

Diameter Solution Suite™ Use Case

HSS and PCRF Load Balancing and Binding for Non-3GPP Access

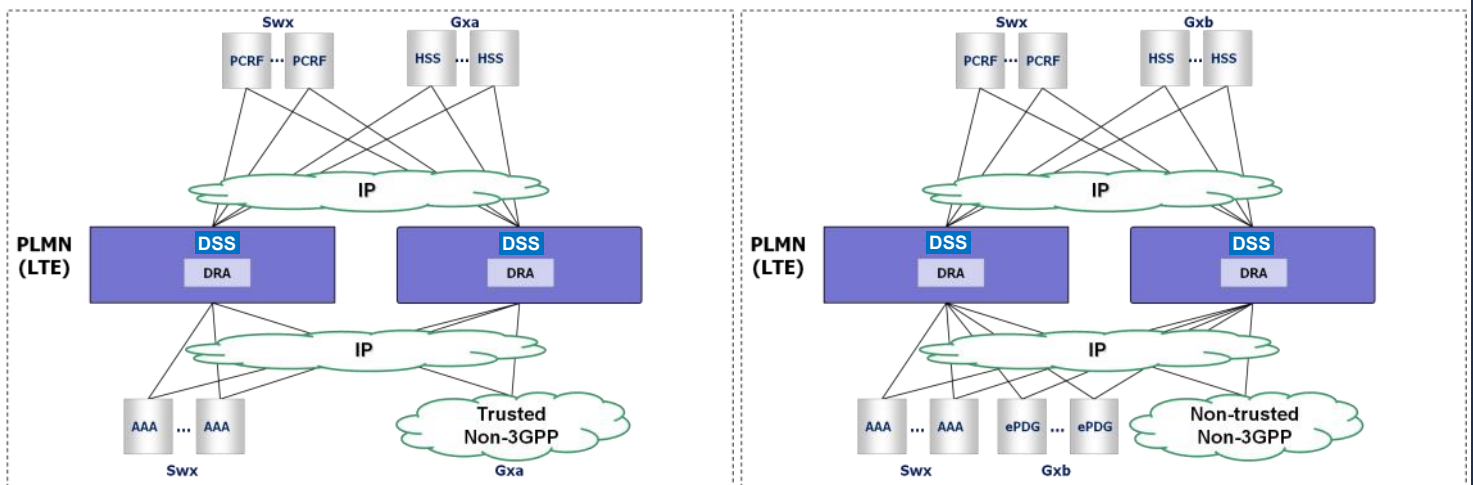
Problem

The Evolved Packet Core (EPC) uses Diameter for access to the HSS and PCRF for non-3GPP access. The HSS is used to obtain subscriber data, and, when there are a large number of subscribers, they may be partitioned across multiple HSS instances deployed in a network. Similarly for the PCRF, there may be multiple instances of the PCRF so load balancing is required. Additionally for the PCRF, multiple Diameter interfaces for the same UE/session need to select the same instance; this is called binding. The 3GPP defines the Diameter Routing Agent (DRA) entity to be used to select the correct instance. The logic to load balance across multiple instances and to bind requests may be done at the access gateway. However, this results in an inefficient mesh network that is difficult to manage.

Solution

Diametriq, an innovator in Diameter signaling control technologies, offers an exceptional suite of Diameter Signaling Controller (DSC) solutions which can be configured to your specific network requirements.

The Diameter Solution Suite™ (DSS) can be deployed in the EPC to act as a DRA. The non-3GPP access elements connect to the DSS and all Diameter traffic passes through the DSS. The DSS examines the Diameter messages and performs load balancing and binding across the multiple instances of the HSS and PCRF. This may be used for trusted non-3GPP access, e.g. CDMA, as shown in the left diagram below or for non-trusted, non-3GPP access, e.g. WLAN, as shown in the right diagram below. The DSS may be deployed in a distributed or centralized configuration and optionally in a geographic redundant configuration for disaster recovery. This results in a more efficient network that is easier to manage.



Diameter Solution Suite™



Interconnection Mesh

The Diameter Solution Suite (DSS) can be deployed at the core of the PLMN in a highly scalable, highly available and redundant configuration where all Diameter signaling passes through the DRE resulting in a hub rather than a mesh network.

Roaming and Interconnection

In roaming scenarios where there are multiple MNO's, the DSS is deployed at the edge of the PLMN and performs the Diameter Edge Agent (DEA) role, passing all Diameter signaling through the DSS while performing routing and security functions.

Congestion Control

The DSS detects congestion and can throttle the Diameter signaling passing through the network. The DSS sees all Diameter traffic and can be configured to detect overload and perform overload control on a global or per server basis.

Security

When there are untrusted elements, the DSS provides security at the edge of a PLMN, including DoS, DDoS, NAT with topology hiding and IPsec and TLS for protocols.

Selection and Distribution

When there are multiple Diameter servers (HSS, PCRF, etc.), the DSS selects and distributes across the multiple server instances and sends all messages in a session to the same server. The DSS can act as a proxy or redirect, e.g., the DSS performs the role of a Subscriber Location Function (SLF) for an HSS or a Diameter Routing Agent (DRA) for a PCRF.

Scalability

The DSS has connections to all clients and servers. A client/server instance can be added and a configuration change made at the DSS without other servers or clients being affected.

Interoperability

Vendors of client products need to interoperate with vendors of server products creating a large number interoperability testing combinations. The DSS has connections to all clients and servers, so adding a new vendor only requires interoperability testing with the DSS.

Diameter Interworking

The DSS supports an interworking function (IWF) that interworks between legacy SS7 elements within a PLMN or roaming scenarios that involve a legacy PLMN.

Transport Interworking

The DSS supports an interworking function (IWF) that interworks between Diameter over TCP and Diameter over SCTP.

IP Interworking

The DSS supports an interworking function (IWF) that interworks between Diameter over IPv4 and Diameter over IPv6.

Value-added Applications

The DRE provides a multi-application environment and API to allow new Diameter-based applications to be developed, e.g. Roamer Steering.



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