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GROUP SPECIFICATION

Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC); Terminology

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Foreword

This Group Specification (GS) has been produced by ETSI Industry Specification Group (ISG) Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC).

Modal verbs terminology

In the present document "**shall**", "**shall not**", "**should**", "**should not**", "**may**", "**need not**", "**will**", "**will not**", "**can**" and "**cannot**" are to be interpreted as described in clause 3.2 of the ETSI Drafting Rules (Verbal forms for the expression of provisions).

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1   Scope

The present document provides a glossary of terms relating to the conceptual, architectural and functional elements within the scope of work on Multi-access Edge Computing.

The purpose of this glossary is to ensure that all terminology defined in the present document is used in a consistent way by all ETSI MEC deliverables as well as in wider industry discussions on Multi-access Edge Computing.

2   References

2.1   Normative references

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Not applicable.

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The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

[i.1]   ETSI GS NFV 003: "Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV); Terminology for Main Concepts in NFV".

[i.2]   ETSI TS 123 002: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+) (GSM); Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS); LTE; Network architecture (3GPP TS 23.002)".

3   Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations

3.1   Terms

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

aggregation point: location in a physical network deployment intermediate between the core network and a number of homogeneous or heterogeneous network termination points (base station, cable modems, WLAN access points, etc.) which can act as a location for a MEC host

application context: set of reference data about an application instance that is used to identify it, enable lifecycle management operations and associate it with its device application

application rules and requirements: rules and requirements associated to MEC applications, such as required resources, maximum latency, required or useful services, traffic rules, DNS rules, mobility support, etc.

client application: application software running on a device (e.g. UE, laptop with internet connectivity) in order to utilize functionality provided by one or more specific MEC application(s)

device application: application running in the device that has the capability to interact with the MEC system via the user application lifecycle management proxy

lawful interception: action (based on the law), performed by a network operator/service provider/access provider, of making available certain information and providing that information to a law enforcement monitoring facility

lifecycle management: set of functions required to manage the instantiation, maintenance and termination of a MEC application instance

MEC application: application that can be instantiated on a MEC host within the MEC system and can potentially provide or consume MEC services

MEC host: entity that contains a MEC platform and a virtualisation infrastructure which provides compute, storage and network resources to MEC applications

MEC host level management: components which handle the management of the MEC specific functionality of a particular MEC platform, MEC host and the MEC applications running on it

MEC management: MEC system level management and MEC host level management

MEC platform: collection of functionality that is required to run MEC applications on a specific MEC host virtualisation infrastructure and to enable them to provide and consume MEC services, and that can provide itself a number of MEC services

MEC service: service provided via the MEC platform either by the MEC platform itself or by a MEC application

MEC system: collection of MEC hosts and MEC management necessary to run MEC applications

MEC system level management: management components which have the overview of the complete MEC system

mobile edge application: MEC application that can be instantiated on a mobile edge host within the mobile edge system and can potentially provide or consume mobile edge services

mobile edge host: MEC host that contains a mobile edge platform and a virtualisation infrastructure which provides compute, storage and network resources to mobile edge applications

mobile edge host level management: components which handle the management of the mobile edge specific functionality of a particular mobile edge platform, mobile edge host and the mobile edge applications running on it

mobile edge management: mobile edge system level management and mobile edge host level management

mobile edge platform: MEC platform to run mobile edge applications on a specific mobile edge host virtualisation infrastructure and to enable them to provide and consume mobile edge services, and that can provide itself a number of mobile edge services

mobile edge service: MEC service provided via the mobile edge platform either by the mobile edge platform itself or by a mobile edge application

mobile edge system: special kind of MEC system that is a collection of mobile edge hosts and mobile edge management necessary to run mobile edge applications within an operator network or a subset of an operator network

mobile edge system level management: management components which have the overview of the complete mobile edge system

Multi-access Edge Computing: system which provides an IT service environment and cloud-computing capabilities at the edge of an access network which contains one or more type of access technology, and in close proximity to its users

Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV): principle of separating network functions from the hardware they run on by using virtual hardware abstraction, as defined in ETSI GS NFV 003 [i.1]

retained data: set of data elements for a specific subscriber/user related to a specific service transaction

user application: MEC application that is instantiated in the MEC system in response to a request from a user via a device application

user context: application-specific runtime data maintained by the MEC application, which is associated with a user of that application

User Equipment (UE): mobile equipment used to access the operator's mobile network and supporting applications that transmit IP packets over the mobile network

NOTE: User Equipment is originally defined in ETSI TS 123 002 [i.2]. For the purpose of the present document, the definition above is used instead.

virtualised resource: compute, storage or network resource provided by the virtualisation infrastructure to a mobile edge application

3.2   Symbols

Void.

3.3   Abbreviations

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

3GPP	3rd Generation Partnership Project
DNS	Domain Name System
IP	Internet Protocol
LAN	Local Area Network
MEC	Multi-access Edge Computing
MEO	MEC Orchestrator
MEP	MEC Platform
MEPM	MEC Platform Manager
NFV	Network Functions Virtualisation
RAN	Radio Access Network
UE	User Equipment
VM	Virtual Machine
WLAN	Wireless LAN

History

Document history		
V1.1.1	March 2016	Publication
V2.1.1	January 2019	Publication