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MP241 ‘Interoperability Checker Update’

August 2024 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

SEC Party Category	Working Group Members	Representing
Large Suppliers	Emma Johnson (EJ)	British Gas
	Alex Hurcombe (AH)	EDF Energy
	Amy Cox (AC)	EDF Energy
	Francesca Scott (FS)	EDF Energy
	Clare Manning (CM)	EON
	Sharon Armitage (SA)	EON
	Ralph Baxter (RB)	Octopus Energy
	Emslie Law (EL)	OVO
	Mahfuzar Rahman (MR)	Scottish Power
	Joanne Rush (JR)	SSE
	Kevin Clark (KC)	Utilita
Small Suppliers	Simon Moore (SM)	Bryt Energy
	Steve Blackler (SB)	E Gas & Electricity
Other SEC Parties	David Jones (DJ)	Alt Han Co
	Patricia Massey (PM)	BEAMA
	Beth Tatton (BT)	Calisen Metering
	Rob Heath (RH)	Calisen Metering
	Daniel Davies (DD)	ESG Global
	Craig Biffen (CB)	EUA
Network Parties	Kelly Kinsman (KK)	NGED
	Stuart Blair (SB)	Northern Power Grid
	Shuba Khatun (SK)	SSEN
	James Murphy (JM)	Stark

Other Participants		
DCC		
Bradley Baker (BB)	David Rollason (DR)	
David Walsh (DW)	Rosie Davies (RD)	
Citizens Advice		
Emily Stone (ES)		

Other Participants		
SECAS		
Simon Grimwood (SG) <i>Meeting Chair</i>	Alexandra Scott (AS) <i>Meeting Secretary</i>	Elizabeth Woods (EW) <i>Lead Analyst</i>
Mo Sumro (MS) <i>Lead Analyst</i>	Georgie Severin (GS) <i>Lead Analyst</i>	Ben Giblin (BG) <i>Lead Analyst</i>
Rainer Lischetzki (RL) <i>SECAS Consultant</i>		

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue identified, impact, Proposed Solution, and the Impact Assessment summary for [MP241 'Interoperability Checker Update'](#).

Issue

- The Interoperability Checker's result may not reflect a consumer's actual experience with their Smart Meter
- Results are based on Device Models which contribute to misperception and inconsistencies in results
- Leads to negative experience for consumer using the tool

Proposed Solution

The Data Communications Company (DCC) will use system data to enhance the accuracy of the tool. The reports to identify a meter operating in Smart Mode will populate if the Supplier has sent at least one of the below Service Request Variant (SRVs) within sixty days to that specific Device, or a matching Device Model combination as appropriate.

- SRV 4.6.1 'RetrieveImportDailyReadLog'
- SRV 4.8.1 'ReadActiveImportProfileData'
- SRV 4.8.2 'ReadReactiveImportProfileData'
- All variants of SRV 4.1 & SRV 4.4

Impact Assessment Summary

- Total cost to implement MP241 'Interoperability Checker Update' stands at £86,862, which includes Design, Build, Pre-Integration Testing (PIT), System Integration Testing (SIT) and deployment costs.
- Timescale of six months to implement

Working Group Discussion

SECAS (MS) provided an overview of the current arrangements, the issue, previously discussed points, detail of the Proposed Solution and summary of the Impact Assessment.

Non-communicating Devices

SECAS (MS) presented the ~~Data Communications Company (DCC)~~ definition for non-communicating Devices. A Working Group member (EL) highlighted that the DCC's definition is different to a Suppliers definition. They added that the DCC definition is understood only from their organisation. They mentioned that the consumer will potentially get a negative experience of Smart Mode if the data source comes from the DCC as it does not reflect the viability of having a Smart Meter installed at the premises.

Citizens Advice (ES) highlighted that Citizens Advice will explore how to word the results when a search has been made to ensure that consumers are taking away the right message from the presented information. They stated when the tool was first created it was not anticipated that it would be used as a Smart Mode checker however as consumers have been continuing to use the tool its purpose has developed.

Functionality overview

A Working Group member questioned how the Proposed Solution would function. Citizens Advice (ES) advised a user of the tool will have to enter their postcode and Meter Point Administration Number (MPAN). The DCC (DW) informed members that a separate data set is exported from the Smart Meter and is processed by the Critical Software team. They highlighted that its separate from the total system and there is no interaction with the Smart Metering System (SMS). They confirmed that the DCC will retrieve the data by running a process from the entire Smart Meter portfolio. They highlighted that this is secure and will not cause any traffic.

A Working Group member (RB) questioned if the Proposed Solution can send back a result where it is unable to identify if a Smart Meter can be installed at a consumer's premises. The DCC (DW) informed members that if there are no Service Requests (SRs) for the process then the tool will assume it is not possible for a consumer to have a Smart Meter installed.

Cost-benefit

When the Working Group were asked if the proposed benefit outweighs the costs, 64% of respondents answered no, and 36% of respondents answered yes.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting.

- SECAS to present the modification to the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) under the recommendation to progress to the Report Phase.