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| Section 7 introduction |
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Abstract

This document proposes text for an introduction of Chapter 7 Functional decomposition and design.

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# Functional Decomposition and Design

This chapter provides detailed description of the functional behavior of IEEE 802 access network based on the network elements and overall architecture presented in chapter 6 Network Reference Model.

The description details the individual steps for establishing, maintaining, and tearing down a user session, starting from the preparatory steps to get the access network into proper operation, up to the concluding steps of managed access networks to collect usage information about a particular user session and send the information to the subscription service for business purposes.

A typical life cycle of a user session is shown in the following figure.



Figure 7‑1: Typical sequence of functions of a user session

In a fully operational access network a user session usually begins with the terminal scanning for appropriate access networks providing services under the subscription service, previously established between the service provider and the user. When multiple potential access networks are detected, the terminal executes a network selection procedure to decide for the most appropriate access network and node of attachment. Based on the selection decision the terminal initiates an association process to establish the physical connection and the link layer protocols to establish the possibility to exchange user data with the access network. Usually access networks as well as terminals require first to authenticate the peer of the association to establish trust, that the communication peer should receive user data. When trust has been established between terminal and access network, the network provides the communication resources in its infrastructure by establishment of the data path across the access network to the desired access router.

When the data path is established all the lower layer functions in scope of IEEE 802 are established, and communication commence with the establishment of higher layer networking functions like configuration of the IP address of the host and exchanging IP packets carrying the data of applications. In the middle of ongoing user sessions it may be required to change the QoS parameters of the connection, or to relocate the data path to another node of attachment due to movement of the terminal while maintaining the integrity of the upper layer protocols.

When either the user or the access network intends to terminate the user session, the teardown procedure is initiated by first performing the termination of the higher layer protocols and releasing the higher layer resources, e.g. IP addresses, before initiating the disassociation to tear down the link between the access network and terminal. Once connectivity to the terminal is broken, the access network will remove the data path and release the resources associated with it. When releasing the resources, the access network collects all usage information of the session and provides it to the subscription service for statistics and business purposes.

Each of the functional steps is explained more in detail in the following sections adopting a common structure as shown below to present the detailed functional descriptions:

* Introduction
* Roles and identifiers
* Use Cases
* Functional Requirements
* Function specific attributes
* Function specific basic functions
* Detailed procedures
* Mapping to IEEE 802 Technologies

All the sections close with references to the IEEE 802 technologies to provide pointers to the specification of the normative behavior.

## Access network setup