



Method of transportation for the Invoicing Supporting Information Files Options

UKLC 14/04/2016

Background

- In June 2015 Xoserve proposed 'splitting' and compressing the three Secondary Level Supporting Information file formats [.COI / .CZI / .AML] which are too large to transfer via the I'X
- As a result of our proposals we were requested to analyse alternative methods for the transportation of these files
- Over the last 9 months Xoserve have been analysing and assessing the feasibility of these options and subsequently engaging with the industry

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- Communication reference 1519.5 issued on 12th February 2016 detailed the options that had been explored and the outcomes. This included:
 - Software Compression
 - Network Compression
 - I'X Upgrade
 - File splitting
 - Use of the token file

Software Compression

- Software compression is currently an option for the 3 supporting Invoicing Files only
- Users can elect to receive files compressed by Shipper Short Code and by File Extension (therefore can opt out)
- The compression software we propose is GZip, which uses the deflate algorithm
- Files that are subject to compression will not adhere to the standard naming convention (5.8.3), compressed files will have a .gz suffix appended to the usual file naming standard
- We predict a compression ratio of 90%. With a split target cap of 400Mbytes this will result in a maximum compressed file size of 40Mbytes

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Network Compression

- Network compression is not currently available; the product concerned (Riverbed) is still to be incorporated in to our third party providers product catalogue
- It remains to be confirmed what compression ratio will be achieved
- Costs will not be dissimilar from the proposed costs for an I'X upgrade cost
- It remains our suppliers recommendation that the best way to address the large file issue is through an I'X upgrade rather than network compression. We support this conclusion

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I'X Upgrade

- I'X upgrades can ensure delivery of the three large invoicing files
- An I'X upgrade can be delivered for parties prior to 'go live' of UKLP provided the order is submitted by the end of May 2016
- Ongoing parties can take a view as to when they need to upgrade based on portfolio size and uptake of meter points into class 3
- We will contact Users separately where we consider you should take this option
- Costs can be confirmed to parties on an individual basis

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File Splitting

- The maximum individual output file size will be 400MB, therefore where any information is to be conveyed larger than this size the file will be split into multiple files, each less than 400MB
- The file type will be split based upon a maximum number of records contained within the file
- Xoserve were asked to look at whether the 'splitting' could be completed in regards to a more logical process, this cannot be completed for day one of UKLP
- Analysis highlighted that should files be created on a logical split basis i.e. Network, LDZ, Exit Zone, Shipper, Supplier, and EUC would still produce files greater than 400Mb and therefore still be subject to 'splitting'

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The token file

- The Token file informs Users of how many files they should receive. It was initially introduced to aid Users to understand when the transfer of all files is complete
- Communication reference 1478.3 was issued within the Change Pack on 20th November to explain the treatment of the file
- The token file has received mixed reviews from across the industry since its proposed introduction
- In light of not being able to split the files logically Users are invited to confirm they wish for its rejection

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Other Considerations

- A third party provider is currently analysing whether it is possible to offer compression within EFT however analysis of this will not be complete for up to 8 weeks (timescales are indicative and may change). This option is unlikely to be available for day 1 but may assist Users longer term
- AMT Sybex Marketflow will be bypassed when the AML, COI and CZI files are sent, whether compressed or not. All validation will happen in SAP BW instead at the point of file creation
- Scheduling of individual file transfers is possible in our solution. The exact schedule has yet to be confirmed for these three files

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Summary

- Users to confirm whether they wish to receive their large (.AML, .COI, .CZI) files compressed
 - N.B Regardless of compression all files over 400Mb will be split
- Recommendation to some Users to I'X upgrade

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