

ETSI TS 132 158 V15.0.1 (2018-10)



**LTE;
5G;
Management and orchestration;
Design rules for REpresentational State Transfer (REST)
Solution Sets (SS)
(3GPP TS 32.158 version 15.0.1 Release 15)**



Reference

RTS/TSGS-0532158vf01

Keywords

5G,LTE

ETSI

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1 Scope

The present document defines design rules for REpresentational State Transfer (REST) Solution Sets (SS). These rules are applied when specifying REST Solution Sets.

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] IETF RFC 7231: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Semantics and Content".
- [3] 3GPP TS 32.300: "Telecommunication management; Configuration Management (CM); Name convention for Managed Objects".
- [4] IETF RFC 3986: "Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax".
- [5] IETF RFC 7230: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Message Syntax and Routing".
- [6] IETF RFC 7159: "The JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) Data Interchange Format".
- [7] draft-wright-json-schema-01 (October 2017): "JSON Schema: A Media Type for Describing JSON Documents".
Editor's note: The above document cannot be formally referenced until it is published as an RFC.
- [8] draft-wright-json-schema-validation-01 (October 2017): "JSON Schema Validation: A Vocabulary for Structural Validation of JSON".
Editor's note: The above document cannot be formally referenced until it is published as an RFC.
- [9] draft-wright-json-schema-hyperschema-01 (October 2017): "JSON Hyper-Schema: A Vocabulary for Hypermedia Annotation of JSON".
Editor's note: The above document cannot be formally referenced until it is published as an RFC.
- [10] OpenAPI Specification (<https://github.com/OAI/OpenAPI-Specification>)
- [11] IETF RFC 5789: "PATCH Method for HTTP".
- [12] IETF RFC 7396: "JSON Merge Patch".

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].

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].

CRUD	Create, Retrieve, Update, Delete
DN	Distinguished Name
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol
JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
LDN	Local Distinguished Name
MnS	Management Service
REST	REpresentational State Transfer
RPC	Remote Procedure Call
URI	Uniform Resource Identifier

4 General rules

4.1 Information models and resources

4.1.1 Information models

An information model is a representation of a system. Typical models do not reflect all facets of the system, but only certain aspects required to solve the management problem the model is designed for. 3GPP follows an object-oriented modelling approach. Models are built from managed object classes. Relationships between classes represent the logical connections. Models are specified formally with class diagrams of the Unified Modelling Language (UML).

The instantiation of a managed object is called managed object instance. All managed object instances together with the relationships between them are depicted in an object diagram.

4.1.2 Resources

HTTP uses a different terminology based on the notion of resources, as defined in clause 2 of RFC 7231 [2]. Each resource is represented by a resource representation as defined in clause 3 of RFC 7231 [2]. Valid resource representations are e.g. XML instance documents or JSON instance documents.

4.1.3 Resource archetypes

Resources can be classified according to their structure and behaviour into resource archetypes. This helps specifying clear and understandable interfaces. The following three archetypes are defined:

- **Document resource:** This is the standard resource containing data in form of name value pairs and links to related resources. This kind of resource typically represents a real-world object or a logical concept.
- **Collection resource:** A collection resource is grouping resources of the same kind. The resources below the collection resource are called items of the collection. An item of a collection is normally a document resource. Collection resources typically contain links to the items of the collection and information about the collection like the total number of items in the collection. Collection resources can be further distinguished into server-managed and client-managed resources. Collection resources are also known as container resources.
- **Operation resource:** Operation resources represent executable functions. They may have input and output parameters. Operation resources allow some sort of fall back to an RPC style design in case application specific actions cannot be mapped easily to CRUD style operations.

4.1.4 Mapping of information models to resources

RESTful SS shall be specified in a way that managed object instances are described by document resources. Collection resources have no equivalent in an information model unless some dedicated collection class is introduced.

4.2 Managed object naming and resource identification

4.2.1 Managed object naming

According to TS 32.300 [3] a Distinguished Name (DN) is used in 3GPP to uniquely identify a managed object instance within a specific name space. A DN is the concatenation of Relative Distinguished Names (RDNs). A RDN is a name value pair. The name is the naming attribute of the managed object, which is equal to the class name of the managed object.

A DN in the global name space is globally unique and starts with the RDN of the global root. A DN in a local name space starts with the RDN of the local root and is unique only within this name space. A DN in a local namespace is also referred to as Local Distinguished Name (LDN). The DN of the local root relative to the global root is called DN prefix. The concatenation of DN prefix and LDN is equal to the globally unique DN of a managed object.

The local root is typically the root of the network resource model representing the managed network.

4.2.2 Resource identification

HTTP uses a subset of the generic Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) scheme (RFC 3986 [4]) defined in RFC 7230 [5] for target resource identification.

```
http-URI = "http:" "://" authority path-abempty [ "?" query ] [ "#" fragment ]
```

The path component is an absolute path (one that starts with a single slash character) or empty.

4.2.3 Mapping of DNs to URIs

The slash "/" shall be used as delineator between the naming attribute name and naming attribute value when constructing a RDN. The naming attribute name shall be equal to the class name.

```
RDN = "/" {namingAttribute} "/" {namingAttributeValue}
```

The LDN is the concatenation of RDNs separated as well by a slash "/".

```
LDN = *( "/" RDN )
```

The LDN is mapped to the rightmost part of the path component of URIs. The DN prefix is mapped to the remainder of the path component and to the authority.

URIs ending with a naming attribute value identify a document resource representing a managed object instance.

URIs ending with a naming attribute name (class name) identify a collection resource representing all managed object instances (document resources) of this class directly below the collection resource.

In the following example the DN prefix is identical to the URI authority component, the network resource model has at its root an instance of class SubNetwork.

```
http://operator.com/subnetwork/south/managedelement/abc
```

The DN prefix may include, besides the authority component, additional RDNs.

```
http://operator.com/country/germany/subnetwork/south/managedelement/abc
```

or additional path segments.

```
http://operator.com/germany/subnetwork/south/managedelement/abc
```

4.3 Media types

The format of resource representations carried in the message body is indicated by the media type in the Content-Type and Accept header fields. Media types that shall be supported are:

- application/json (RFC 7159 [6])
- application/merge-patch+json (RFC 7396 [12])

JSON resource representations shall conform to JSON Schema ([7], [8], [9]).

4.4 URI structure

URIs shall follow a common structure given by

```
URI = {URI-prefix}/{resourcepath}
URI-prefix = {MnSRoot}/{MnSName}/{MnSVersion}
```

where:

{MnSRoot} indicates the scheme ("http" or "https"), the host name and optional port, and an optional prefix path.

{MnSName} indicates the MnS name.

{MnSVersion} indicates the version of the MnS.

4.5 Response status codes

The response status codes as defined in section 6 of RFC 7231 [2] shall be supported.

5 Basic design patterns

5.1 Design pattern for creating a resource

5.1.1 Creating a resource with identifier creation by the MnS Producer

Operations to create a resource shall be specified with the HTTP POST method, when the MnS Producer shall create the identifier of the new resource.

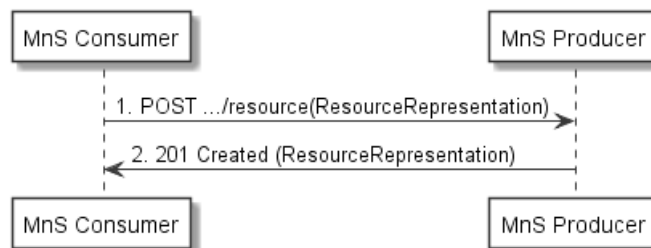


Figure 5.1.1-1: Flow for creating a resource with HTTP POST

The procedure is as follows:

- 1) The MnS Consumer sends a HTTP POST request to the MnS Producer. The target URI identifies the parent resource below which the new resource shall be created. Only container resources are valid target resources. The message body shall carry a complete resource representation.
- 2) The MnS Producer returns the HTTP POST response. On success, "201 Created" shall be returned. The "Location" header shall be present and carry the URI of the new resource. The URI is constructed by the MnS Producer by creating an identifier for the new resource and appending it to the request URI. The message body shall carry the complete representation of the new resource. On failure, the appropriate error code shall be returned. The response message body may provide additional error information.

5.1.2 Creating a resource with identifier creation by the MnS Consumer

Operations to create a resource shall be specified with the HTTP PUT method, when the MnS Consumer wishes to impose the identifier of the new resource to the MnS Producer.

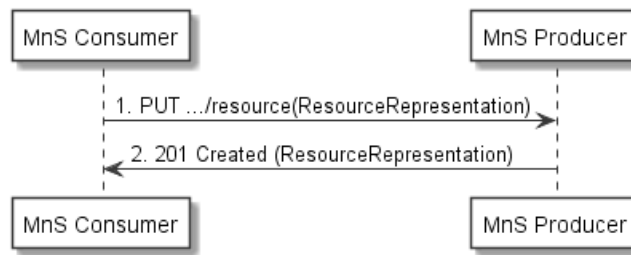


Figure 5.1.2-1: Flow for creating a resource with HTTP PUT

The procedure is as follows:

- 1) The MnS Consumer sends a HTTP PUT request to the MnS Producer. The target URI identifies the resource to be created. The message body carries the complete resource representation.
- 2) The MnS Producer returns the HTTP PUT response. On success, "201 Created" shall be returned. The Location header shall carry the URI of the new resource and the message body the complete representation of the new resource. On failure, the appropriate error code shall be returned. The response message body may provide additional error information.

5.2 Design pattern for reading a resource

Operations to read the representation of a resource shall be specified with the HTTP GET method. The resource to be read is identified with a URI.

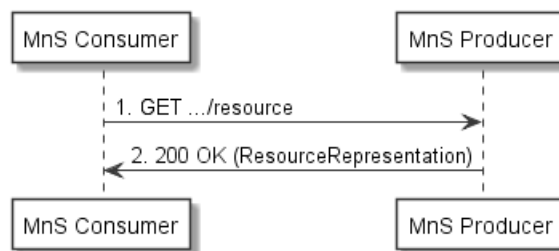


Figure 5.2-1: Flow for reading a resource

The procedure is as follows:

- 1) The MnS Consumer sends a HTTP GET request to the MnS Producer. The resource to be read is identified with the URI. The message body shall be empty.
 - a) If the URI identifies a document resource, the document resource shall be returned.
 - b) If the URI identifies a collection resource, all document resources of the collection shall be returned.
- 2) The MnS Producer returns the HTTP Get response. On success, "200 OK" shall be returned. The resource representation is carried in the response message body. On failure, the appropriate error code shall be returned. The response message body may provide additional error information.

5.3 Design pattern for updating a resource

Operations to update the complete representation of a resource shall be specified with the HTTP PUT method. The resource to be updated is identified with a URI.

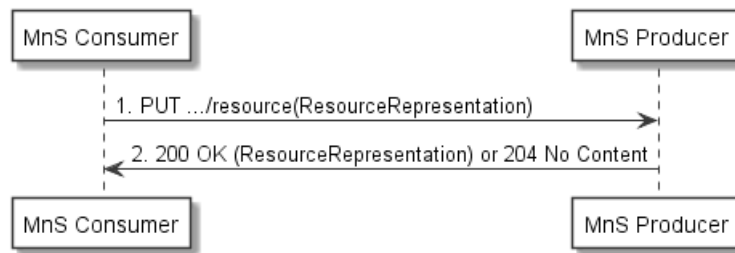


Figure 5.3-1: Flow for updating a resource

The procedure is as follows:

- 1) The MnS Consumer sends a HTTP PUT request to the MnS Producer. The resource to be updated is identified with the URI. The message body carries the new resource representation. Note, the complete resource representation needs to be present.
- 2) The MnS Producer returns the HTTP PUT response to the MnS Consumer. On success, "200 OK" or "204 No Content" shall be returned. On failure, the appropriate error code shall be returned. The response message body may provide additional error information. In case the resource does not exist, the resource is created in case this is supported (see subclause 5.1.2).

5.4 Design pattern for deleting a resource

Operations to delete the representation of a resource shall be specified with the HTTP DELETE method. The resource to be deleted is identified with a URI in the request message.

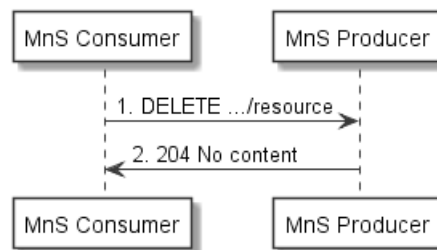


Figure 5.4-1: Flow for deleting a resource

The procedure is as follows:

- 1) The MnS Consumer sends a HTTP DELETE request to the MnS Producer. The resource to be deleted is identified with the URI. The message body is empty.
- 2) The MnS Producer returns the HTTP DELETE response to the MnS Consumer. On success, "204 No Content" shall be returned. The message body is empty. On failure, the appropriate error code shall be returned. The response message body may provide additional error information.

5.5 Design pattern for subscribe/notify

5.5.1 Concept

HTTP is based on requests and responses. There is no built-in support for notifications and subscriptions to notifications. These mechanisms need to be modelled based on special subscription resources and the available HTTP methods. When notifications are used the server shall expose at least one subscription resource.

5.5.2 Subscription creation

To subscribe to notifications the subscriber shall send a HTTP POST request to the subscription resource.

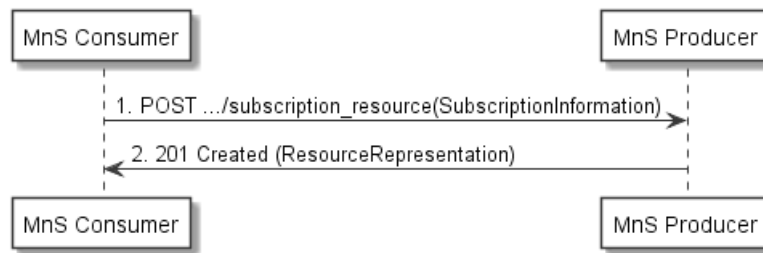


Figure 5.5.2-1: Flow for creating a subscription

The procedure is as follows:

- 1) The MnS Consumer (notification subscriber) sends a HTTP POST to the MnS Producer. The URI shall indicate a container subscription resource. The resources representing existing subscriptions are created below the container resource. The subscriber shall indicate in the message body the URI of the resource notifications shall be sent to (notification sink) and the type of notifications that are subscribed to. Additional filter information may be included in the message body.
- 2) The MnS Producer returns "201 Created" on success. The message body carries the representation of the created subscription resource. The Location header shall carry the URI of the created subscription resource. On failure, the appropriate error code shall be returned. The response message body may provide additional error information.

5.5.3 Subscription deletion

To cancel a subscription, the subscriber shall delete the corresponding resource with HTTP DELETE.

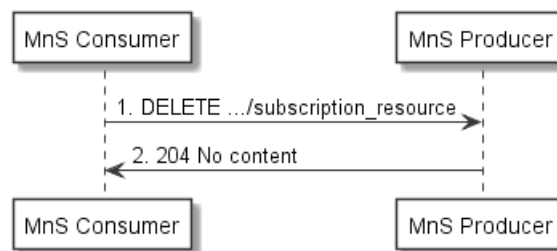


Figure 5.5.3-1: Flow for deleting a subscription

The procedure is as follows:

- 1) The MnS Consumer (notification subscriber) sends a HTTP DELETE to the MnS Producer. The URI shall indicate the subscription resource to be deleted.
- 2) The MnS Producer returns the HTTP DELETE response to the MnS Consumer. On success, "204 No Content" shall be returned. The message body is empty. On failure, the appropriate error code shall be returned. The response message body may provide additional error information.

5.5.4 Notification emission

To send a notification on the occurrence of a notifiable event the MnS Producer sends a HTTP POST request to the notification sink.

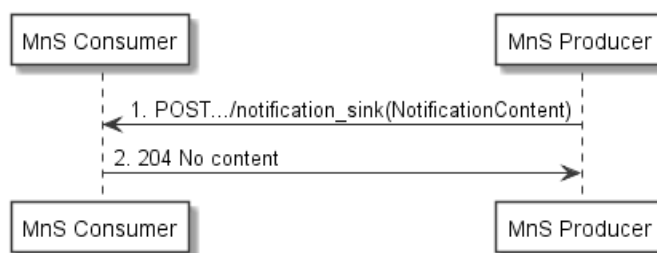


Figure 5.5.4-1: Flow for sending a notification

The procedure is as follows:

- 1) The MnS Producer sends a HTTP POST to the MnS Consumer. The URI identifies the notification sink. The notification content is included in the message body.
- 2) The MnS Consumer returns "204 No Content". The message body shall be empty. On failure, the appropriate error code shall be returned. The response message body may provide additional error information.

This design pattern requires the MnS Producer (HTTP server) to contain a reduced feature HTTP client for sending HTTP POST requests, and vice versa, the MnS Consumer (HTTP client) to contain a reduced feature HTTP server for receiving HTTP POST requests and sending HTTP POST responses.

5.5.5 Subscription retrieval

The subscriber can retrieve the information about a specific subscription by sending a HTTP GET request to the URI returned by the server upon creation of this subscription. Information about all subscriptions of a subscriber can be read by invoking a HTTP GET on the parent subscription resource whilst instructing the server, using the query component, to return only the subscriptions related to the client invoking the request.

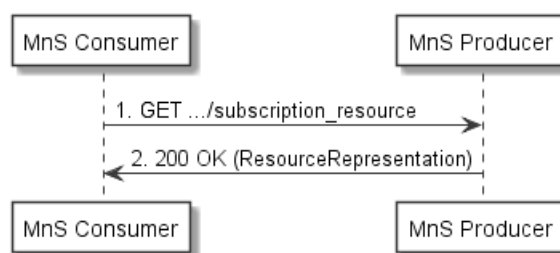


Figure 5.5.5-1: Flow for subscription retrieval

The procedure is as follows:

- 1) The MnS Consumer sends a HTTP GET to the MnS Producer. The URI specifies the subscription resource to be read.
- 2) The MnS Producer returns the HTTP Get response. On success, "200 OK" shall be returned. The representation of the subscription resource is carried in the response message body. On failure, the appropriate error code shall be returned. The response message body may provide additional error information.

6 Advanced design patterns

6.1 Design pattern for scoping and filtering

Scoping is the process of targeting more than one resource for manipulation with HTTP methods. The URI query component shall be used for scoping resources below the resource identified by the URI path component.

Filtering is the process of selecting a subset of the scoped resources based on filtering criteria applied to the scoped resources. The URI query component shall be used for filtering.

No query language is specified in the present document for scoping and filtering.

6.2 Design pattern for attribute selection

This design pattern allows to select the attributes to be returned by the GET method. This pattern is not applicable to any other HTTP methods.

The attributes to be returned are specified in the query part of the URI with a key value pair. The key is "fields", the value is equal to the attribute names separated by a comma.

6.3 Design pattern for partially updating a resource

HTTP PUT allows replacing only the complete resource. For partial resource updates HTTP PATCH (RFC 5789 [11]) shall be used. The set of changes to be applied to the target resource is described in the request message body (patch document). The format of the patch document is identified by a media type.

RFC 7396 [12] specifies a simple format in JSON (JSON Merge Patch) allowing to describe a set of modifications to be applied to the target resource's content. JSON Merge Patch works at the level of name/value pairs contained in a JSON object. The media type is application/merge-patch+json.

Three types of patches are described in RFC 7396 [12]:

- 1) Replacing the value of an already existing name/value pair by a new value.
- 2) Adding a new name/value pair.
- 3) Removing an existing name/value pair.

Not all three patch types are allowed on all resources.

JSON Merge Patch does not allow manipulation of arrays other than replacing the complete array. It is not possible to change an item in an array or to add a new item.

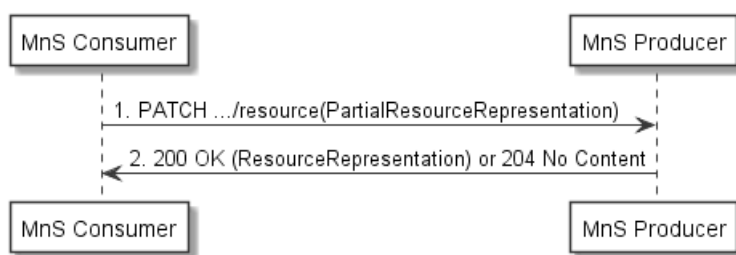


Figure 6.3-1: Flow for partially updating a resource

The procedure flow is as follows:

- 1) The MnS Consumer sends a HTTP PATCH request to the MnS Producer. The resource to be updated is identified with the URI. The message body carries a set of modification instructions in the form a partial resource representation to be applied to the identified resource.
- 2) The MnS Producer returns the HTTP PUT response to the MnS Consumer. On success, "200 OK" or "204 No Content" shall be returned. On failure, the appropriate error code shall be returned. The response message body may provide additional error information.

7 Resource representation formats

7.1 Introduction

According to clause 4.3 the media type specifies only that JSON is used as resource representation format carried in the HTTP request and HTTP response message bodies. Some resource patterns are quite common and it is desirable to use a common pattern throughout different APIs. This clause identifies some patterns frequently encountered and provides a JSON schema skeleton for them.

7.2 Top-level object

A JSON object shall be at the top-level of the document carried in message body of HTTP requests and HTTP responses.

```
{"type": "object"}
```

Example:

```
{}
```

Members of the top-level object can be either a data object, a data array or an error object.

7.3 Data objects

Data objects are carried in HTTP requests and in HTTP responses in case of success. One and only one data object shall be a member of a top-level object. If a data object is present no error object shall be present.

```
{  
  "type": "object",  
  "properties": {  
    "data": {  
      "type": "object",  
      "properties": {}  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Example:

```
{  
  "data": {}  
}
```

7.4 Data arrays

Data arrays are carried in HTTP requests and in HTTP responses in case of success. One and only one data array shall be a member of a top-level object. If a data array is present no error object shall be present.

```
{  
  "type": "object",  
  "properties": {  
    "data": {  
      "type": "array",  
      "items": {}  
    }  
  }  
}
```

Example:

```
{  
  "data": []  
}
```

7.5 Error objects

Error objects are carried in HTTP responses in case of failure. One and only one error object shall be a member of a top-level object.

```
{  
  "type": "object",  
  "properties": {  
    "error": {  
      "type": "object"  
    }  
  }  
}
```

```
}

```

Example:

```
{
  "error": {}
}
```

7.6 Resource objects

Resource objects are representations of managed object instances. They shall be compliant to the following schema:

```
{
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "href": { "type": "string" },
    "class": { "type": "string" },
    "id": { "type": "string" },
    "attributes": {
      "type": "object",
      "properties": {}
    }
  }
}
```

The attributes object has an empty property object in this generic schema. The attribute properties shall be specified elsewhere. Mandatory attributes shall be indicated with the "required" keyword.

An example for a JSON schema of a managed object class is given below:

```
{
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "href": { "type": "string" },
    "class": { "type": "string" },
    "id": { "type": "string" },
    "attributes": {
      "type": "object",
      "properties": {
        "attribute1": { "type": "string" },
        "attribute2": { "type": "integer" }
      },
      "required": ["attribute1"]
    }
  }
}
```

```
{
  "data": {
    "href": "/subnetwork/south/managedElement/6",
    "class": "managedElement",
    "id": "6",
    "attributes": {
      "attribute1": "This is a string.",
      "attribute2": 39
    }
  }
}
```

8 REST SS specification template

This clause contains the REST SS specification template.

W Mapping of operations

W.1 Introduction

Table W.1-1: Mapping of IS operations to SS equivalents

IS operation	HTTP Method	Resource URI	Qualifier

W.2 Operation <operation 1>

W.3 Operation <operation 2>

X Usage of HTTP

Y Resources

Y.1 Resource structure

Y.2 Resource definitions

Y.2.1 Resource <resource 1>

Y.2.1.1 Description

Y.2.1.2 URI

Y.2.1.3 HTTP methods

Y.2.1.3.1 <method 1>

This method shall support the URI query parameters specified in table Y.2.1.3.1-1.

Table Y.2.1.3.1-1: URI query parameters supported by the <method 1> on this resource

Name	Data type	P	Cardinality	Description

This method shall support the request data structures specified in table Y.2.1.3.1-2 and the response data structures and response codes specified in table Y.2.1.3.1-3.

Table Y.2.1.3.1-2: Data structures supported by the <method 1> request body on this resource

Data type	P	Cardinality	Description

Table Y.2.1.3.1-3: Data structures supported by the <method 1> response body on this resource

Data type	P	Cardinality	Response codes	Description

Y.2.1.3.2 <method 2>

Y.2.2 Resource <resource 2>

Z Data type definitions

Z.1 General

Table Z.1-1: Data types defined in the present document

Data type	Reference	Description

Table Z.1-2: Data types imported

Data type	Reference	Description

Z.2 Structured data types

Z.2.1 Type <TypeName 1>

Table Z.2.1-1: Definition of type <TypeName 1>

Attribute name	Data type	P	Cardinality	Description

Z.2.2 Type <TypeName 2>

Z.3 Simple data types and enumerations

Z.3.1 General

This subclause defines simple data types and enumerations that are used by the data structures defined in the previous subclauses.

Z.3.2 Simple data types

Table Z.3.2-1: Simple data types

Type Name	Type Definition	Description

Z.3.3 Enumeration <EnumType1>

Table Z.3.3-1: Enumeration < EnumType1>

Enumeration value	Description

Z.3.4 Enumeration <EnumType2>

Annex A (normative)

OpenAPI specification

It contains this leading paragraph:

"This clause describes the capabilities of the service in the structure of the OpenAPI Specification Version 3.0.1 [10]. The OpenAPI document is represented in the JSON format option."

Annex A (informative): Change history

Change history							
Date	Meeting	TDoc	CR	Rev	Cat	Subject/Comment	New version
2018-02	SA5#117	SA5-181254 SA5-181506 SA5-181507				Addition of TS skeleton and pCRs agreed at SA5#117	0.1.0
2018-04	SA5#118	S5-182099 S5-182445 S5-182446 S5-182447 S5-182449				Addition of pCRs agreed at SA5#118	0.2.0
2018-05	SA5#119	S5-183283 S5-183284 S5-183286 S5-183287 S5-183470				Addition of pCRs agreed at SA5#119	0.3.0
2018-06	SA#80	SP-180407				Presented for information	1.0.0
2018-07	SA5#119AH	S5-184158 S5-184311 S5-184312 S5-184313				Addition of pCRs agreed at SA5#119AH	1.1.0
2018-09	SA5#120	S5-185436				Addition of pCRs agreed at SA5#120	1.2.0
2018-09	SA#81	SP-180811				Presented for approval	2.0.0
2018-09	SA#81					Upgrade to change control version	15.0.0
2018-09						Editorial fix (EditHelp/MCC)	15.0.1

History

Document history		
V15.0.1	October 2018	Publication