

## **Notes of Gemini Shipper Forum**

**8 December 2004**

**Aeonian Training Centre, London**

### **Present**

Attendees are listed at the end of the document.

### **Issues Log**

Carried over from the Gemini Shipper Group; updated and included in the presentational material.

### **Workshop Content**

#### **Progress from previous meeting**

Mark Nicolson ran through the actions from the previous meeting

#### ***Screen Data Access Proof of Concept***

Steve Thompson presented the conclusion of the Screen Data Access Proof of Concept, which had been discussed at the last Shipper Working Group and been distributed to the wider community.

Shippers who wish to access Screen Data via Citrix need to decide on which toolset they wish to use and engage with the relevant supplier.

Contingency arrangements must support Citrix.

#### ***Future System Changes***

The process for post-implementation Gemini changes is being discussed within NGT as part of the wider governance processes surrounding systems that xoserve will operate and run following the segregation of xoserve and NGT. Roy Leddy from xoserve offered to meet with a representative group to identify what the issues/concerns are and to work out possible solutions to ensure shipper visibility and input into future changes.

This activity is separate from the Gemini Programme as xoserve is focussed upon delivering an enduring service, following implementation of Phase 2 of Gemini.

A meeting will be held following a Shipper Working Group, as SWG members are better positioned to identify the issues/concerns and assist Roy Leddy in drafting possible solutions to address these issues and concerns.

The plan going forward is that xoserve will act as the co-ordinator of the systems governance framework for xoserve systems including assessing impact upon systems of any Network Code Modifications (or other proposed changes) and recommending solutions to the network owners.

## **Delegated Password Administration**

Gareth Hepworth presented the current requirements, Helpdesk performance statistics, the current process within AT-Link and Entry Capacity and the proposed Helpdesk process. This is purely for the Gemini project, and the point was made that the Helpdesk will stay where it is after go-live.

NGT to check reports that it can currently take up to 72 hours to reset a password.

NGT to explain why there have to be separate Citrix and Gemini passwords.

The password reset will form part of the Service Level Agreement, which will be agreed as part of the Acceptance Criteria.

## **Acceptance Criteria Update**

Mark Nicolson presented the process and an update of the document, asking for comments back by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2004. Performance has already been raised as an issue for further discussion during the next SWG.

NGT were requested to add to this document the following points:

- Handover to xoserve
- Matrix from the ISL document
- How to update the Network Code

The question of whether the current levels in the Network Code are technically feasible in a 'like for like' state was raised by Shippers as a response to the statement that current processes should be at least met, if not bettered by Gemini.

NGT need to define measurements and the criteria which built them and add this matrix so shippers can comment objectively, as it was felt, for example, that it was unfair to compare the performance of an API with the existing screen-scraping process.

The purpose of the Acceptance Criteria document is to give Shippers the confidence they need for go-live. It is not meant to be a detailed plan which contains tasks, but to show what we are trying to achieve and prove that criteria has been met. It may be challenged at both the Shipper Working Group Meetings and the Shipper Forum.

NGT were asked if bulk uploads and downloads were going to be benchmarked.

## **IX Upgrades**

Gareth Hepworth presented the recommendations of IX Upgrade needed. Shippers to provide further feedback on actual usage.

The estimated percentages by pipe-size were given as 50-60% of shippers having 64k bandwidth, the rest having between 128-512k. NGT to provide actual percentages by pipe-size.

## **Re-planning Update**

John Regan presented the current position on the program re-planning activity, highlighting the significant challenges such as the incorporation of Early View Testing and the longer duration for Shipper Trials.

It is now proposed that the Gemini Energy Balancing and Exit Capacity Go-Live will be the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> October 2005. This is viewed as the most appropriate date as it includes contingency for the key activity timescales to be delivered. The program is currently carrying out a full risk assessment to make sure that this go-live date is achievable. Based on the outputs of this exercise, the implementation plan will be created and discussed at the next SWG.

The detailed plan will then be presented to the Shipper Forum on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2005, and then the UK Link committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

API Early View testing will be split in to two phases. Phase One will cover the APIs that were originally in the Gemini scope (19 APIs plus Bulk Uploads and Downloads). Phase One will persist into Phase Two. System testing is now finished for Phase One APIs. Phase Two will include the eleven new APIs for Energy Balancing and Entry Capacity.

Shippers stated that the timing of training is vital for shift-rota workers and that the dates should be shared sooner rather than later.

Regression testing has been extended to 4 weeks for UDT.

NGT are confident in the quality of the testing; currently 60% of the 3,000 test cases have been executed and there have only been 40 severe defects discovered.

NGT to publish critical path milestone plan.

The detail of the phased cutover will be discussed at next SWG.

### **Early View Testing**

Gareth Hepworth went through the API testing proposed for Early View Testing noting the following:

Screen functionality will be available in this period.  
There will be two four-week periods – the first for Phase One, the second for Phase Two.

NGT are planning to distribute connection details mid-January

The first Developer Workshop was held on Tuesday 7 December 2004, the feedback from which has been very positive

The reason there are two batches of APIs is due to phased development timescales. Shippers requested that it would be preferable to test the API for Daily Nominations during the first phase.

Changes to APIs will be approved following the normal format – via the SWG and the SF to the UK Link committee

### **Shipper Trials**

Tim Bradley presented the proposed timetables for Energy Balancing and Exit Capacity, both following the same pattern of two cycles of three weeks.

It was suggested that there should be a standard form to report defects and issues along with a process to ensure information is shared with other Shippers during the Trials. NGT to formalise a process for recording and sharing fault reports.

API testing support will be via a single phone number, but this will not be the Helpdesk.

It was requested that NGT send out the topology of the test server.

NGT were asked to facilitate a day of high-volume testing and to publish what they expect the server to be able to support on that day.

### **Next Steps**

Mark Nicolson stated the date for the next SWG meeting is the 11/01/05 and the next Shipper Forum is proposed for 18/01/05.

The notes and presentations from previous meetings will be displayed on the Gemini website

The re-planning documents will be updated before the January Forum.

**Present:**

Neil Dewar	APX Group
Alan Day	Attachmate
Harjit Ruprai	Barclays
Tomasine Mayes	Barclays
Anupam Gupta	British Gas Group
Dave Roberts	Centrica
Nick Gold	Centrica
Kamini Patel	Centrica Storage
Stuart Waudby	Centrica Storage
Thomas Jesshop	Conoco Phillips
Andy Ryder	E.On
Daniel Robinson	E.On
Marco Scherer	E.On
Tim Johnson	E.On
James Smith	EDF Energy
Sanjay Patel	EDF Energy
Mark Mugglestone	Exxonmobil
Jacqui Revitt	Gaz de France
Richard Norris	Hetco UK
David Hutchinson	HetcoUK
Alan Wood	Hydrowingas
Peter King	IBM
James Cox	ILEX Energy
John King	International Power
Mat Tyrrell	Merrill Lynch
Ed Fryer	NGT
Gareth Hepworth	NGT
John Regan	NGT
Mark Nicolson	NGT
Phil Johnson	NGT
Simon Cave	NGT
Tim Bradley	NGT
John Patterson	RWE Trading
Michael Reid	Scottish Power
Kevan Tate	Scottish Southern
Stuart Wing	Shell Energy
Sarah Stevens	Statoil
Steve Thompson	WIPRO
Zena Kirk	WIPRO
Roy Leddy	xoserve/NGT