Is it possible to determine the date and time of publication of a particular version of a 3GPP Spec?

During the drafting phase (versions lower than 3.0.0), 3GPP TSs and TRs ("Specs") are under the control of their authors ("rapporteurs") and are handled like normal meeting contributions (see above). Revised versions incorporating text agreed by the responsible working group are often made available by the rapporteur via the group's email exploder shortly after the end of the meeting at which such text was discussed. Consultation of the exploder archives can reveal this. Alternatively, a revised draft may be sent directly to the 3GPP Support Team, and it will be uploaded to the public file server (specs archive directory) shortly afterwards. Again, the time stamp of the Zip file can be relied upon to indicate when the upload occurred.

After formal approval by the TSG (versions 3.0.0 or greater), Specs are edited only by the Support Team. The first approved version is based upon the draft version formally approved by the TSG, and thereafter versions are generated whenever Change Requests are approved by the TSG. These versions are made available shortly after the TSG meeting at which such approval occurred. The date (year and month) shown at the top of the Spec's cover page indicates either the date of (the last day of) the meeting, or the month in which the new version was prepared. However a more precise indication of the date of availability can be obtained from the Spec's web page (via the table at http://www.3gpp.org/specifications/) where a precise date is shown in the "available" column.

More information on the procedures relating to Spec handing can be found in 3GPP TR 21.900.

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