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DP109

‘ADT and Exit Quarantine file delivery mechanism’

Modification Report

Version 0.1

Gemserv

About this document

This document is a draft Modification Report. It currently sets out the background, issue, and progression timetable for this modification, along with any relevant discussions, views and conclusions. This document will be updated as this modification progresses.

Contents

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1. Summary

This proposal was raised by Gary Fairclough from the Data Communications Company (DCC).

Smart Energy Code (SEC) Appendix AA 'Threshold Anomaly Detection Procedures' currently requires the Anomaly Detection Threshold (ADT) File and Exit Quarantine files to be provided to the Data Communications Company (DCC) by email. The DCC is of the opinion that it would be a more secure process to provide this information via a business as usual process using Self-Service Interface (SSI), albeit retaining the ability to invoke email as a delivery method in a disaster recovery situation.

2. Issue

What are the current arrangements?

Users are required to raise DCC Service Management service requests to obtain a reference number for submitting an ADT file. These are required by Users to provide the DCC with their service request forecasts and any trends to indicate heavy demand for any specific service requests. As such, these ADT files form a crucial part of the DCC's traffic management and forecasting for maintaining the most efficient use of the DCC Systems.

The SEC explicitly states that email is the delivery method required for Users submitting their ADT files to the DCC. The following sections in Appendix AA either state email as the only delivery method, or refer to an action required prior to an email being sent:

- Section 3.1
- Section 3.4
- Section 3.4(a)
- Section 4.7
- Section 4.7(a)
- Section 4.13
- Section 4.13(a)
- Section 6.1

What is the issue?

The SEC details that ADT and Exit Quarantine files can only be sent via email, which prevents alternative methods of delivery being used. Users are obligated to do this, for example in SEC Appendix AA Section 4.7 it states "Each User shall investigate and resolve the ADT exceeded event. Each User shall provide an email to the Service Desk indicating the action to be taken on each of the quarantined communications".

With the current arrangements, this results in emails being the single means of sending ADT and Exit Quarantine files. The DCC believes there are more secure methods available to sending these files. The ADT and Exit Quarantine files must be securely delivered due to these being data records that contain information private to both a User and the DCC. Failure to do so would be a classed as a data breach.

Additionally, ADTs provide protection to the electricity network by specifying the maximum number of Critical commands expected. This ensures there are no unexpected or malicious surges or reductions in power on the National Grid.

What is the impact this is having?

The DCC believes that the using email to provide ADT Files and subsequent updates is not as secure as the Self-Service Interface (SSI) and there are potential scenarios where this process could result in a breach of Security, either by malicious activity or human error. If the ADT and Exit Quarantine files

aren't securely delivered, then it allows the potential for unauthorised persons being able to access private data. If these data breaches occur, it could undermine the security and commercial image of the DCC's business processes. The suggested additional benefits by the Proposer are a single system for the delivery of files, resulting in less effort for end Users and DCC.

Appendix 1: Progression timetable

The timetable for DP109 is for the Draft Proposal to be presented at the next CSC for initial viewing. It will then proceed to the Panel Sub-Committees for comment and question whether members will be impacted by changing the delivery method as suggested in the proposal. After the views of the Sub-Committees have been received, and comments have been taken from SEC Parties and from DCC to determine the impacts to their systems (if any), it will be returned to the CSC for decision. If recommended for progression as a Modification Proposal, it will be taken to the next Panel meeting for conversion.

Timetable	
Action	**Date**
Taken to CSC for initial discussion	28 Jan 20
Presented to Sub-Committees for initial input	4 – 18 Feb 20
Taken to CSC for decision	25 Feb 20
Taken to Panel for conversion to Modification Proposal	13 Mar 20

Appendix 2: Glossary

This table lists all the acronyms used in this document and the full term they are an abbreviation for.

Glossary	
Acronym	**Full term**
ADT	Anomaly Detection Threshold
CSC	Change Sub-Committee
DCC	Data Communication Company
SEC	Smart Energy Code
SECAS	Smart Energy Code Administration and Secretariat
SMKI PMA	Smart Metering Key Infrastructure Policy Management Authority
SSC	Security Sub-Committee
SSI	Self-Service Interface
TABASC	Technical Architecture and Business Architecture Sub-Committee