

Change Proposal – F40/01 (Page 1 of 2)

CP No: 907
(mandatory by BSCCo)

Title (mandatory by originator)

Security concerns surrounding use of Oracle SYS user for NHHDA & EAC/AA upgrades

Description of Change (mandatory by originator)

The current approach to upgrades of the NHHDA & EAC/AA software requires user organisations to log on as the Oracle SYS user raising implications from an IT security & controls perspective.

The approach to upgrades of the Pool software requires the user organization to log on as the Oracle SYS user raising implications from an IT security & controls perspective. Connecting to an Oracle database as SYS allows the user to manipulate the data contained in the data dictionary tables - the comprehensive set of tables and views internal to Oracle. These provide a vital source of information for the RDBMS itself, and are used internally by Oracle to manage all objects contained in the database. In the event of an uncontrolled error being experienced during upgrade, user organizations upgrading as SYS run the risk of corrupting the data dictionary. If this was to occur a full database recovery would be required which could take several hours to complete. Whilst we appreciate the need for the SYS user at time of database creation/initialization, we consider that this level of access at the time of upgrade is unnecessary.

ScottishPower do not believe that any actions occur during the upgrade that could not be performed by a dedicated DBA user to whom the correct privileges are granted. This would add greater vigour to the upgrade process and would allow user organisations to maintain the security of information processing facilities and information assets, of particular relevance when these are being accessed by third parties.

Proposed Solution(s) (mandatory by originator)

Change upgrade script so that the SYS password will only be required when creating a new database or re-creating an existing database.

Justification for Change (*mandatory by originator*)

To implement increased levels of systems security during upgrades and will no longer run the risk of corrupting the data dictionary tables during upgrades.

Change Proposal – F40/01 (Page 2 of 2)

CP No:907
(*mandatory by BSCCo*)

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

Impact on Core Industry Documents (*optional by originator*)

Related Changes and/or Projects (*mandatory by BSCCo*)

This has been raised from SIR3009 which was originally raised by Scottish Power.

Originator's Details:

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Organisation.....*ELEXON*.....

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Date.....*9/1/3*.....

Organisation.....

Attachments: Y/N* (If Yes, No. of Pages attached:.....)
(*delete as appropriate*)