

On 12 Feb 2010, at 15:48, .Box.UKLINK.Manual wrote:

**Subject: CB/947/DA - Amendment of Existing EFT Formats from Excel (XLS) to XML or CSV**

Colleague,

Following investigation of the existing ConQuest EFT file formats, we would like to propose the amendment of these formats from an Excel spreadsheet issued via e-mail, to a more recognised file format structure. Use of Excel is not a recognised file transfer protocol and therefore would require a bespoke solution for the new 'Q' system, and could present security issues with regards to viruses.

It is proposed that the existing templates are amended to use either XML or CSV formats – which will enable consistency of treatment of these files with other formats issued and received by xoserve. By use of header and trailer records this will ensure the risk of missing records is mitigated, and control over the numbering convention will ensure the ability to ensure completeness of file transactions received.

CSV has previously been a common standard adopted by xoserve, however separate views are also invited from Users about the practicality of adopting XML formats for new applications. XML is considered to be a universally accepted and more contemporary standard. It is recognised that this may be considered a fundamental change, but initial User views are invited as this may assist in formulating our thinking.

User representations are invited on the transfer to either CSV or XML formats by 26th February 2010. We appreciate your input into this process at the early stage of the project, as this will assist in defining our solution.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

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