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SECMP0024 ‘Enduring Approach to Communication Hub Firmware Management’

July 2021 Working Group – meeting summary

Attendees

Attendee	Organisation
Ali Beard	SECAS
Holly Burton	SECAS
Joe Hehir	SECAS
Bradley Baker	SECAS
Khaleda Hussain	SECAS
Kev Duddy	SECAS
Piers Garton	SECAS
Mike Fenn	SECAS
Anik Abdullah	SECAS
Tom Mudryk	SECAS
Remi Oluwabamise	DCC
David Walsh	DCC
Robin Seaby	DCC
Abhijit Pal	DCC
Sarah-Jane Russell	British Gas
Lynne Hargrave	Calvin Capital
Julie Geary	E.ON
Rob Williams (Proposer)	E.ON
Alex Hurcombe	EDF Energy
Daniel Davies	ESG Global
Terry Jefferson	EUA
Alastair Cobb	Landis + Gyr
Ralph Baxter	Octopus Energy
Emslie Law	OVO Energy
Mafs Rahman	Scottish Power
Elias Hanna	Smart ADSL
Matthew Alexander	SSEN
Simon Wilcox	Stark
Julian Hughes	TABASC Chair
Rachel Norberg	Utilita
Gemma Slaney	WPD

Kelly Kinsman	WPD
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Overview

The Smart Energy Code Administrator and Secretariat (SECAS) provided an overview of the issue identified, the current business requirements and proposed next steps.

Issue

There is nothing in place to automatically notify Suppliers once firmware updates have been activated on CHs.

Also, there is a lack of a formalised process for managing firmware updates to CHs between the DCC and Suppliers.

Solution

The Proposed Solution is for the DCC to generate an Alert to Responsible Suppliers upon successful activation of CH firmware. This Alert will contain the firmware version of the newly activated firmware.

In addition, the DCC will update its CH Firmware Management Overview document and make this available on the DCC website. SECAS advised that the DCC is still finalising the document but that a draft of it has been shared for comment with the working Group, the Operations Group and the Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC). SECAS continue to monitor DCC's progress with it and will advise each group once it is available on the DCC's website.

Impact Assessment

SECAS summarised the DCC's Impact Assessment of the proposed new DCC Alert:

- The Alert shall be given the N64 ID (or the next ID available at the time of implementation)
- The Alert will be sent to the Responsible Suppliers for the Communications Hub upon activation of the firmware
- The Alert will contain the current firmware version of the Communications Hub

SECAS summarised other areas of the Impact Assessment, including costs, Service Provider impacts, SEC impacts and implementation lead-times.

Costs

Total cost: £512,003;

- Design, Build and Pre-Integration Testing (PIT): £202,395
- Release costs (Systems Integration Testing (SIT) and User Integration Testing (UIT)): £309,608

Impacts

- Data Services Provider (DSP) only
- Minor DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) changes and Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema updates required

Implementation timescales

- 11 months for complete implementation

Implementation Approach

SECAS noted SECMP0024 is targeted for the June 2022 SEC Release along with other DUIS impacting modifications as well the implementation of the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) arrangements which will also require a DUIS uplift. This will ensure only a single DUIS uplift occurs in 2022, minimising impact on Parties.

Considering the target of the June 2022 SEC Release, DCC require a decision to approve by the Change Board meeting on 25 August. SECAS acknowledged this would leave slightly less time than the 11 months quoted in its Impact Assessment but confirmed the DCC has stated it could achieve the June 2022 SEC Release with a decision by this date.

A decision after the August Change Board meeting will likely mean targeting this modification in the DUIS release, expected to be in 2023.

Working Group Discussion

The Working Group had no comments or questions on the proposal.

Next Steps

SECAS summarised the next steps for SECMP00024:

- Final Modification Report presented to the Change Sub-Committee on 27 July 2021;
- Modification Report Consultation 28 Jul 2021 – 16 Aug 2021;
- Change Board vote 25 August 2021

Actions

- DCC to publish the Firmware Management Policy on their website