



Key Outcomes

UNCLASSIFIED External

Title:	Focus group - Improving the test environment		
Issue date:	9 March 2020		
Venue:	Webex Teleconference		
Event date:	11 February 2020	Start: 1:00pm AEDT	Finish: 2:00pm
Chair:	Mick Ferris	Facilitator:	Mick Ferris
Contact	Julie Sen	Contact phone:	02 889 49304
Attendees: names/section	ATO - Mick Ferris, Craig Hughes, Sangitha Sivayogaraj, Karen Greaves, Kylie Johnston, Danny Figueiredo, Danielle Miller, Sonya Summers, Julie Sen, Phuoc Giang, Shane Moore, Ross Barns, Kim McConaghy, Brendan Kee, Joseph Rice Industry – Brett Reed (e-PayDay), Kevin Johnson (Reckon), Shane Paxton (Thomson Reuters), Jack Wee (Catsoft), Mike Behling (MYOB), Andrew Sprankling (Xero), Michael Wright (Sage), John Kennedy (CBA), Fraser Cooper-Southam (SuperChoice)		
Apologies: name/section	Paul Siriwardana (Thomson Reuters), Anthony Migliardi, Kelvin Newton (Xero), Alistair Gibson (SuperChoice), Grant Doherty (Qvalent)		
Next meeting	29 April 2020		

Key discussion points

Danielle Miller welcomed the group. Since the group has not met for some time, she went on to provide a bit of background for the benefit of the new members from the superannuation industry.

Mick Ferris lead a number of conversations including:

Request for tender (RFT) process: Update for the ATO Digital Services Modernisation (ADSM) program

- The ATO is currently in a RFT process to procure a new transmission channel for messages. It will deliver lightweight capabilities and run in parallel to SBR2. The process is expected to be finalised by July 2020.
- Until the new platform has been procured and implemented, support for EVTE and PVT is unknown at this stage.
- It is expected that existing SBR2 services will remain on the old platform and new services will become available on the new platform.
- Discussions will be held with industry should there be a transition of existing services to the new platform and the ATO will keep everyone updated on the process for the best outcomes.
- EVTE will stay as is, until mid-2020 after which there is a potential to upgrade some services e.g. IITR. Post mid-year it is possible the new platform could be used for testing.
- Mick asked the group to provide any improvements or issues which they would like to see resolved to DPO@ato.gov.au. This information will be presented to the DARG to prioritise.
- John Kennedy mentioned that Super DSPs have already provided feedback via SuperStream and will pass it along to the DPO. There are timeline issues with the changes happening to SuperStream and SMSFAR which may not align with the timeline for ADSM. John advised SMSFAR developers need to be provided the same level of support as they currently have.
- John asked if ATO would be able to provide the set of external facing requirements. Mick Ferris advised that he will look into this.

Update: The requirements are unable to be shared at this time. There is a chance that they can be shared at a later date; ATO apologises for the inconvenience.

- Mike Behling was keen for the group be informed and engaged with what changes to EVTE will look like.

Action item:
11/02-01

Due date:
Next meeting

Responsibility:
Industry

DSPs to send a 'wish list' of what improvements they would like to see in the test environments and conformance suites to DPO@ato.gov.au.

Direction of the group for the new year

- Bi-monthly meetings will occur with the group.

- Key information such as improvements will be gathered by the focus group and then presented to the DARG for a decision.
- Specific programs of work e.g. STP, Super may have separate meetings due to differing requirements.

Improvements which had occurred over the last year

- A number of DSPs applauded the increased stability of SBR2, however SBR1 is unstable – this will become a more common problem as it is used less and less.
- DSPs also noticed less scheduled outages, allowing testing to occur most of the time.
- Craig Hughes explained that changes to internal processes allowed for faster and relevant improvements to conformance suite scenarios e.g. Value Added Services all went through the new process.

PVT requirements

- Many DSPs found difficulty in finding ‘friendly clients’ who were able to match the specific test scenarios for the Deductions schedule PVT last year. Having the testing during EVTE would be helpful to all DSPs.
- The group agreed that improvements to EVTE and internal testing processes to provide assurance to the business areas could significantly reduce the PVT process
- DWIS will work with business teams to assure that:
 - Lower level internal testing can produce desired results and catch any issues early on.
 - All business requirements are met during EVTE and system cycle testing.
- STP phase 2 team is reviewing everything to make PVT a better experience. Scenario changes may be seen in the next 12 months
- Shane Paxton commented that if EVTE gets to the right level, realistically speaking PVT may not be necessary. Mick agrees and further explained:
 - PVT exists to provide business the confidence and assurance that submissions are being done correctly. This could be proven during internal unit and function system testing.
 - Business could be shown the results of testing in relation to business cases, but there is a concern about whether or not every DSP can submit it correctly.
 - PVT does not fully remove all of the risks business anticipate with the services.

Action item: 11/02-02	Due date: Next meeting	Responsibility: Kylie Johnston/DPO
Kylie/DPO will work closely with DWIS and business to try and streamline the PVT process where possible.		

Open discussion

- Mike B noted that it is good for DSPs to be able to see when things are working together. During testing, a number of test cases are done in isolation and it is difficult to see and test the full workflow with other complimentary services.
- Brett Reed commented that the STP Phase 2 structural changes will affect IITR a lot. By the time Phase 2 becomes mandatory, the sticky points that the members have raised today may be resolved. Mick emphasised that there will be different discussion sessions to go through the details of testing. The driver for STP Phase 2 delivery is dependent of ADSM.
- Michael Wright asked that the dates on the BASs in the conformance suites be updated, as currently they are 2009 which causes difficulty. ,
- Kevin asked if the backlog of items is published anywhere for DSPs to see. Mick will provide the list to members.
- The next meeting will be held in 2 months' time. Kylie will assess the need for an additional meeting before the next DARG on 11 March 2020.

Action item:
11/02-03

Due date:
Next meeting

Responsibility:
Mick Ferris

Mick will provide DSPs with the current list of backlog items to improve the test environments.