Planning and implementation of a measurement campaign to settle the handover functionality in an indoor GSM network

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Introduction

- In GSM networks outdoor coverage and services are well managed today
- The hugh growth of capacity demand had led to a need to build up indoor networks
- Indoor environment is totally different from outdoor environment: Propagation circumstances; smaller cells than in normal outdoor network; cells are layered in three dimensions
- A remarkable part of the indoor network management is associated with the handover management
- A handover measurement campaign shall be organised to clarify the handover functionality
- The background for this thesis was the fact that till now exists only little documentation, which concentrates on the planning process of an indoor handover measurement campaign

Introduction (continued)

Scope of thesis

The topic of this study is to find the important milestones of a handover measurement campaign planning process for an indoor environment and to find the corner stones for a successful campaign.

Presentation of the method

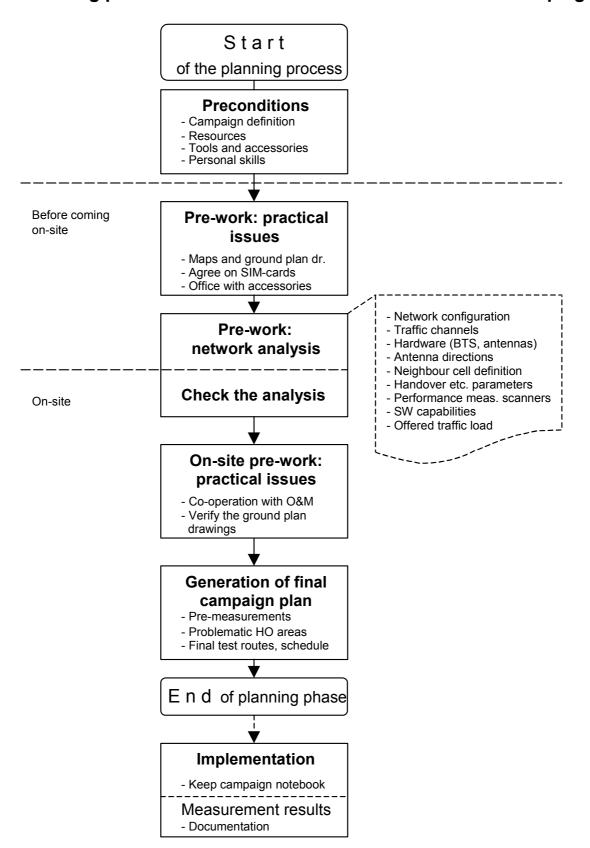
- The study was done by performing the plan for a real handover measurement campaign as a part of an indoor GSM trial
- After the implementation of the measurement campaign, the planning process account of the campaign was verified
- The final account of the planning process was made including the most important milestones

Results

The planning process of a handover measurement campaign is described in thesis

- The planning process can be divided into the following main phases
 - Preconditions of a measurement campaign
 - Practical pre-work
 - Network pre-analysis before coming to the campaign site
 - On-site check of the analysis
 - Interpretation of the network analysis
 - Pre-measurements
 - Generation of the final measurement campaign plan
- A block diagram of the planning process is shown
- A check list of the handover measurement campaign planning process was generated and it is shown in thesis

Planning process of an indoor handover measurement campaign



Own contribution

- The pre-analysis of an indoor GSM field trial network was performed (and the on-site check of it)
- The handover measurement campaign plan was generated
- The campaign plan was executed in a hard partitioned high rise building
- The implementation phase was evaluated
- The planning process was verified and the corner stones of a campaign were studied

Conclusions

The most important milestones in a planning process are:

- Preconditions of a successful campaign:
 - Campaign definition
 - Measurement tool choice
- The precise network analysis:
 - Analysis before coming to the campaign site
 - On-site verification of the network analysis
 - Importance of the network's visualisation
 - Co-operation with O&M personnel (this includes the agreement concerning the division of the daily measurement period versus the maintenance period)
- Well-planned pre-measurement routes
- A realistic campaign schedule

Further investigations

- Planning process should be investigated in a trial based on the basic GSM network structure and the basic software
- How the results of this study are applicable into different network scenarious? An interesting subject could be a hierarchical network structure consisting of both indoor and outdoor cells / Impact on the planning process
- Investigations concerning the work effort in a certain part of the campaign planning process / Impact on a campaign schedule
- What is the possible impact of a GPRS network with packet service for the planning process?