Change Proposal – BSCP40/02

CP No: 1436

Version No: 1.0 (mandatory by BSCCo)

Title (mandatory by originator)

EAC/AA and NHHDA Applications – Windows Server upgrade.

Description of Problem/Issue (mandatory by originator)

The Non Half Hourly Data Aggregator (NHHDA) and Estimated Annual Consumption (EAC)/Annualised Advances (AA) software applications are designed to support running on a 'Solaris only' and a 'Solaris/Windows Server' platform. NHHDAs then have the choice to run their instances of the applications on either the Solaris or Solaris/Windows configurations.

An exercise in January 2015 identified that 11 of 13 NHHDAs were running the Solaris only configuration, with just two of 13 employing the Solaris/Windows combination. There are no immediate concerns for the 'Solaris only' configuration, as Solaris v5.10 will be supported by Oracle until January 2021, so agents who are running on this configuration will not be impacted.

The current version of Windows Server (2003) will reach its end of life in July 2015. The two NHHDAs running this configuration may look to upgrade their current version of Windows Server to ensure they remain supported, as well as protected against cyber-attacks, virus and malware since most endpoint protection solutions will stop supporting Windows Server 2003.

Proposed Solution (mandatory by originator)

ELEXON and its Application Management and Development (AMD) service provider will develop, test and deploy new versions of the NHHDA and EAC/AA applications (the Oracle forms and reports component only, not the databases) that are compatible with a currently supported version of Windows Server.

Following a discussion with the two impacted NHHDAs, their preference would be to move to Windows Server 2012 as it will ensure continuous extended support until 2023. The process of making the applications compatible with Windows Server 2012 will entail a lead time of nine weeks, plus a further four weeks assistance to agents during migration.

Justification for Change (mandatory by originator)

Upgrading the NHHDA and EAC/AA applications to run on Windows Server 2012 will ensure compatibility with the latest fully supported version. As a consequence, the upgrade would have a number of material benefits for both the developer and users of this software:

- 1. Maintain availability of full vendor support service for users of the applications;
- 2. Minimise risk of being unable to take advantage of defect fixes and other enhancements made available by the vendor;
- 3. Minimise reliance on reduced vendor support service for both developer and users; and
- 4. Minimise cost of vendor support for both developer and users.

To which section of the Code does the CP relate, and does the CP facilitate the current provisions of the Code? (mandatory by originator)

Section F 'Modification Procedure'

Estimated Implementation Costs (mandatory by BSCCo)

3 ELEXON man days for implementation effort equating to £720 and approximately £40,000 for Demand Led system changes to deliver the new software to agents.

The total cost to implement CP1436 would therefore be approximately £40,720.

Configurable Items Affected by Proposed Solution(s) (mandatory by originator)

- NHHDA System Management Guide
- NHHDA Installation Guide

Impact on Core Industry Documents or System Operator-Transmission Owner Code (mandatory by originator)

None identified.

Related Changes and/or Projects (mandatory by BSCCo)

None identified.

Requested Implementation Date:

Requested implementation for **5 November 2015** as part of the November 2015 BSC Systems Release.

Reason: This is the next available Release, however the two impacted agents have indicated an intention to implement the changes as soon as possible, and so will complete their upgrade as soon as the new applications are made available.

Version History (mandatory by BSCCo)

Version 1.0 of CP1436 was issued on 5 March 2015.

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