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DP089 ‘Changes to Appendix R ‘Common Testing Scenarios Document’

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 Mari Toda from the Data Communications Company (DCC).

What is the issue or problem identified?

User Entry Process Testing

User Entry Process Tests (UEPT) are designed to demonstrate that any prospective User, in each User Role that they wish to take, can successfully send each of the Service Requests for which they will be eligible and can receive the corresponding Responses or Alerts. UEPT demonstrates the User's ability to connect to the DCC via the Party's DCC Gateway Connection, communicate via the requirements of DCC User Interface, and use the Self-Service Interface (SSI).

Existing Users who are UEPT complete may also be required to perform additional tests (Additive UEPT) when new functionality becomes available to a User Role via Releases.

The tests required for each User Role are set out in SEC Appendix R 'Common Test Scenarios Document' (CTSD).

Issues affecting Service Reference

SECMP0025 & SECMP0039: new User Roles on Service Reference

[SECMP0025 'Electricity Network Party Access to Load Switching Information'](#) and [SECMP0039 'Communication Hub returns notification mechanism for Other SEC Parties'](#) have been approved for implementation in the November 2019 SEC Release. These two SEC modifications add additional User Roles to the following Service Reference Variants (SRVs):

- SRV 7.7 'Read Auxiliary Load Control Switch Data' added to Electricity Distributor (ED) User Role (SECMP0025)
- SRV 8.14.3 'CH Status Update – Fault Return' added to Registered Supplier Agent (RSA) User Role (SECMP0039)
- SRV 8.14.4 'CH Status Update – No Fault Return' added to Registered Supplier Agent (RSA) User Role (SECMP0039)

Whilst the User Roles that can access these SRVs have been expanded, the testing of these changes by the newly added roles has not been specified in the CTSD and is therefore not mandated for either UEPT or Additive UEPT.

SEC contradiction

Contrary to the definition in SEC Appendix AD 'DCC User Interface Specification version 3.0' (DUIS), SRV 6.2.10 'Read Device Configuration (Event and Alert Behaviours)' is not applicable or available to SMETS1 Devices. However, as mandated by the CTSD, Smart Metering Equipment Technical Specifications (SMETS) 1 Eligibility Testing requires testing of SRV 6.2.10 against a SMETS1 Device for the ED User Role.

How does this issue relate to the SEC?

The CTSD defines what testing Users must undertake. The approved changes for the November 2019 SEC Release, did not include any changes to the CTSD. This means that the added User Roles are not currently required to test in UEPT or Additive UEPT for SRV 7.7, SRV8.14.3, and SRV 8.14.4.

Additionally, contrary to the current drafting of SEC Appendix AD, SRV 6.2.10 cannot be tested against SMETS1 Devices.

What is the impact this is having?

What are the impacts of the current position?

New User Roles on Service Requests

Without the mandating of testing for the added User Roles for SRV 7.7, SRV 8.14.3, and SRV 8.14.4, there is risk that following the implementation of the November 2019 SEC Release, Users operating in the new roles may exercise these SRVs without any prior testing of them.

Testing SRVs prior to use in production is good practice and the DCC believes that such User testing should be mandated via the CTSD. Such testing allows the individual User to check their interface and systems, whilst confirming that there is no adverse impact on the DCC System and other Users.

SEC contradiction

The ED User Role for SRV 6.2.10 will be in breach of Appendix R as they are unable to use this SRV. This would be through no fault of their own, as the CTSD wrongly requires this SRV to be run against SMETS1 Devices.

Without resolving this inconsistency, a general derogation against the requirement for SMETS1 devices would have to be granted.

What are the views of the industry?

Views of the DCC

The DCC strongly encourages Testing Participants to undertake the testing prior to using these Service Requests in the live (Production) environment. This is to minimise the risk of testing issues being found that could affect the live system, or that the Testing Participants' systems can use the functionality fully. Therefore, the DCC is supportive of this Proposal.

It further comments that as the testing will not be required to be performed retrospectively, it would be best to get this identified issue resolved and implemented into the SEC as soon as possible following the November 2019 SEC Release.

Views of SEC Parties

Some clarification was requested on the testing impacts of not including these changes with the November 2019 SEC Release. The Proposer is anticipating that testing will be taken up by Users in the New Year. SECAS suggests a standalone release to implement these changes as soon as possible following the November 2019 SEC Release.

Views of Panel Sub-Committees

The DCC presented the proposals in this problem statement to the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) on 28 August to seek its views. Members were broadly supportive and agreed that it was sensible to mandate the proposed SRVs.

Views of the Change Sub-Committee

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