



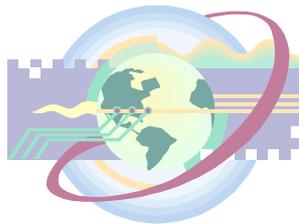
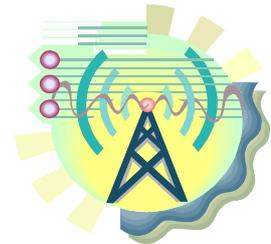
Open API Solutions

OSA/Parlay

What is OSA/Parlay

OSA/Parlay is a suite of open, standard, APIs designed to facilitate easier access to core network capabilities from outside of the network. As OSA/Parlay applications are written to a standard API they can be built using existing IT technology and tools, thus reducing the development cycle and therefore the time to market. The opening up of the network in a secure manner by such APIs allows the existence of new business models, which allow applications to be developed and provided by vendors outside of the network operator domain.

OSA/Parlay is the result of collaboration between Parlay, ETSI and 3GPP (with co-operation from JAIN).

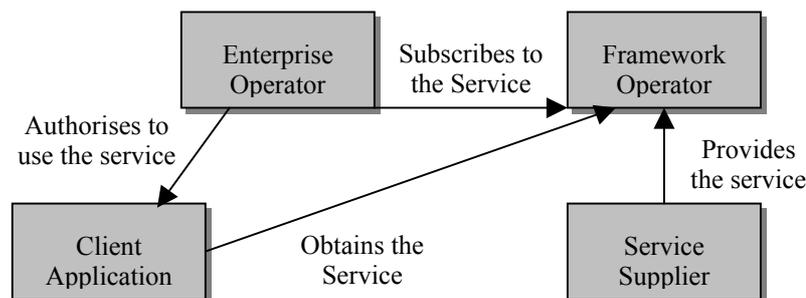


What are the advantages of using OSA/Parlay?

The Parlay subscription business model, illustrated below, has four main roles. OSA/Parlay provides many benefits for every one of these roles.

- Service Supplier - This is the provider of an OSA/Parlay service (such as Multi Party Call Control). In terminology, a Parlay Service and the implementation of an OSA SCF (Service Capability Feature) are synonymous;

- Framework/Gateway Operator - This represents the operator of the OSA/Parlay Framework, and hence the entity controlling access to the services in the Gateway. This is not necessarily a network operator;
- Enterprise Operator - The Enterprise Operator hosts/manages a group of applications, subscribing to various services in the Parlay Gateway on their behalf and deciding which applications have access to which services;
- Client Application - These are the direct users of an OSA/Parlay service.



The Parlay Subscription Business Model

Service Supplier

For a Service Supplier the main benefit is adding another way of accessing functionality that may currently be provided via other, more proprietary, methods. For example, the provider of a billing system can implement the OSA/Parlay charging APIs on their platform. They can then approach a network operator and advise them that providing this service on a Parlay Gateway will widen the use of the network and its equipment, increasing revenues for the network operator, as more applications will be able to make use of the service. The service can also be provided to multiple Gateway operators, widening the source of revenue still further.

Framework/Gateway operator

A Gateway can host many different services, each supplied by a different service supplier. This is the Parlay multi-vendor model, and provides the benefit that the Framework/Gateway operator can source their services from anyone and are not tied to a single service supplier. In addition, the Framework can be sourced from an independent Framework provider, thus establishing a truly vendor-independent Parlay Gateway. The Framework/Gateway operator is not necessarily a network operator, as any entity with contacts to Service Suppliers and Enterprise Operators (who would provide and host the applications) can, with the aid of an OSA/Parlay Framework, create and operate an OSA/Parlay Gateway.

As the services to be deployed on the Gateway are written using standard APIs, they become accessible to a wider user base, as applications written using a given service API will work on any other implementation of that API. In addition, a single Framework can provide services to many Enterprise Operators. This increases the number of applications who will be using the Gateway, which increases the potential demand for services and therefore increases revenues from the services provided.

Enterprise Operator

For an Enterprise Operator the benefit is that the group of applications they manage now has access to a wider range of standardised services, rich in telecommunications capabilities. An Enterprise Operator could be a business with a need for the functionality offered by a network, which manages a group of applications that facilitate this, or an independent company, managing a group of applications provided by different Application Developers.

The Enterprise Operator can control which services its applications have access to, and also the level of service provided to each individual application. The Enterprise Operator can even deal with multiple Gateways, thus increasing even further the options available to its applications.

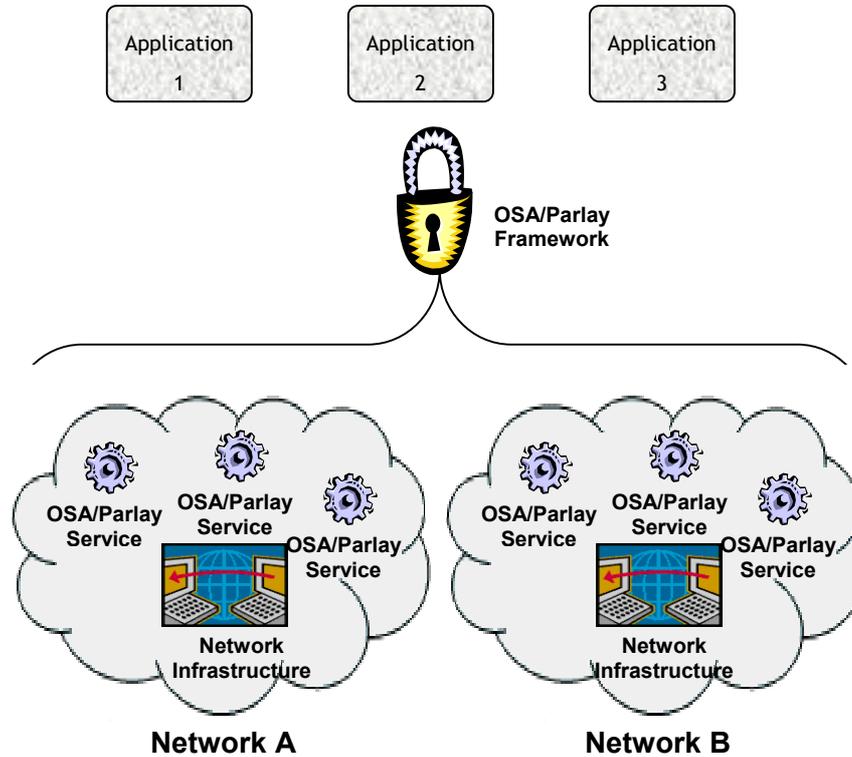
Application Developer

For a Client Application developer, the advantages are the ability to add telecommunications functionality to their applications, or to create new applications making use of the telecommunications functionality now available to them, and the portability of these applications. The telecommunications world is rich in functionality that, until now, has been the sole domain of telecommunications experts. This functionality can now be used by an application sitting outside of the network written by a developer who does not need to know the specific details of how that functionality is implemented in the network. The applications will be portable, as they will work on any implementation of the service APIs they use. This means that they can be deployed on top of many different networks, without extra development cost, thus increasing the revenue base.



Where does OSA/Parlay fit in?

OSA/Parlay provides the ability for services running within a network to be made accessible to applications residing outside of the network, via the framework. The Framework can host services from multiple networks.



Why move into the OSA/Parlay space?

Many advantages are listed in the section above for various roles in the new business model. The market is moving on from traditional proprietary ways. OSA/Parlay is an open standard, which is not being developed to serve the interests of a single organisation/company. The Parlay, 3GPP and ETSI memberships are large and composed of members from a wide variety of backgrounds. The OSA/Parlay standard has been developed to serve the interests of each and every contributing member.

OSA/Parlay Gateway providers may eventually replace individual equipment

suppliers as the primary suppliers to a network operator. Traditionally, services have been written which are closely coupled to the platform. This allows them to take the most advantage of the platform's capabilities, but makes them not particularly open to 3rd party application developers. OSA/Parlay services are written to an open, standard, API, allowing portable applications to be created which can run on any other implementation of that service API. This enables rapid application development and deployment, as applications only have to be written once (thus eliminating redevelopment time) and are deployed independently of the service itself (which is offered via an OSA/Parlay gateway, which the applications make use of).

How can Open API Solutions help?

Open API Solutions have considerable expertise in the telecommunications field and the OSA/Parlay space. Open API Solutions can help you to understand what OSA/Parlay offers you and how it can be used to your advantage, enabling you to realise the increased revenue stream the Parlay business model provides.

We offer consultancy services to application developers, service developers, network operators, enterprise operators and to anyone seeking to build and operate an OSA/Parlay Gateway. We also offer our products, including a platform and vendor independent implementation of the full Parlay 3.1/OSA Release 4 Framework specification, and a Test Suite enabling you to test applications which interact with the network without the need to use vital network resources.

Our products are all built to the Parlay 3.1/Release 4 specifications, because these are the versions to which future releases must be backwards compatible. There are many differences between Parlay 2.1/3GPP OSA Release 99 and the latest release of the specifications. Applications written to use Parlay 2.1 will not be able to communicate with a 3.1 Framework or services. Likewise, a service written to use Parlay 2.1 will not be able to communicate with a Parlay 3.1 Framework or applications.



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