

Modification Proposal 0248: Meter Reading Replacement

System change considerations

1. Introduction

This update summarises the nature of the system changes required to support this modification and includes xoserve's broad brush estimate of non-binding implementation costs as requested at the Distribution Workstream on 25 February 2010.

2. Nature of system changes

The replacement of a meter reading held in UK Link systems cannot be done in isolation to the many other system processes that follow from a read submission. The submission of a meter reading drives or triggers many other system processes. To amend the systems to develop specific rules for the treatment of a replacement read has wide ranging impacts on the systems processes which would require changes to the data tables that support these system processes. This area of UK Link is one of the most complex, based upon the business rules in UNC, and one of the highest volume for transactional activities.

Analysis of the various solution options identified impacts and/or risks that make each option either unfeasible or impossible to analyse within the scope of ROM analysis. The Impacts/Risks were...

- The very high volume of processes impacted if new type of reads are inserted into existing database tables;
- Intolerable system performance degradation of AQ processes if new database tables are defined to hold the new type of reads;
- The excessive UKLink data storage requirements of a solution that avoids both performance and impact issues.

Under the scope of the ROM process, it has not been possible to assess the full extent of changes required or to assess the potential costs for these changes in order to produce a ROM.

The only way xoserve can assess the extent of changes and therefore derive development and implementation costs is to conduct a detailed analysis activity to assess potential solution options produce a DCA.

The DCA has been estimated to cost between £40,000 and £80,000 to produce.

3. Broad brush assessment of implementation costs

At the Distribution Workstream on 25 February 2010, xoserve was asked it could provide any information that may inform the decision on whether to proceed with the Modification Proposal (action 0203). It was accepted at this meeting that any information provided would not be a ROM and could only be a broad-brush assessment.

Having assessed the information available, xoserve considers that the lower limit for xoserve implementation costs could be considered as £400,000, the upper limit may be considered to be £1.5m.