

Parlay Architecture and NGN

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Parlay is a set of standard Application Programming Interfaces (APIs), developed by a consortium of telecom industry leaders in the framework of the Parlay Group. Traditionally, each telecommunication carrier's call control and management applications were developed to order by the carrier's technical staff, and applications are written using proprietary low-level APIs that require significant knowledge and expertise to implement. The Parlay APIs are at a higher level; and developers will have an easier time performing call control, routing, call management, etc. Changes in the marketplace over the last few years have reduced the amount of time and money that carriers can afford to spend in supporting their networks and develop applications.

Parlay specifications developed by the Parlay Group are today the official standards of The European Telecom Standards Institute (ETSI) and The Third-Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) – the consortium of mobile operators and vendors. The APIs developed by the Parlay Group are known within 3GPP and ETSI as Open Service Access (OSA). Therefore, Parlay is often referred to as Parlay/OSA. Another set of APIs that address a similar set of issues are the JAIN APIs within the Java Community Process.

The paper contains the practice of cooperation between Ericsson company and Russian start-up software company Abavanet to promote Ericsson's Parlay gateway, IBM's WebSphere and Appium's telecom server to telecom market, namely to test Parlay applications written in Java. For educational purpose, we have developed the Parlay lecture course (jointly with Ericsson's staff) available on www.sotovik.ru (in Russian).