Stage 02: Working Group Meeting Summary

SECMP0062 'Northbound Application Traffic Management – Alert Storm Protection'
Working Group meeting 2

Date and location

15th November 2018

Gemserv's Offices

Summary of SECMP0062 Working Group Meeting 2

- DCC gave an update as promised from the last meeting where they set out data concerning Alert Storm Volumes calculated over an eight-day window to provide an example of numerous repeated alerts that enter the DCC Systems from a small number of Devices. They provided analysis that, assuming Alerts were evenly distributed in this window, their proposed mechanism would eliminate approximately 90% of the repeated alerts adding traffic to the system.

- SECAS provided a draft Business Requirements document, outlining the specific requirements that the solution from the DCC should adhere to. The Working Group considered this draft, and overall agreed with the Business Requirements brought to the meeting, requesting minor amendments be made to the draft before requesting a Preliminary Assessment.

- An SSC member raised concern over the alert types being throttled in the Working Group meeting, citing security implications. The Working group took note of these concerns and highlighted in the drafted Business Requirements where this had been taken into account and would be consulted over with the rest of the Working Group.

- The Working Group considered if business requirements should be drafted against the potential alternative solution implementing a solution into Communication Hub firmware. However, DCC mentioned that an issue with the alternative solution proposed would be that adjusting the parameters of every single Device affected instead of changing the settings of the central systems would take days to implement these changes and could leave a number of

Devices during this time without communicating capabilities through the DCC Systems. By implementing it at the DSP level, it works at the aggregation layer which will cover all devices, Communication Hubs and Service Providers with minimal maintenance issues or time required, making it the most efficient solution choice. DCC also noted that neither of the Communication Service Providers (CSPs) had expressed concerns with a high number of Alerts being sent over their networks. The Working Group agreed that the proposed solution should be progressed on under SECMP0062, and any alternative options should be raised via a separate modification and would provide an additional layer of security alongside SECMP0062.

- The Working Group noted that the requirement allowing Users to be notified of Alerts being throttled would be implemented via a new DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) version. In order to speed up implementation, it considered a staggered implementation approach where the rest of the changes are implemented as soon as possible, but the notification mechanism via DUIS would be implemented in a later release. It agreed that DCC should propose an interim notification mechanism as part of its Preliminary Assessment response for consideration by the Working Group, after which the Working Group would consult on the proposed implementation approach as part of the industry consultation.

- Further actions that were agreed be taken are the following:

    o For the DCC to consider when the earliest implementation date can be for the modification given the DUIS change required as part of the modification's solution.

    o For SECAS to draft a Business Requirements document with the amendments and additional clarifications that were detailed in the Working Group meeting. Following this, it will distribute the document to the Working Group for review before sending it to DCC for Preliminary Assessment. As part of this, SECAS will liaise with any Working Group members absent from the meeting for their input, and circulate DCC's slides to the group.

    o Working Group members were asked to consider the draft business requirements with the amendments that have been requested as part of the Working Group meeting.