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MP239 ‘Enduring Solution for Resolving SMETS2 Device Certificate Misalignment Issue’

June 2024 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

SEC Party Category	Working Group Members	Representing
Large Suppliers	Emma Johnson (EJ)	British Gas
	Julie Brown (JB)	British Gas
	Sharon Armitage (SA)	E.ON
	Ian Turner (IT)	E.ON
	Alex Hurcombe (AH)	EDF
	Amy Cox (AC)	EDF
	Joey Manners (JM)	Octopus Energy
	Ralph Baxter (RB)	Octopus Energy
	Kevin Clark (KC)	Utilita
Small Suppliers	Daniel Davies (DD)	ESG Global
Other SEC Parties	Patricia Massey (PM)	BEAMA
	Beth Davey (BD)	Calvin Capital
	Martin Bell (MB)	EUA
	Michael Snowden (MS)	Secure Meters (UK) Limited
	Jeff Studholme (JS)	Smart Meter Assets
Network Parties	Kelly Kinsman (KK)	National Grid
	Shuba Khatun (SK)	SSEN

Other Participants		
DCC		
David Walsh (DW)	Bradley Baker (BB)	Rosie Davies (RD)
Gary Stuart (GS)	Robin Seaby (RS)	David Rollason (DR)
Citizens Advice		
Colin Griffiths (CG)		
SECAS		
Kev Duddy (KD) <i>Working Group Chair</i>	Rachel Black (RBI) <i>Meeting Secretary</i>	Elizabeth Woods (EW) <i>Lead Analyst</i>
Ali Beard (AB)		Georgie Severin (GSe)
Ben Giblin (BG)		Rainer Lischetzki (RL)

Overview

Issue

- Suppliers and Wide Area Network (WAN) Providers are expected to update the Device certificate within seven days following installation, via Service Request (SR).
- Sometimes the success response is not processed or not received by the Data Service Provider (DSP), resulting in a certificate misalignment between the Device and the DSP.
- Parties are unable to communicate with any Device that has a certificate that is misaligned with the DSP Master Key Store.
- Manual correction has high associated costs and is prone to errors.

Proposed Solution

The Proposed Solution will allow Suppliers to update the appropriate Certificates through the SSI or SSML:

- Amend the Certificate Confirmation Scheme (CCS) cycle to work through all possible Access Control Broker (ACB) Key Agreement Keys (KAK) and Key Agreement Device Certificates, which will help to identifying the correct Device Certificate; This will help in identifying the correct Device Certificate – the root cause of this modification.
- Allow triggering the CCS in response to, the timeout of SRV 6.15.2, Install and Commission (I&C) process, or via the SSI/SSML. Which will help to identify and record the correct Device Certificate in early stage of I&C process, post-I&C Certificate Update process and via SSI/SSML during in-life operation;
- Add information to Service Audit Trail (SAT) logs for CCS timeout to indicate which cycle and the stage of the current cycle;
- Amend SSML to allow an authorised User to set the current Certificate(s) for a Device; and
- Produce required reports on Device and Certificate misalignment.

DCC Impact Assessment Summary

The overall cost for the implementation of MP239 is £504,542.

- £339,178 in Design, Build & PIT
- £165,364 in Implementation, including integration testing & deployment
 - Application support for 3 months

Implementation

- 10 months to complete
- Solution implementation in two phases

- Phase 1 – Interim solution targeted for delivery in November 2024 Maintenance Release
- Phase 2 – Enduring solution targeted for delivery in June 2025 SEC Release

Working Group Discussion

SECAS (EW) provided an overview of the issue, Proposed Solution, DCC Impact Assessment and feedback gained to date.

Links to DP267

A Working Group member (MS) queried whether the solution proposed for MP239 could be used to resolve the issue raised in [DP267 'Facilitating the installation and commissioning of meters triaged under Use Case 004'](#). SECAS (RL) noted this has been investigated and discussed with the DCC. The DCC (DW) added that this solution does not resolve the DP267 issue, and they noted there was a possible solution for DP267 without a modification. A Working Group member (JS) noted that DP267's possible operational solution is to have triage process that doesn't change Device credentials. Working Group member (MS) added that this is an interim solution, as agreed at SSC CPA Issue Resolution Sub-Group (SCIRS). They advised there still needs to be an enduring solution for when Device certificates must be regenerated as part of triage. The Working Group Chair (KD) noted this was a different modification and the DCC has confirmed that MP239's Proposed Solution does not impact or resolve DP267's issue. A Working Group member (JS) agreed and noted that DP267 will be discussed offline with interested Working Group members.

Root cause

A Working Group member (KC) queried why there was a misalignment with the DSP to begin with. SECAS (EW) noted that Responses do get lost, either by timeouts or the Response is missing, therefore the DSP never knows that Device got SR. They added that this misalignment then renders the Device incommunicable. A Working Group member (KC) queried whether the issue should not be to resolve the response going missing instead of only resolving the misalignment after the event. A Working Group member (JB) noted that there is no way to fix responses going missing and added that there are many reasons why this occurs.

Cost benefit

A Working Group member (MS) noted that it was difficult to determine the cost of doing nothing, although advised they were supportive of the modification progressing. The Working Group Chair (KD) noted that costs were noted in the Modification Report including Suppliers and DCC time and effort to fix the errors. The DCC (DW) noted that in a previous Working Group, the DCC had advised that the Design, Built and PIT cost is less than the cost of processing the current number of manual corrections.

Next Steps

The following actions were recorded from the meeting:

- SECAS to update Modification Report.
- DCC to provide DUIS legal text.
- SECAS to request Ex-Committee CSC to progress to Report Phase.
- SECAS to issue Modification Report Consultation.