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| Network Function Virtualization |
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| **Authors:**  |
| Name  | Affiliation  | Phone  | Email  |
| Yonggang Fang | ZTE TX |  | yfang@ztetx.com |
| Bo Sun | ZTE |  | sun.bo1@zte.com.cn |
| Fulei Liu | ZTE |  | Liu.fulei@zte.com.cn |
| Zhendong Luo  | CATR  |  | luozhendong@catr.cn  |
| Xia Shen  | CATR  |  | shenxia@catr.cn  |
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Abstract

This document proposes text and figures for the chapter 6.8ff to cover the agreed network function virtualization based on comments on the contribution omniRAN-16/0029. This contribution also addresses the comment #8 and #9 in omniRAN-16/0006 and provides the resolution for that.

**Comments on D0.0:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CID | Category | Page | Sub-Cause | Line# | Comment | Proposed Change | Resolution |
| 8 | Technical | 25 | 7.1.4.7.2 | 688 | After Service Discovery, the AN needs to join (or associate with) the Service Provider network so that the Service provider network could be able to CreateAN later.  | It needs to add a section of Join Service Provider's network before CreateAN. Suggest to add back of original text for that section. See the separate contribution  | Revised.See proposal below. |
| 9 | Technical | 26 | 7.1.4.7.2 | 691 | In the Fig 13, the AN Orchestrator is not defined in the NRM. In addition AN Orchestrator is a function of ANC, and does not have a ID. | Suggest to change AN Orchestrator to AN or ANC. In addition, change the AN Orchestrator in the paragraph accordingly. | Revised.See proposal below.  |

**Discussion:**

The IEEE802.1CF D0.0 omniRAN implementation guide line document introduces the AN Orchestrator in section 7.1.4 for the access network setup. Normally the AN Orchestrator is the term associated with network function virtualization feature which is used to manage the virtual networks. However, there is no virtual access network and/or virtualized network function described in the draft D0.0.

To address these issues, the contribution omniRAN-16/0025 proposed to modify the network reference model by adding a new network functional entity (Network Management System) and introducing the concept of virtual access networks. To further address the comment #9 for virtual access network setup, the contribution onmiRAN-16/0017 and 0029 proposed the network function virtualization to solve the comment about the virtual access network setup. According to the recent discussion, it was suggested to create a new section 6.8 for the network function virtualization, see omniRAN-16/0025.

The contribution is to provide the text for the new section and address comments during the discussion.

**Proposed Text Changes:**

Instruction to Editor:

Please add the following text to the sub-cause 6.8 of IEEE802.1CF D0.0 omniRAN specification.

------------- Begin Text Changes ---------------

## Network Function Virtualization

Network Function Virtualization (NFV) is a network architecture concept that virtualizes functions of entire network nodes into software building blocks that may connect together for communication services. NFV is originally used in the data centers and the cloud computing. Now it can be used to manage the radio access network as well.

NFV technology, in combination with Software Defined Networking (SDN), provides a way for access network operators to manage and control their access networks operating on the same hardware platform as the same way as operating in the dedicated access network.

### Basic concepts of NFV

NFV intends to decouple network functions from underlying hardware so that it could encapsulate the complexity and difference of hardware and provide a generic software interface to the upper layer service entity.

FIG 6.x1 the basic concept of Network Function Virtualization

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The NFV is to encapsulate the physical network entities complication with the software model of two layers:

* Network Function Virtualization Infrastructure (NFVI) layer represents the underlying radio access network infrastructure. . As the radio access network infrastructure could be implemented by different infrastructure vendors, the NFVI would represent some hardware difference in the radio access network.
* Virtualized Network Function (VNF) layer abstracts the network functions of NA, ANC and BH from NFVI to provide a generic view and interface to the service management in upper layer so that the access network operators would be able to operate access services over different hardware infrastructure in the same way.

The virtualized access network functions could consists of

* the virtualized network management functions of access network control, node of attachment, backhaul network,
* the fault management and diagnostic functions and performance management functions for each access network entity.
* the user data path control functions which is used to control and manage the data path establishment and tear-down.

According to the onmiRAN network reference model, the physical resources in the access network, such as NA, ANC or BH could be virtualized as manageable resources in the NMS and accessible as network functions. The NMS can manage such network resources through the NFV interfaces via the reference point R11.

NFV provides a way to dynamically create a virtual access network for new services with same network functions so that access network operator can operate the access network in the same way as in real network through the virtualized network functions.

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### VNFs of the IEEE 802 access network

The IEEE802 NFV is to provide a common software based framework of the access network and the network function interface to encapsulate the operation of PHY and MAC of IEEE802 access network, such as IEEE802.11, IEEE802.15, or IEEE802.16. The IEEE802 NFV network protocol model is shown in Figure 6.x2.

 Figure 6.x2 the network function virtualization protocol for IEEE802 access network.

The network function virtualization contains two layers:

* NFN Infrastructure layer: it represents the physical resources of the IEEE802 access networks, including NA, ANC and BH.
* VNF layer: it provides the common platform and interface of virtualized network functions to allow the upper layer service to invoke and control the operation of the virtual access network.

The virtualized network functions are the abstracted network functions built on the top of NFVI layer (i.e. PHY and MAC). It consists of

* network configuration functions for virtual access network entities: NA, ANC and BH.
* fault and diagnostic management functions
* data path control functions

The virtualized network functions work as normal network functions to control and manage the operation of each network entity of IEEE802 access network.. The network configuration function is used to control and manage the operation of access network node, like ANC, NA or BH. The fault and diagnosis management function is used to monitor and track the abnormal or failed network entities in the IEEE802 access network. The virtualized network management functions are distributed in the access network entities.

NMS and SS are in the service layer in IEEE802 NFV model. Through the interfaces of virtualized access network functions, the access network operator can manage the virtual access network via NMS. The user can establish its data path connection under the control of SS.

The NFV Management and Orchestration (NFV-MANO) is the central control of the network function virtualization. It is responsible to instantiate the virtual access network entities such as virtual NA, virtual ANC, virtual BH and/or virtual AR with default configuration parameters. Once the virtual access network is instantiated, it shall perform the virtual access network initialization through the virtualized network functions, which is similar to the regular access network initialization.

The IEEE802 NFV could be implemented through IEEE802 layer management shown in Figure 3 , to manage the operation of PHY and MAC. The virtualized network management function can be mapped into a part of IEEE802 network management. The management of IEEE802 PHY and MAC layer operation is through the management information (or managed objects). In the virtualized access network, the NMS can manage the access network through virtualized network management function of PHY and MAC to control the operation behavior of IEEE802 access networks.

The virtualized IEEE802 access network needs to establish the physical link connection first, then instantiate a virtualized access network instance and initialization via the virtualized access network functions. When the access network is powered on, the NFV Management and Orchestration instantiates an access network instance to perform the discovery of access network operator’s network management service and acquire the configuration parameters for the virtualized access network. Upon receiving the response from the access network management service , the virtualized access network control instance (ANC) initializes and configures the virtual access network entities like NAs and BHs. .

### NFV deployment considerations for IEEE 802 access network

The NFV can be used for single access network operator to configure and manage the operation of IEEE802 access network, and user data path establishment. In the high dense access network, the IEEE802 NFV could be able to provide the easy and flexible way to configure the entire access networks on different hardware infrastructure.

In the shared deployment environment, the NFV can support network slicing of IEEE 802 access networks which allows multiple access network operators to share the access network infrastructure and operate the access network in the same way. Each access network operator can operate on its own slice of the shared IEEE802 access network.

Figure 6.x4 shows an example of NFV protocols in the sliced IEEE802 access network. It contains three network slices, each of which represents a virtualized network for each service provider.

In the service layer of sliced access network, NMS and SS are used for access network operator to manage and control its access network, and user subscriptions and data path establishment respectively.

The NFV layer offers the common interfaces of access network functions for the service layer to manage the access network. The service such NMS could be able to manage its virtual access network through the NFV.

The virtual network functions in NFV layer represent the functions of physical network entities such as TE, NA, ANC, etc.

NFV Management and Orchestration creates an instance (or slice) of virtual access network for each access network operator. Through the virtualized network functions, the access network operator can manage and control its virtual access network using its NMS. Therefore access network operators could be able to share the same physical access network infrastructure, but with its own unique virtual control and management functions.

NFV-MANO can fast control the entire virtualized access network operation through the VNFs to adapt to network service needs.

NFV-Management and Orchestration can dynamically balance the resource of virtual access network based on real-time demand of access service change. This capability allows some virtual access network to release unused physical resource for other access services of different access network operators . Therefore it could be able to optimize and use the shared access network infrastructure resource efficiently.

-------------- End Text Changes ----------------