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MP195 ‘Security Sub-Committee guidance on Device Assurance’

January 2022 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard	SECAS
Khaleda Hussain	SECAS
Bradley Baker	SECAS
Joe Hehir	SECAS
Kev Duddy	SECAS
Mike Fenn	SECAS
Rainer Lischetzki	SECAS
Abhijit Pal	DCC
David Walsh	DCC
Sasha Townsend	DCC
Emma Johnson	British Gas
Lynne Hargrave	Calvin Capital
Alex Hurcombe	EDF Energy
Julie Geary	E.ON
Daniel Davies	ESG Global
Terry Jefferson	EUA
Peter Hoare	Kaifa Metering
Alastair Cobb	Landis & Gyr
Ralph Baxter	Octopus Energy
Mafs Rahman	Scottish Power
Audrey Smith-Keary	SSE - OVO
Emslie Law	SSE - OVO
Matthew Alexander	SSEN
Gemma Slaney	WPD

Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the modification, reviewed the draft legal text and proposed next steps.

Issue

- Once installed, or partially installed, and then removed Devices are not able to be re-installed on the DCC network
- The security controls in the SEC do not currently support the triage and refurbishment of Devices
- Meter Asset Providers (MAPs) and Suppliers are currently holding Devices in warehouses that have not been fully installed, but have no defects
- SEC Parties have demonstrated a business need for the CPA Certification process to support Device triage and refurbishment
- The Security Sub-Committee (SSC) has developed guidance for Device triage, currently published on the SEC website
- Guidance is not currently referenced in SEC and therefore does not provide SEC Parties with certainty they need

Proposed Solution

- Legal text to be included in the SEC to place an obligation on the SSC to develop and maintain guidance that covers this area.

Working Group Discussion

Refinement Consultation

SECAS presented an overview of the issue, the draft legal text for the solution and identified the case for change.

Working Group members, particularly from Device Manufacturers and MAPs, voiced their support for the intent of the modification.

One Working Group member (AC) noted that the proposed term of 'Device Assurance' could lead to confusion amongst SEC Parties due to the existence of the Smart Meter Device Assurance (SMDA) and potential for ambiguity as to where responsibility lies on certain scenarios.

Working Group members also sought clarity on how the Guidance document would be updated and maintained. SECAS stated that the process would mirror that of the Security Controls Framework that is already part of the SSC obligations to maintain. Working Group members suggested that the process should be made explicit, either as part of the modification or detailed in the SEC. This should include how new Use Cases can be added, and if existing Use Cases are withdrawn how that is managed in terms of timescales to allow Parties to comply.

Another Working Group member (GS) highlighted that the Guidance should be in place so that it can be considered alongside this modification. They also noted that from a Distribution Network Operator (DNO) perspective, they would need to be aware of Devices with their certificates on that had been removed and could be reinstalled. SECAS advised that the guidance document already exists today and is referenced in the Modification Report, but that the Guidance development must not be held up by this modification and therefore is separate.

Another Working Group member commented that the Modification Report should be updated to call out the intent of the change much sooner in the document to make it clear as to the purpose of the modification.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS to clarify how the guidance document would be managed, including:
 - a) how new Use Cases are added,
 - b) how withdrawn Use Cases are managed in terms of timescales to enable compliance; and
 - c) ensuring the guidance is up to date and in place when the modification is considered.
- SECAS will update the Modification Report and issue the Refinement Consultation.