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EBS External EDL & EDT Testing

June 2012

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Your views please!

- The following contains National Grid's proposals for the testing of EBS EDL and EDT with IT System Suppliers and Market Participants
- Please let us have your views on these proposals, either at the EBS IT meeting on 19th June
- Or by e-mailing EBS.IT@nationalgrid.com

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Test phases

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Test phases

- Initial supplier testing
  - With interim release of EBS EDT and EDL code
  - Won't include all the non-functional elements that will be in the main release e.g. multiple servers, load balancers
- Supplier type testing
  - Testing against main release of EBS EDT and EDL code
  - All versions of all client software in use
- Market Participant testing
  - Main subject of this presentation

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EDT Testing

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Reasons for EDT Testing

Reasons for testing:

- Major impact on market participants if doesn't work
  - Can't submit PNs to run units
  - Or prices to offer them in Balancing Mechanism
- National Grid not in possession of up-to-date information to balance system

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EDT Testing Proposal

- National Grid do verification test of EBS EDT
- Then supplier type-test of all versions of all clients
- Every market participant connects their EDT test box to a test EBS
  - Ideally the client test box would share infrastructure with production
    - Increase confidence that it will work at go-live

Options for further testing of EDT

- Could do more
  - e.g. take market participant's production EDT out of service and connect it to one or more "to be production" EBS stacks
    - Testing could just confirm connectivity
    - Or submit data as well
      - Risk of confusion – was data submitted to production or EBS?
      - Sequence number issues etc.

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EDL Testing

Reasons for EDL Testing

Reasons for testing:

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- Ensure control points can be sent instructions and submit redeclarations electronically

Industry

- Your views please!

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Market Participant Testing Options - EDL

Consequences of a station's EDL not working:

- Use telephone until fixed
- Impact on National Grid increases as number of stations affected increases
- Is this the same for market participants?
- Any other impacts of EDL not working?

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EDL Test Proposal

- National Grid do verification test of EBS EDL
- Then supplier type-test of all versions of all clients
- Subsequently connect market participants' test EDL systems to a test EBS
- Once client production firewalls programmed, then take short outages of production EDL service and attempt to connect clients through to EBS stacks
  - Only tests connection, would block any data submission and not issue any instructions

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Options for further testing of EDL

Could do more:

- Disconnect individual production EDL from existing system and connect through to production-capable EBS
  - Test connection, instruction receipt and submission of redeclarations
  - Could be disconnected at the National Grid end
  - Or at the Market Participant end
- But re-configuring production systems is not without risk
  - Does this risk outweigh the residual EDL risk that we are mitigating against?

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Transition – EDT FTP - Passwords and DNS

Pete Smith, 19th June 2012

EBS – EDT FTP Accounts & Passwords

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- FTP accounts/passwords are used for EDT file submission
- The FTP User names have a standard format – many have been used for over 10 years
- FTP passwords are only known to participants
- FTP passwords are held in an encrypted proprietary VMS file
- There is currently no means for participants to directly change their own passwords
- EBS will still require the use of FTP accounts for EDT

EBS – EDT FTP
Use of DNS

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- Most participants use a DNS name to locate the BM operational server
- National Grid recommend the use of DNS to take advantage of the improved service resilience provided by EBS
- Proposal is to use a new DNS for EBS as:
  - Means each participant can move independently to EBS
    - i.e. no big bang & associated service impact
  - Clear to participants whether they are connecting to BM or EBS

EBS – EDT FTP & DNS
Cut-over Principles

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- EDT cut-over to EBS should involve no intervention by participants (*at the point of cut-over)*
- The possibility of rolling back to BM must be considered
- NG will replicate BM data to EBS until participant moved over to EBS
- Participants will have a reasonable length of time to move over to EBS
  - How long do you think this should be?
- Existing FTP names can be used for EBS
- New DNS name for EBS

EDT FTP Passwords

- National Grid doesn't know participant BM passwords
- For National Grid to be sure of knowing BM passwords
  - We think we'd need to change them all some time before EBS cut-over
  - We could then set the EBS passwords to be the same
  - But would need subsequent change to a strong password
  - This is one option
- We think the other option is for National Grid to issue new passwords for EBS only
  - Would require participants to change their EDT FTP passwords in their client systems after EBS cut-over

EBS – EDT FTP & DNS Combined options

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1: New DNS name for EBS and Aligned FTP Account Passwords

2: New DNS name for EBS and Distinct FTP Account Passwords[1]

[1]There is no necessity to change the FTP account name unless this is deemed beneficial

Discussion of Option 1: New DNS & Aligned FTP Accounts

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- New passwords would be issued prior to cut-over
- The new passwords would be implemented for BM EDT FTP accounts
- Switching to the new passwords on BM would be done one participant at a time
- National Grid would need to keep BM and EBS passwords aligned
- Cut-over would require no password change – only DNS
- Risk - Production FTP credentials would be valid on a non production server

Discussion of Option 2: New DNS & Distinct FTP Accounts

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- Full-strength EBS passwords (not the same as BM) would be issued in advance of cut-over
  - Not need for subsequent change
- Once cut-over is confirmed participants should connect to EBS with the new DNS name and password
- Note that once EBS is live, participants can change their password by logging into an EBS web-page on our private network

Any views or questions?

- Or e-mail ebs.it@nationalgrid.com