



a focus group of ITU-T



What is OCAF?

The Open Communications Architecture Forum (OCAF) Focus Group consists of industry leaders teaming to build on the theme of accelerating the cost benefit realized through the adoption of COTS technology based on the Carrier grade Open Environment (CGOE).

The work of OCAF is intended to help Service Providers and the supporting ecosystem of vendors and partners address the complexity of transitioning to Next Generation Network (NGN) infrastructure.

The OCAF is a Focus Group (FG) in the International Telecommunication Union – Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T). Background and other OCAF documents can be found on the OCAF FG home page on ITU-T:

www.itu.int/ITU-T/ocaf/

What is the objective of OCAF?

The objective of OCAF Focus Group is to agree on specifications for a framework and a set of COTS categories and components for new carrier grade open platforms that will accelerate deployment of Next Generation Networking (NGN) infrastructure and services. The specifications will encourage development and availability of low cost standardized Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) components that can be integrated based on the CGOE to:

1. Promote standards and a common framework to reduce cost, enhance functionality and improve time to market for all COTS based solutions for NGN
2. To define the CGOE components and interfaces to realize a Carrier Grade open, plug and play environment
3. Establish critical mass to identify requirements and reduce individual investments
4. Exchange considerations for reference implementations to facilitate COTS development
5. Reduce the cost and risk of developing new NGN services by promoting the expansion of COTS component options
6. Accelerate availability of CGOE compliant components and offerings from OCAF FG member companies

Additional details on OCAF scope and objectives can be found in the OCAF Charter at the ITU-T OCAF FG home page:

www.itu.int/ITU-T/ocaf/

What is the mission of OCAF?

The principal mission of OCAF is to define a comprehensive set of COTS component categories that enables the creation of network elements, platforms and applications based on a common open framework called Carrier Grade Open Environment (CGOE).

Who are the members of OCAF?

The founding members of OCAF are:

Avaya, Cisco, Comcast, Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom, Lucent, IBM, Nortel Networks, NTT, Telecom Italia and Siemens.

What are the membership classes?

There are only two membership categories.

- 1) Working Group Members have signed the NDA, agree with the FG procedures and Charter and have committed to actively participate and contribute to a specific working group tasks and objectives. They have voting privileges and may be invited to be Board of Director members
- 2) Associate Members: These are generally observers that have interest in the work of the Focus Group, but have not signed the NDA or are not an active Working Group member. Associate members will not be allowed access to working documents nor are they eligible for voting on matters affecting the FG or on approval of documents.

What does it cost to join the forum?

While ITU-T membership is suggested there is no cost to becoming a member of OCAF. OCAF founding members want to encourage active participation and contribution in kind in the working groups. OCAF will strive to maintain this policy. When funds are required to sponsor an activity or event, it will look for membership to host or volunteer contributions or contribute in kind.

What does OCAF expect from its members?

Members are expected to participate and contribute actively in the work of the forum and from time to time, host face to face meetings. Members are also encouraged to promote the work of the forum at conferences, trade shows and other events. From time to time, OCAF will expect members to sponsor/support meetings, events and activities.

How does one join OCAF?

Please visit the OCAF FG home page at: www.itu.int/ITU-T/ocaf/ and contact any one of the persons listed on the home page.

It should be noted that in order to participate in the activities of the forum, a Non-Disclosure Agreement has to be signed and submitted to the ITU-T contact. Membership is also contingent upon agreeing to the OCAF FG Procedure and Charter.

The NDA can be found at: www.itu.int/ITU-T/ocaf/

OCAF FAQs

Acceptance of NDA requires an email to be sent to: sebek@itu.int and an executed signed copy to be mailed to:

ITU

Office of TSB Director

Place des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva 20

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 730 5994

Fax: +41 22 730 5853

Where can I get copies of OCAF documents?

The OCAF documents can be downloaded from the OCAF home page:

www.itu.int/ITU-T/ocaf/

Does OCAF have an IPR policy?

As a Focus Group of ITU-T, it adopts the ITU-T IPR policy.

This is found at: www.itu.int/ITU-T/dbase/patent/

What is the structure of OCAF?

OCAF is a Focus Group of the ITU-T and currently tied to SG 13. It has a Board of Directors (BoD) comprising founding members. There are two Working Groups in the forum:

1. Solutions Working Group
2. Carrier Grade Open Environment (CGOE) Working Group

What is the scope of the Solutions WG (SWG)?

The Solution WG will review Service Scenarios, Service Descriptors and Use Case Descriptors from other standards organizations as a starting point and will develop component/product requirements and solution maps for selected NGN services. The process will identify functional requirements (AAA, Logging, Signaling etc) non-functional (such as scalability, availability, security and legal), technical and OA&M requirements in creating this mapping. To help start the exercise and converge on a process, the group has initially been developing solution and product maps for Push-to-Talk and IP Centrex.

What is the scope of the CGOE WG?

The Carrier Grade Open Environment (CGOE) Working Group will focus on identification, classification, and interoperation of commercial off the shelf (COTS) components that satisfy the requirements of next generation network (NGN) services defined by the OCAF Solutions Working Group. CGOE will identify CGOE components and categories that are missing and characterize functional requirements and interfaces of the missing components. The CGOE focus is exercise Solution Maps to verify the CGOE reference model stimulate creation of comprehensive ecosystem of COTS components that satisfy the CGOE.

Are the Working Groups (WG) open to non ITU-T members?

Yes. ITU-T membership while not required is suggested. There is no cost for joining OCAF or its WGs, but in order to participate in the WGs, it is essential to sign the OCAF NDA and agree to abide by the OCAF FG Procedures and Charter. OCAF encourages active contributing participants regardless of ITU-T membership status.

Does OCAF have relationships with other forums?

OCAF is actively seeking relationships with a number of forums. SAF has agreement to actively participate and contribute to the CGOE Working Group. Some of the other forums of interest include 3GPP, Parlay Group, SAF, IETF, OSDL, TMF, OMA and DMTF.

Also, it should be noted that as a FG of ITU-T it has a strong relation with it and in particular the SGs developing Recommendations for NGN.

How are the OCAF output documents published?

Significant OCAF documents will be submitted to the ITU-T for formal approval as Recommendations.

What is Carrier Grade Open Environment (CGOE)?

The Carrier Grade Open Environment (CGOE) framework is a reference model will be created using open industry standards and external interfaces to assist identification, classification, and interoperation of Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) components that satisfy the requirements of NGN services defined by the OCAF Solutions Working Group.

CGOE reference model will be used to engage other standards groups on gaps in their standards and interfaces and to stimulate creation of comprehensive eco-system of COTS components that satisfy the CGOE.

The CGOE Working Group focuses on identification, classification, and interoperation of (COTS) components which satisfy the requirements of next generation network (NGN) services

CGOE is developing a roadmap which is based on open industry standards for the integration of COTS servers, COTS storage, COTS data and voice communications equipment, carrier grade features of Linux, and COTS middleware to deliver integrated carrier class platforms for next generation network elements such as call controllers, radio network controllers, media gateways, feature servers, etc.