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DP080 'Ensuring a managed move to DUIS version 3.0'

Problem statement – version 0.2

About this document

This document provides a summary of this Draft Proposal, including the issue or problem identified, the impacts this is having, and the context of this issue within the Smart Energy Code (SEC).

Proposer

This Draft Proposal has been raised by Helen Metcalfe from the Data Communications Company (DCC).

What is the issue or problem identified?

What issue has been identified?

Version 3.0 of the DCC User Interface Specification (DUIS) is the first version that supports both Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) 1 and SMETS 2 meters, and was designated on 28 July 2019. Users who remain on DUIS versions 1.0 or 2.0 will not be able to communicate with SMETS 1 meters as part of day-to-day business until they uplift to version 3.0. In the absence of a managed plan to migrate all DCC Users on to DUIS version 3.0, there is a risk that a SMETS 1 meter could 'go dumb' on churn. This risk remains material until all DCC Users are using DUIS version 3.0 (or higher). Although there are clear obligations on Suppliers enrolling their SMETS1 meters to do so within 12 months of their meters becoming eligible for enrolment, there appear to be no obligations on Suppliers who have not installed SMETS1 meters.

There are now three active versions of SEC Appendix AD 'DCC User Interface Specification', with a fourth version, version 3.1, due to be implemented in the November 2019 SEC Release. Each version has a corresponding Message Mapping Catalogue (MMC) (SEC Appendix AF), and there are accompanying XML Schemas. Managing and maintaining any version of DUIS and MMC that does not support all DCC meters does not deliver economic and efficient provision of Services and does not facilitate wider interoperability objectives. The DCC believes collective discussion is urgently required to agree a managed process for all DCC Users to uplift to DUIS version 3.0 (or higher).

How does this issue relate to the SEC?

As the DUIS is included within the SEC as a SEC Appendix, any changes, including the removal of a version from the SEC, will require a SEC Modification Proposal.

What is the impact this is having?

What is the impact of not moving to DUIS version 3.0?

The DCC have stated that, now that version 3.0 has been designated, any DCC User who has not taken up this version 3 will not be able to communicate with any DCC SMETS 1 meters.

In addition, as long as DUIS versions 1.0 and 2.0 are SEC Subsidiary Documents, any regression testing that is undertaken, e.g. as part of a SEC Release, will incur the additional time and cost to include these versions of DUIS, increasing the implementation time and cost for any relevant Modification Proposals. Given that there will be no further functionality changes to either version of this specification, SEC Parties will be paying additional costs for confirming that the previous versions remain unchanged.

What are the views of the industry?

Views of the DCC

The DCC have stated their intent to actively support a managed move to DUIS version 3.0 and towards the removal of versions 1.0 and 2.0 as SEC Subsidiary Documents. Doing so can ensure the operation of SMETS 1 and SMETS 2 meters runs as smoothly as possible.

Views of SEC Parties

The views of Parties will be gathered during the Development Stage.

Views of Panel Sub-Committees

The Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee (TABASC) reviewed this Draft Proposal and agreed that they have an interest in its progression. They commented that with an uplift planned to DUIS version 3.0 in the November 2019 SEC Release, the Proposer should consider planning for moves to DUIS version 3.1 instead. Members agreed with the proposal's intentions for a managed move to the most recent version of technical specifications. Finally, a member asked whether this Draft Proposal would look into an enduring solution so that proposals are not required for every removal of technical specification versions from the SEC.

The views of the other Panel Sub-Committees will be gathered during the Development Stage.

Views of the Change Sub-Committee

The views of the Change Sub-Committee will be gathered during the Development Stage.