



DSP Architecture Reference Group Key outcomes

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darinTitle:	DSP Architecture Reference Group		
Issue date:	10 May 2021		
Venue:	Via WebEx		
Event date:	20 April 2021	Start: 11:00	Finish: 3:00pm

Chair:	Paul Dwyer Rohan Walder	Facilitator:	Paul Dwyer
Contact	Danielle Miller	Contact phone:	(02) 4725 7189

Attendees: names/section	<p>ATO:</p> <p>Co-Chair: Paul Dwyer – Director, Digital Wholesale Integration Services Services Mark Stockwell – A/G AC, Digital Partnerships, Planning & Governance Michael Ferris – Director, Digital Wholesale Integration Services Sangitha Sivayogaraj – Director, Digital Wholesale Integration Services Peter Glynn – Director, ABR Platforms Kylie Johnston – Director, Digital Partnership Office Steven Irving – Digital Wholesale Integration Services Danielle Miller – Digital Partnership Office Scott Payne – Digital Partnership Office</p> <p>Industry:</p> <p>Co-chair: Rohan Walder (ABSIA) Kous Bandyopadhyay (CBA) Philip Boadi (Class Super) Helena Bone (MessageXchange)</p>
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Darin Carter (Sage)
Art Czernecki (ELMO Software)
Sandeep Gopalan (GovReports)
Rick Harvey (Layer Security)
Kevin Johnson (Reckon)
Matt Lewis (Intuit)
Warren Renden (BGL)
Andrew Smith (MYOB)
Simon Smart (Etax Accountants)
Jack Wee (Catsoft)

**Apologies:
name/section**

ATO:
Anita Chaganti – A/G AC, Digital Wholesale Integration Services

Industry:
Simeon Duncan (Intuit)
Karl Farrand (TaxLab)

Next meeting 29 July 2021

Agenda item: 1 – Welcome and introduction

Paul Dwyer and Rohan Walder welcomed the group and introduced new members.

There was discussion around the possibility of facilitating the next meeting face-to-face and what options might be available.

Agenda item: 2 – Program of work

Sangitha Sivayogaraj went through the latest Release on a Page information, noting that there have been a number of priority releases over the past 12 months.

Recent significant releases include:

- PayEvent 2020 was delivered in January, with 23 DSPs testing in EVTE and another 14 ready to commence extended conformance testing (ECT)
- Rollovers for SMSFs was released in March
- June will see updates to a number of tax time services, and
- Client Communications and Preferencing services will move into PROD in June

Upcoming work will include:

- Your Future Your Super which will include a check for stapled super funds as well as a performance comparison tool

Agenda item: 2 – Program of work

- Transitioning the activity statement service to XML and removal of the *as.list* service
- Build of new STP related services including the Parent adjustment service and the Payevent List service.

The updated and new services will be in SBR2 only, however the SBR1 services will not be decommissioned yet.

There was a query raised on the topic of the data provider role. Paul suggested this was a topic of discussion better suited to the Strategic Working Group.

- Sharing economy reporting regime was introduced in the Strategic Working Group in March, however consultation has not commenced as the measure has not yet passed legislative process.

Several members of the group indicated they have had some discussions with sharing platform providers.

- Data Window will provide visibility of ATO held third party data, with the initial minimum viable product including three data sets:
 - Taxable Payments Annual Reports (TPAR)
 - Business Transactions Through Payment Systems (BTTPS), and
 - Taxable Government Grants and Payments (TGGP).
- Transitioning the remaining PLS services from XBRL to XML will be mapped out for the 2021-2022 financial year.

Agenda item: 3 – Roll out change strategy over multiple services

Sangitha Sivayogaraj asked the group for their thoughts on what is a reasonable strategy for rollout of a change across multiple services.

Scenario – changes are proposed to ensure consistency on acceptance of special characters. Around 190 services would be impacted, and it was noted that a roll out would not be quick as changes could affect validation rules and/or Schema.

Factors for consideration on the prioritisation of some services include:

- Impact to business functions
- Processing logic impacts
- Exclusion of deprecated services
- Natural replacement of services
- Usage of prior year lodgements, and
- ATO internal usage of legacy systems

The group added their feedback:

- Priority given to the service the issue was raised against
- Conformance suites need to align with the changes
- Need consistency across all services, and changes rolled out sooner rather than later across all impacted services
- Whole of government implications

Paul suggested a working group might be established to work through the issue and change management.

The group agreed that the proposed approach to undertake the rollout by business domain (see slide 11 in the presentation pack) was logical.

Agenda item: 4 – Digital services gateway

The Digital Services gateway (DSG) is expected to go into production on 30 April 2021. It will be a technical deployment for the minimum viable product, with the first APIs being related to MBR. Beta testing of a simple service such as ABN look up may be made available for feedback.

It is expected that a series of workshops will be held – the format is yet to be determined and will depend on travel and meeting restrictions.

The DSG will have a much better dashboard capability than current services, and we are looking at which services could potentially be moved across.

SBR services have historically been based on collecting information based on paper forms. Much of the detail collected is made more complicated because it needs to be validated. If users are able to authenticate using a digital identity in the API, this would remove much of the complexity.

The group worked through the TFN declaration as an example – see *slide pack*.

The DSG will have a 'sandbox' capability as opposed to the requirement for EVTE.

Feedback on how this will work is welcomed.

DSP **feedback** is also welcomed on:

- The API developer portal and any identified needs
- The use of online forums as a communication channel in relation to DSG services and API portal usage.

If you have any insights or feedback you would like to share on any of the above topics, please submit a [ticket](#) in Online Services for DSPs.

Agenda item: 5 – Group discussion

Programmable Legislation was raised as a topic of interest to the group. It was agreed that although it was of interest to most, it was not yet mature enough to warrant discussion at this stage.

Some points of discussion included:

- Holland have a similar initiative in LegOps, ATO may not be ready for this yet
- NSW government have made a start on similar concept - <https://www.digital.nsw.gov.au/transformation/policy-lab/rules-code>
- Codification could open up the DSP market more
- Consideration of the benefits of codifying legislation - DSPs often have early awareness of new measures prior to legislation passing so can already prepare products in advance
- Turning PDFs into APIs allows software to run the rules for validation of data in the background

A separate issue related to the impending renewal of M2M credentials was raised.

Paul will follow up communications out of session to address this.

Agenda item: 6 – XBRL to XML transition

Steven Irving provided an update on the transition of PLS services from XBRL to XML. *See the presentation pack for a flexible timeline for the remaining income tax reports and schedules.*

It was identified that there were occasions where the conversion principles are not being applied consistently.

The feedback will be taken on board for future conversions.

Agenda items: 7 – Other business / Wrap up and close

Action item from last DARG meeting: The solution for authenticating foreign directors will be explained at the next DARG.

Update:

An API will not be released for the Apply for Director ID function. Like the process for TFN applications, the Apply for Director ID process will be undertaken through ATO retail channels. Foreign directors who can verify their identity with myGovID will be able to apply online. A Standard identity strength with myGovID is required and can be achieved by [verifying Australian identity documents](#). A non-digital application process will also be available for those who need it.

Agenda items: 7 – Other business / Wrap up and close

Existing directors will need a Director ID but there will be a 15-month transition so there is no need to do anything just yet. This will be piloted with a small group towards the end of 2022.