S-NSSAI List	Slices configuration dependent
'6F03'	EAP Authentication Status	'FFFFFFFF00' (No authentication started)
'6F06'	Access rule reference (under ADF_{SSIM})	Card issuer/SSIM owner dependent

Annex C (normative): List of SFI Values

This annex lists SFI values assigned in the present document.

C.1 List of SFI Values at the SSIM ADF Level

Table C.1-1: SFI list

File Identification	SFI	Description
'6F01'	'01'	EAP Identifier
'6F02'	'02'	S-NSSAI List
'6F03'	'03'	EAP Authentication Status
'6F06'	'06'	Access rule reference (under ADF _{SSIM})

Annex D (informative): Tags defined in 31.105

Table D-1: Allocated Tags

Tag	Name of Data Element	Usage
'80'	EAP Identifier	EF _{EAPID}

Annex E (normative): Allocated 3GPP PIX numbers

The provisions of 3GPP TS 31.101 [2] annex O apply.

Annex F (informative): Change history

Change history							
Date	Meeting	TDoc	CR	Rev	Cat	Subject/Comment	New version
2023-08	CT6#116	C6-230423				Proposed skeleton of 31.105	0.0.0
2023-08	CT6#116					From C6-230423 with agreed pCRs C6-230483 and C6-230506	0.1.0
2023-11	CT6#117	C6-230721				From version 0.1.0 with agreed pCRs C6-230633, C6-230635 and C6-230713	0.2.0
2023-12	CT#102	CP-233095				TS presented for information and approval	1.0.0
2023-12	CT#102					TS approved in TSG#102	18.0.0
2024-06	CT#104	CP-241214	0001	1	F	Annex E to refer directly to TS 31.101 Annex O	18.1.0
2024-06	CT#104	CP-241214	0002	3	F	Clarification of ODD instruction chaining mechanism ('First block' vs 'Next block')	18.1.0

History

Document history		
V18.0.0	May 2024	Publication
V18.1.0	July 2024	Publication