

Change Proposal – F40/01

CP No: 1006

Version No: 1.0

Title *(mandatory by originator)*

Revised NHHDA archiving system parameters default values

Description of Problem/Issue *(mandatory by originator)*

Opportunity was taken during the 'NHHDA & EAC/AA 7.3.0 Project' to assess the suitability of the recommended NHHDA system parameters concerned with database and file archiving. After consultation with users of the NHHDA software, 'UNIX Upgrade of NHHDA & EAC/AA Project - Circular 02' was published giving revised recommended default values and the rationale for the proposed changes (copy enclosed).

The NHHDA installation process for a new database, and the NHHDA System Management Guide, have not been updated to reflect the revised default values contained in 'UNIX Upgrade of NHHDA & EAC/AA Project - Circular 02'.

The revised default values will not affect existing NHHDA users as once installed these parameters are maintained via the NHHDA application's client screens. However, the System Management Guide is a reference for the maintenance of these parameters and therefore should reflect the latest advice given.

Proposed Solution(s) *(mandatory by originator)*

Change the NHHDA installation process for creating new NHHDA databases and the NHHDA System Management Guide to use the revised default values contained 'UNIX Upgrade of NHHDA & EAC/AA Project - Circular 02' (shown in bold).

Justification for Change *(mandatory by originator)*

Bring the NHHDA software (new database installation process) and NHHDA documentation into alignment with the recommended default values given in 'UNIX Upgrade of NHHDA & EAC/AA Project - Circular 02'.

Configurable Items Potentially Affected by Proposed Solution(s) *(optional by Originator)*

None.

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Impact on Core Industry Documents <i>(optional by originator)</i> None	
Related Changes and/or Projects <i>(mandatory by BSSCo)</i>	
Requested Implementation Date <i>(mandatory by originator)</i> Next appropriate release of the NHHDA software and documentation. Reason:	
Agreed Release/Implementation Date <i>(mandatory by BSSCo)</i>	
Originator's Details: BCA Name <i>John Walsh</i> Organisation <i>ELEXON</i> Email Address Date <i>9 September 2003</i>	
Attachments: Y (No. of Pages attached:.....5) <i>(delete as appropriate)</i>	

UNIX Upgrade of NHHDA & EACAA Project - Circular 02

TO: UNIX Upgrade of NHHDA & EACAA Project Contacts

DATE: 20 September 2002

NHHDA Archiving Parameter Default Value Advice

Introduction

With the introduction of the Non Half Hourly Data Aggregation (NHHDA) 7.3.0 release, users will now be able to archive their database data for the first time. As part of this release, ELEXON agreed to provide advice to users on the recommended NHHDA database archiving parameter values. In determining this advice, ELEXON thought it was also opportune to review the recommended default values for all the NHHDA parameters. The review was based on the data retention requirements and operational experience gained since the NHHDA application software was first released and used.

The parameter review assumed that users are following the advice given in the NHHDA Operations Guide (Section 3.0) with regard to the order of their daily tasks and archiving. This can be summarised as follows:

1. Load Files
2. Aggregation Run
3. Check Data Collector Data (CDCD)
4. Backup (Database and File Storage)
5. Archiving (including the CSC, CFS, CFR logs)

The Daily Backups would then be retained for a period of time.

At present, the data being potentially archived off is governed by the Pool data retention rules, i.e. 28 months. However, after July 2003 the data will be NETA data and hence will be governed by the rules of the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC). Unfortunately there are known inconsistencies in the legal framework for data retention within the BSC and its supporting documentation. For example, section U2.2.3 of the BSC implies a requirement that it should be possible to rerun settlement 3 or more years after the Settlement Day. However the NHHDA Service Lines do not support this requirement.

In considering the industry impact assessments of Change Proposal CP517, the BSC Panel and its Committees (e.g. the Supplier Volume Allocation Group) expressed some concern that updating Party Service Lines to support re-runs of settlement three years after the Settlement Day might not be cost effective. ELEXON is currently investigating this issue (which could potentially require a Modification Proposal to resolve). In the meantime ELEXON, in consultation with Logica, have used the following guiding principles in order determine whether each parameter should be changed, or not:

- Data required to run Settlements should be retained in the database for at least 28 months in order to support post-Final disputes.
- The Daily Backups should be retained for a period of at least 4 years to allow disputes to be investigated and settled outside of the Settlement process.

- Minor adjustments based on feedback from operational and problem investigation/resolution experience.

In order to ensure that Audit and Disputes requirements are met, ELEXON strongly recommends that every daily backup tape should be retained for four years. ELEXON is considering reviewing (with the assistance of the Trading Disputes Committee and other interested parties) whether a less rigorous data retention strategy (such as only retaining one backup tape per week or month for the full four years) is capable of meeting these requirements. In the meantime, however, ELEXON cannot recommend any such strategy.

If you have any queries relating to the 'UNIX Upgrade of NHHDA and EAC/AA Project' please contact Colin Berry (Project Secretary) on 020 7380 4112 or email colin.berry@elexon.co.uk.

ELEXON recommended default NHHDA Parameter Values

Parameters that have changed have been highlighted in bold. The values presented in the last column are the ELEXON recommended default values for NHHDA Release 7.3.0 and all subsequent releases. Users are free to modify them to their own particular business requirements and circumstances but ELEXON will expect the data to be retained for at least the new recommended default value periods.

Parameter	Description	Pre 7.3.0 default value	Reason for change	Post 7.3.0 default value
ARP/DBA	Activity based DB data period The number of days between successive archiving of data stored in the cdb_activity and cdb_activity_parameter database tables. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.	3	No Change	3
ARP/FAU	Audit log retention period The number of days between successive archiving of audit logs. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.	2	No Change	2
ARP/FCE	CDCD exception period The number of days between successive archiving of Check Data Collector Data exception logs. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.	5	It was felt that this data group should be retained for at least 7 days to help with any subsequent investigations.	7
ARP/DBF	DB File reference period The number of days between successive archiving of data held in the File Information tables (except cdb_file_processing) listed in section 5.1 of the NHHDA System Management Guide. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.	2500	These table hold a record of where a particular file has been archived to, and therefore should be kept for as long as the backup tapes are retained. If the users release their Backups after 4 years on the advice of ELEXON, then there is no need to keep this reference for any longer. {4 * 366 = 1464 and rounded up to 1500}	1500
ARP/FER	Error Log Period The number of days between successive archiving of Error Logs. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.	2	It was felt that this data group should be retained for at least 7 days to help with any subsequent investigations.	7

Parameter	Description	Pre 7.3.0 default value	Reason for change	Post 7.3.0 default value
ARP/FEX	<p>Exception period</p> <p>The number of days between successive archiving of: Data Aggregation Run Exception log; Load SSC Exception Log; Load Data Aggregation Settlement Timetable Exception log. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.</p>	2	It was felt that this data group should be retained for at least 7 days to help with any subsequent investigations.	7
ARP/FFI	<p>Failed Instructions period</p> <p>The number of days between successive archiving of failed Instructions. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.</p>	2	No Change.	2
ARP/FID	<p>Incoming Data File period</p> <p>The number of days between successive archiving of incoming data files. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.</p>	2	No Change	2
ARP/FIN	<p>Instruction File period</p> <p>The number of days between successive archiving of Instruction Files. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.</p>	2	<p>Increasing this parameter will mean that data is retained in the ndb_instructions table for longer after the Instruction File is ready to be archived. This will help with investigations and reporting queries (e.g. PARMs).</p> <p>Note: Changing this parameter will not only affect the database storage requirements for the ndb_instruction table but also the system file storage space where the Instruction Files are kept.</p>	Min 7, but prefer 28
ARP/FOP	<p>Operator log period</p> <p>The number of days between successive archiving of Operator logs. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.</p>	2	It was felt that this data group should be retained for at least 7 days to help with any subsequent investigations.	7

Parameter	Description	Pre 7.3.0 default value	Reason for change	Post 7.3.0 default value
ARP/DAG	<p>SPM DB table period</p> <p>Number of days between successive archiving of Supplier Purchase Matrix data in the database. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.</p>	2500	<p>Retain Settlement Data on the database for 28 months (Note: The SPM data is stored in the Temp_objects tablespace which should be sized to hold at least a DAG's worth of SPM data).</p> <p>{28 * 31 = 868. Rounded up to 900}</p>	900
ARP/FSP	<p>SPM retention period</p> <p>The number of days between successive archiving of Supplier Purchase Matrices. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.</p>	5	This is OK since we can always reproduce the original file from data stored on the database (see DAG parameter above)	5
ARP/DBS	<p>Schedule based DB data period</p> <p>The number of days between successive archiving of Settlement based db data. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.</p>	2000	<p>Prior to 7.3.0, this was set to a large value to prevent database archiving. This can now be reduced to 28 months – Settlement Data retention period. (Note: Users should not attempt to reduce it to 900 in one go but instead reduce it to 900 in a series of small decrements, i.e. archive off the backlog of data in small chunks only)</p> <p>{28 * 31 = 868. Rounded up to 900}</p>	900
ARP/FUK	<p>Unknown File Retention Period</p> <p>The number of days between successive archiving of files unrecognised by the NHHDA application software. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.</p>	2	It was felt that this data group should be retained for at least 7 days to help with any subsequent investigations.	7
ARP/FUR	<p>User report period</p> <p>The number of days between successive archiving of machine- and human-readable reports. Refer to section 12 of the NHHDA System Management Guide for further details.</p>	2	No Change	2