



STAG Minutes

Meeting name	Software Technical Advisory Group (STAG)	Meeting no.	95
Date of meeting	16 December 2010	Time	10.30am
Venue	ELEXON Ltd 4th Floor 350 Euston Road London NW1 3AW		
In attendance	Ian Scougal (IS) Seth Chapman (SC) Dipak Sharma (DS) Richard Moss (RM) David Smith (DS) Richard Ascough (RA) Matthew McKeon (MM) Ananth Raja Gupta (AK) Abhishek Srivastava (AS) Kevin Spencer (KS) Sarah Kinnaird (SK)	Chair (ELEXON) User Club Forum Leader (G4S) E.ON Scottish and Southern Energy npower Logica EDF Energy Cognizant Cognizant ELEXON (part meeting) ELEXON (Secretary)	
Apologies	Paul McClennan Ed Sutton	Siemens Stark Software International	

You can access all STAG 95 related documentation [here](#).

1 User Club Meeting

1.1 This part of the meeting is held without ELEXON's attendance.

2 Agreement of STAG 94 Minutes and Apologies

2.1 Apologies were noted and the STAG 94 minutes were agreed without further comment.

3 Panel, SVG and ISG Update

3.1 IS said that there were no updates which had direct significance on STAG from the latest Panel, Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG) and Imbalance Settlement Group (ISG) meeting. The annual BSCCo Business Plan for 2011/12 was available on the ELEXON website to view if any of the STAG members were interested.

3.2 More information on the Panel can be found [here](#).

3.3 More information on the SVG can be found [here](#).

3.4 More information on the ISG can be found [here](#).

4 Live Issues Discussion Forum – Helpdesk Calls

4.1 AK provided an update on the two calls which were raised in the past month:

4.1.1 INC000001306685 – With Internet Explorer (IE) 8.0 version, there is a new utility called 'Data Execution Protection'. If this utility detects a program that attempts to run a code from a

memory page that is not marked executable, it halts execution of the program resulting in a 'crash'. The solution at the moment is to run FORMS from IE 6.0 version. This call was closed.

- 4.1.2 INC000001399818 – This was an information request to know the location of the ELERT utility software. The location of the software in the ELEXON Portal was provided and this call was closed.

5 Status of SVA Change Proposals and future developments

- 5.1 IS updated the STAG members that there was currently no Change Proposals which affected SVA but if the STAG had any questions on any changes, please contact Stuart Holmes.

6 Update on the Profiling and Settlement Review Group (PSRG)

- 6.1 KS provided an update on the work of the Profiling and Settlement Review Group (PSRG). He said that the PSRG members were currently reviewing the final draft of the Executive Summary. At the moment, the Executive Summary states that, over a five year period, the estimated costs will be £35.1m and the estimated benefits for the same period of time will be £85m.
- 6.2 From the Cost Benefit Analysis Impact Assessment, it appears that there is support from all parties for Half Hourly (HH) settlement at some time in the future and the benefits include more accurate demand forecasting, more cost-effective tariffs development, more accurate billing and carbon reduction. The PSRG believe that there is a clear cost benefit got going to HH settlement at some in the future and that this should be mandated. This is also seen as a fore-runner for smart metering and will help to identify issues early on which might affect smart.
- 6.3 The PSRG recognise there are still significant costs for support agencies and the current HH DUoS charging regime dis-incentivises HH settlement. It is clear that the industry cannot move forward with this change until these issues are resolved to industry satisfaction. There is work underway to address these issues and the HH DUoS methodology is being reviewed by the DNC Forum and the target date is April 2012. The final report will be going to the Supplier Volume Allocation Group (SVG) on 4 January 2011.
- 6.4 DS asked what the general opinion was for the PSRG recommendation of mandating the change rather than making it optional and KS said that some parties thought it should be commercially driven initially but supported it being mandated at a future date with the possibility of it being optional in the beginning until the issues identified had been resolved.
- 6.5 DS asked if the DUoS charging methodology was reviewed on target by 2012, was the PSRG still recommending that the Profile Classes 5-8 should be settled HH by 2014 and KS said any date defined would be dependent on the Duos review and ensuring other issue are resolved.
- 6.6 MM asked whether any consideration was give to the other Profile Classes such as 3 and 4. KS said the Impact Assessment touched on Profile Classes 1-4 rather than just 3 & 4 but focused on Profile Classes 5-8. KS also said that this work of the PSRG was only one part of any future solutions and ELEXON were working on other areas and Profile Classes 3 – 4 which may be the next to be considered.

7 Actions from STAG 94

- 7.1 There were five open actions:

- 7.1.1 Action 93/01 – Failed instruction update. AK said that three more participants had provided Stage 1 results and they were waiting on one more participant responses. Cognizant had started their analysis and their initial impression is that this issue is much bigger than originally thought. They were working on identifying the root cause and the script. AK said due to the fact that this was a much bigger problem this fix would be delayed and asked whether the STAG were happy for the script to be sent to them early March 2011, which the STAG confirmed they were. This action remained open.
- 7.1.2 Action 94/01 – Internet Explorer 8 & NHHDA forms. The STAG agreed to close this action provided the update given at this meeting was included in the minutes.
- 7.1.3 Action 94/02 – ELEXON confirmed requalification would not be necessary for the proposed Oracle 11g upgrade. IS said ELEXON would issue a TAI or CP on this proposed change if it was progressed. This action was closed.
- 7.1.4 Action 94/03 – D0023s requirements. Jon Spence is writing a spec for the D0023 scripts which he will then run past Cognizant. He will then discuss how these can best be developed. As the scripts are unlikely to be ready for this year's data request from the Auditor, we will share the spec with NHHDAs and the Auditor. The Auditor has previously indicated that they will take into account a lower count of D0023s where the NHHDC is still appointed, if NHHDAs are able to provide it. IS updated the group that JS would be sending out an email shortly to STAG members with the draft requirements, asking for their comments. IS also said this did mean that the solution would not be ready in time for this audit but that companies were welcome to produce their own scripts and the auditor was aware of the issue. This action remained open.
- 7.1.5 Action 94/04 – AFYC Fix. This action was closed as it was already open on the helpdesk calls and today's discussion would be included in the minutes.

8 Agenda Items

- 8.1 The STAG members asked that the PSRG work was included on the next agenda.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Proposed Oracle 11g Upgrade

- 9.1.1 AK informed the group that Cognizant and ELEXON were still analysing the proposed upgrade to Oracle 11g. He said that if they migrated from 10.2.0.3 to 10.2.0.5 there was no BSC Code change required and there would be minimal testing and impact. The support from 10gR5 Oracle DB would be until July 2013 but this would no longer be free. DS asked whether OAS had been considered and AK said it had but the analysis on this had not been completed.
- 9.1.2 MM said that his company had already upgraded to 11g as they preferred the longer support offered by Oracle and did not want to negotiate between the various mid-versions. However they had encountered issues if running on IE6. Oracle had recommended running with IE8 but they did not do this as they still required IE6 and it was not possible to run both versions at the same time. MM said that if 11g required coming off IE6 then this would have a knock-on effect which AK should consider in their analysis which AK said they would. RA asked how long Microsoft would continue to support IE6 and AK said this was already out of support from Microsoft. RA said this issue would then also have impact because if companies bought new PCs then they would not have IE6.

- 9.1.3 IS asked what the group was they impact would be on everyone if ELEXON said it was not going to do the upgrade and leave the current version as it stands, but unsupported. SC said that they would be quite happy to do that, provided they knew it would be upgraded to 11g in the future. MM agreed and said it would be worth considering including the 11g upgrade in the November 2011 or February 2012 release.
- 9.1.4 RA asked if 10.2.0.5 will have some query changes after upgrade. AK said under 10.2.0.5, the changes will be at a database level and will not impact the source code. Hence there will not be any increase in testing effort.
- 9.1.5 IS asked the group what the impact would be if there was no upgrade done at all and SC said this would not be a good idea as if there were any future changes to DA then this would become an issue. RM said although the current Smart plans did not include moving DA into the DCC, this was proposed for the future and could be a factor for consideration in future spending, given that the system is not going to last forever.
- 9.1.6 SC said that the main concern of the STAG was that there was structured plan with timescales in place. He said the group's recommendation would be to not do the upgrade now and ELEXON should start the project plan to upgrade to 11g in late 2011 or 2012. MM asked that the transitional period also be flexible so companies could upgrade when necessary rather than by a specific time.
- 9.2 AFYC Fix
- 9.2.1 AK asked what the impact is on all parties and whether the AFYC fix needed to be implemented across all fronts and not just to the party who raised the original helpdesk call. MM said this issue causes problems when an MSID is undergoing a change of Profile Class, and has two PC flags, because of which the system uses an incorrect combination of PC and SSC to assign the correct AFYC value. This would result in D0019 instructions being rejected, causing D0095 exceptions due to the missing AAs.
- 9.2.2 RA said this was probably impacting all parties but that scenario meant it was probably too small an impact for people to notice but this would add up over time. MM recommended that this fix is mandated as there is a risk of this not going through if data changes hands.
- 9.2.3 RA said that although it would not be possible to create a script to determine to what extent NHHDCs were impacted - due to differing systems - the D0095 code is E06-NTY, or the D0023 Failed Instruction would say "EAC missing from Measurement Requirement", if NHHDCs wanted to search for these type of errors in the meantime. MM suggested that it may be worth sending some guidance to this effect, so Parties could determine how badly they are impacted.
- 9.2.4 IS asked what would be the best implementation approach and the STAG agreed that they needed two months notice. Therefore it was agreed that it should be done by the end of the current audit period, March 2011.

10 User Club Feedback

- 10.1 SC said that all topics raised during the user club meeting had been covered.

11 Date of next meeting

- 11.1 The date of the next STAG meeting will be 27 January 2011.