



# Meeting outcomes

v1.00

**UNCLASSIFIED** External  
**File ref:** TWG-STP20170831

<b>Title:</b>	Digital Service Providers Technical Working Group (TWG) Single Touch Payroll (STP) session #7		
<b>Issue date:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2017		
<b>Venue:</b>	<a href="https://ato.webex.com">https://ato.webex.com</a> and dial-in 1800 888 453		
<b>Event date:</b>	31 August 2017	<b>Start:</b> 14:00 AEST	<b>Finish:</b> 15:00
<b>Chair:</b>	Michael Connolly	<b>Secretariat:</b>	Gary Anderson

**Attendees:**

6 unidentified dial-in callers and also

**Digital Service Providers:**

Graham Coutts (**ADP**);  
Sharon Towes (**Affinity Team**);  
Sharon Rockman (**Ascender**);  
Dennis Shen (**Attaché**);  
Joel Castner (**Aurion**);  
Tay Piriyaikulchai (**AussiePay**);  
Lloyd McKie (**Definitiv**);  
Krishna Nadoor (**EmployGroup**);  
Brett Reed, Martin Viles (**e-Payday**);  
Dee-May Ong (**Ernst & Young**);  
Josef Bobinac (**Fastrack**);  
Daniel Jach (**Frontier Software**);  
Sandeep Gopalan (**GovReports**);  
... and ...  
Chris; Nisha Hussain; Paul; (**unidentified**)

Bill Samaltanos (**HR3**);  
Matthew Addison (**ICB**);  
Guy Degoumois (**Intelitec Pacific/Inerva**);  
Andrew Mitchell, Manas Sadar (**MessageXchange**);  
Andrew D. Smith, Mike Behling (**MYOB**);  
Ajay Pradeep, Arun George, Joy Hooper,  
Shankar Narayanan (**Oracle**);  
David Field (**Ozedi**);  
Deanne Windsor (**Pendragon**);  
Grant Doherty (**Qvalent**);  
Kevin Johnson (**Reckon**);  
Thu Dinh, Richard --- (**Sage Micropay**);  
Alistair Gibson (**SuperChoice**);  
Martin Etherington (**XERO**)

**ATO:**

Alex Barnes; Cameron Everitt; Desmond Parker; Gary Anderson; Gerardine Burke; Ian Colhoun;  
Joe Maxymenko; Kate French; Lachlan McKenzie; Martin Kenseley; Michael Connolly; Michael  
Karavas; Scott Rumford; Terry Seiver; Timothy Stimson; Vitaly Sidorenko

**Apologies:** Ian Scensor (ATO); Deborah Smith (ATO); Martin Mane (ATO); Danielle Welsh  
(ATO); John Shepherd (ATO)

**Next meetings**

Next general TWG meeting – webex - [Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017](#) – open invitation  
STP- technical Focus Group - webex - [Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017](#) – by invitation  
For forward schedule see the [ATO-DSP-TWG web-page](#)

**Key Outcomes from this meeting:**

- The BMS-ID microgroup's recommendation for the need for a mandatory and Globally- unique- ID (GUID) for BMS-ID was accepted and ratified
- Future STP technical meetings will continue using the Focus Group model rather than special sessions of the TWG

**Actions from this meeting:**

**ACTION:** A0076: ATO (Gary Anderson) to investigate options for providing visibility of STP technical Focus and Micro groups' actions and membership.

**ACTION:** A0077 ATO (Ian Colhoun) to confirm the changes to the deployment schedule for STP employee commencement. **Postscript:** Date tentatively as March 2018

**ACTION:** A0078 ATO ((Michael Connolly) to investigate and report on ATO capacity to provide a combined (whole ATO projects) list in the context of a eCommerce Roadmap and also in addition to the eCommerce release-on-a-page schedules which are specific by project

**ACTION:** A0079 ATO (STP Readiness team and ATO-Onboarding Account managers) will work with existing known submitters of PAYEVENT messages to determine deployment timeframe of BMS-ID changes to minimise impacts. The Change will be documented to the eCommerce schedule.

**ACTION:** A0080 ATO (Geraldine Burke & Gary Anderson) to investigate the ATO capacity to implement a list of STP testing issues (incidents raised during the testing process), similar to that which is produced for the PLS transition Round Table

**ACTION:** A0081 ATO (Nicola Sellick) to identify and publish the broader cross-release testing implications that will need resolution in order to address the STP "End-to-End testing" focus area.

**ACTION:** A0082 ATO (Michael Connolly) to identify options to address issues regarding DSP reports of inconsistent schemas in different services (e.g. PAYEVENT vs TFN-DEC vs NOA-2017 ) ref Andrew Smith, MYOB

## Agenda item: 1 – Welcome

Michael Connolly advised that it was intended in future to progress STP technical issues via a Focus Groups and Micro Groups model. This concept has been co-designed with ABSIA input. The purpose is so that DSPs don't need to attend the ATO-DSP Technical Working Group (TWG) and also attend a special STP session of the TWG to be informed.

### It was noted that:

- Future specific STP sessions of the TWG will not progress
- The model will include:
  - A technical Focus Group with deliberate, purpose driven goals (e.g “to propose a recommended approach to [issue X]” )
  - Micro Groups with specific tasks commissioned by the Focus Group ( “e.g. to produce an options paper on [issue X] for ratification by the Focus Group)
- Issues with impacts broader than STP may be referred to the TWG for endorsement and/or revision. ATO technical staff in the Focus Group will advise whether matters are relevant to escalate to the TWG or progress as a Change Request (CR).
- All DSPs will be able to follow progress of focus group via normal channels such as the software developers homepage and via update reports at the TWG
- Governance of the STP technical Focus Group and microgroups will be provided by the TWG Secretariat.

### Digital Service Providers expressed views that:

- It is a welcome move provided that:
  - There is visibility over the group's membership and activities
  - Groups stick to their purpose or task and then conclude after resolving

**ACTION:** ATO (Gary Anderson) to investigate options for providing visibility of Focus and Micro groups' actions and membership

## Agenda item: 2 – Implementation Update

Reference: [http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/eCommerce\\_Schedules\\_and\\_Scope](http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/eCommerce_Schedules_and_Scope)

On behalf of Mick Ferris, Michael Connolly presented the implementation update in regard to [STP schedule release on a page v1.7](#):

Ian Colhoun noted

- Employee Commencement Dates
  - the quoted September deployment will change.
  - Reason: Not yet ready for release and currently there are only a small number of DSPs who have advised their interest in adopting it.

**ACTION:** ATO (Ian Colhoun) to confirm the changes to the deployment schedule for STP employee commencement

**Post Script:** The Employee Commencement is now tentatively March 2018. It will be updated in a forthcoming eCommerce published schedule

### Agenda item: 3 – TWG-STP specific Focus Group Report: Alignment of Schedule

Michael Connolly led a discussion on understanding the requirements of this focus issue noting that:

- The current implementation release on a page is limited to those changes which have been scheduled for deployment
- The intent is to provide visibility of what changes or new functions are “on the radar” but not yet scheduled for eCommerce deployment
- The intent is to provide such a Roadmap for current and future DSPs who may not be engaged in the ATO’s DSP engagement forums and activities to assist in their planning of their developments.

Digital Service Providers expressed views that:

1. Requesting ATO to consider doing an additional **combined** schedule for all projects (noting that there are currently two [project specific schedules](#) PLS and STP)

**ACTION:** ATO ((Michael Connolly) to investigate and report on ATO capacity to provide a combined (whole ATO projects) list in the context of a eCommerce Roadmap and also in addition to the eCommerce release-on-a-page schedules which are specific by project

### Agenda item: 4 – TWG-STP specific Focus Group Report: BMS-ID

Reference: [Single Touch Payroll Technical Focus Group BMS-ID recommendation](#)

Michael Connolly led an update and discussion on the recommendation of the Business Management Software – Identification number (BMS-ID) noting:

**Next steps** are to identify the correct date to deploy because of the need to co-ordinate in a single release:

- the [Business Implementation Guide](#) (BIG)
- the [PAYEVENT Package](#) containing
  - Message Implementation Guide (MIG)
  - Message Structure Table (MST)

**ACTION:** ATO (STP Readiness team and ATO-Onboarding Account managers) will work with existing known submitters of PAYEVENT messages to determine deployment timeframe of BMS-ID changes to minimise impacts. The Change will be documented to the eCommerce schedule.

DSPs questioned that

- [a new version of the STP-BIG](#) had already been published 30 AUG which includes a note that the BMS-ID is now mandatory, yet the MIG and MST have not updated
- The STP-BIG has “no version control” in the context of not identifying what had changed from previous version, making it hard to see what had changed.
- Noted that there may be a need for future re-consideration (e.g. If the [Business Council of Australia \(BCA\)](#) introduced a standard in the future.

Outcomes:

- The BMS-ID microgroup’s recommendation for the need for a mandatory and Globally- unique- ID (GUID) for BMS-ID was accepted and ratified

### Agenda item: 5 – TWG-STP specific Focus Group Report: Return error messaging, files size, SLAs and Polling impacts

Lachlan McKenzie led a discussion on understanding the requirements and progress of this focus issue.

It was noted that:

- The goal is to clarify the issues and expectations to the STPAG and publish to whole DSP industry.
- A Microgroup was formed with a task to develop a concept paper

Members: Lachlan McKenzie (ATO) – Lead

Andrew D. Smith (MYOB)

Manas Sardar (MessageXchange) <- added during meeting

Alistair Gibson (SuperChoice) <- added during meeting

Andrew Gibson (ATO)

Gary Anderson (ATO)

- 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 – Target for ATO to finish discussion starter paper for the group
- 13<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017 – MicroGroup to meet to begin drafting paper for focus group

### Agenda item: 6 – TWG-STP specific Focus Group Report: End-to-End Testing

On behalf of Anita Chaganti, Michael Connolly led a discussion on understanding the requirements and progress of this focus issue.

It was noted that:

- The goal of this is to make recommendations in regard to a number of related issues including:
  - conformance suite expansion
  - availability
  - assurance that testing aligns with production and business needs
- The STP Design Working Group (DWG) has developed a report on the STP business requirements and issues for end-to end testing.
- There are implications for all other ATO projects, so the intent of this is to make sure the resolution of this works with all projects/areas. An ATO internal group will meet and produce a report detailing the findings

**ACTION:** ATO (Nicola Sellick) to identify and publish the broader cross-release testing implications that will need resolution in order to address the STP "End-to-End testing" focus area.

## Agenda item: 6 – TWG-STP specific Focus Group Report: End-to-End Testing

Digital Service Providers expressed views that critical issues were:

- assurance and certification
- general issues with the quality of testing in EVTE (example given that some Payment test cases just “don’t work”)
- Speed of ATO response when errors are reported
- Need to publish regularly a summary of the STP testing issues (incidents raised during the testing process), so that all DSPs could have visibility. (similar to the issues list which is published for the PLS Transition Round Table) Others noted that a combined list across all projects would be useful

**ACTION:** ATO (Geraldine Burke & Gary Anderson) to investigate the ATO capacity to implement a list of STP testing issues (incidents raised during the testing process), similar to that which is produced for the PLS transition Round Table

## Agenda item: 7 – Technical Questions arising from STP Business meetings

Participants noted this had been covered above in other items.

## Agenda item: 8 – Outcomes & actions from the TWG-STP Focus Group 02 Aug

Outcomes of the previous meeting 02 Aug June and updated action items were noted.

DSPs were invited to provide comments to [SWDTWG@ato.gov.au](mailto:SWDTWG@ato.gov.au)

## Agenda item: 9 – General business

Digital Service Providers expressed views that:

- Andrew Smith: noted that there are different designs in some schemas where the architecture seems not aligned causing difficulties  
(examples quoted were PAYEVENT, TAX-FILE-NUMBER DECLARATION and PLS NOA 2017 )

**ACTION:** ATO (Michael Connolly) to identify options to address issues regarding DSP reports of inconsistent schemas in different services (e.g. PAYEVENT vs TFN-DEC vs NOA2017 ) ref Andrew Smith, MYOB

- Grant Doherty requested an update on progress on the Authentication Model (operational Framework)
  - RESPONSE: Terry Seiver advised that he would provide progress updates on authentication and the meetings of the TWG and STP technical Focus Group consultations as well as at [https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/operational\\_framework](https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/operational_framework)

Close

The ATO thanked participating DSPs for their time and contribution.

Participants noted future meetings as:

TWG meeting via webex - [Thur 14<sup>th</sup> Sept](#) is an open meeting

STP technical Focus Group meeting via webex - [Thur 28<sup>th</sup> Sept](#) – *is closed participation*

TWG meeting via webex - [Thur 12<sup>th</sup> Oct](#) is a delayed meeting following the Strategic Working Group meeting in Brisbane

Notes:

- Publications from TWG meetings are available at:  
<http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/eCommerce-SWD-TWG>
- STP related information for DSPs can be found from:  
<http://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/STP>
- ATO publicises the TWG meetings to subscribers of SIPO news services but does not send out calendar invites for the TWG's to DSPs unless requested.  
  
Please consult the Software developers homepage for TWG dates and supporting documentation.
- When contacting the SwD TWG by email, please cc to SIPO